



Message from Mrs Robinson ...

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we move further into the spring term, we're excited to share that our school community is focusing on the school value of **trust**. We believe that trust is the foundation upon which strong relationships are built, and it plays a crucial role in creating a nurturing and supportive environment where our children can truly thrive.

Trust is more than just a word; it's a feeling of safety, security, and confidence. When children trust their teachers, their peers, and their environment, they are more likely to take risks and explore, communicate openly, build positive relations and develop resilience. We believe that trust beautifully complements our existing value of **kindness**. When kindness is rooted in trust, it becomes even more meaningful. Children who feel trusted are more likely to extend kindness to others, creating a ripple effect of positivity throughout our school.

Attendance Matters Have a great weekend, Mrs Robinson.



Terry	366	1844
Rowntree	323	1680
Tuke	286	1810
Craven	368	1698

HOUSE POINTS

We're so thrilled to see the fantastic progress many of our children are making with their attendance. Your efforts in establishing these important habits are truly appreciated, and we know they will make a significant difference in your child's future success. This half term, we've been delighted to introduce "**Feel Good Fridays!**" – a fun way to celebrate and reward our children's commitment to being in school and on time. It's wonderful to see the excitement as classes earn £5 towards their end-of-year celebrations, and individuals receive special prizes!

We want to extend a huge **THANK YOU** to all the families who have been working hard to ensure their children arrive at school promptly. Your dedication is invaluable, and we're seeing the positive impact it has on our school community.

We understand that mornings can be busy, and sometimes unexpected things happen. However, we've noticed that since September, we've recorded 710 instances of children arriving after 8:50 am. We know that every family wants the best for their child, and arriving on time ensures they don't miss out on vital learning opportunities.

When children arrive late, it can also disrupt the learning environment for their classmates, and we want to ensure everyone has a smooth and focused start to their day.

We're here to help! If you're finding it challenging to get your child to school on time, please don't hesitate to reach out.

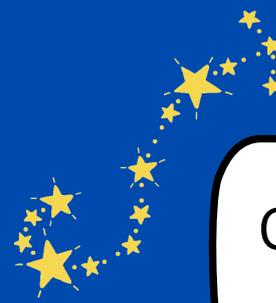
Our School Target is 96%

National Figure 96 %

This week our whole school attendance was: %

Jubbergate	87.04%
Ousegate	89%
Fishergate	83.33%
Whip-ma-whop-ma-gate	93.33%

Gillygate	95.77%
Fossgate	91.43%
Micklegate	94.48%
Stonegate	94.35%



Gillygate



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

1 CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT

Before integrating technology, consider the types of text that a child engages with. If they need help on occasion, digital reading pens can assist by scanning and reading words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used in exams if they're part of their routine learning process. Proper training and protocols are required, but they can be a great help when tackling printed text.

2 READING ON SCREEN

Many devices now allow users to customise text for better readability. Adjusting font type, size and background colour can significantly enhance comprehension. For many readers, white text on a black background is the easiest to see, whereas other styles – such as dyslexia-friendly fonts – are designed to help those who are struggling. Teaching children how to personalise text settings on their devices empowers them to read more comfortably and with greater confidence.

3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS

Most modern devices include built-in tools designed to support readers. These features can be found in Settings under Accessibility and may include text-to-speech, speech-to-text and screen magnification functions. Reading these tools can make digital reading more user-friendly, especially for children with learning difficulties or visual impairments, who might have a slower time with spoken language than the written word, or who might simply require a closer look at the text.

4 INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES

Many digital reading devices, such as tablets and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.

5 VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS

Many video games require players to read instructions, character dialogues and mission objectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve storytelling, puzzles or problem-solving often include large amounts of text – encouraging children to read these texts aloud or discuss them can improve their comprehension and vocabulary in a fun, engaging way.

6 SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS

Watching videos with subtitles or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or online videos, they can follow along with the text, gaining a better understanding of how written words sound when spoken aloud. This is particularly beneficial for reluctant readers, as it exposes them to words in a familiar, engaging context. Regularly watching content with subtitles reinforces word recognition and comprehension.

7 USING AUDIOBOOKS

Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop listening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the text while listening to a narrator, reinforcing word recognition and fluency. For struggling readers, listening to an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and comprehension.

9 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY

Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built in. When enabled, users can highlight a passage or sentence and press play to hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.

8 VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING

Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children see the connection between spoken and written language. By using text-to-voice to hear their dictated words read back to them, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.

10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13–18 years old, making parental guidance essential. Many social media videos include captions and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's important to use the platform's parental controls (such as time limits and content filters) to create a safe and educational environment for children. Encouraging responsible social media use can ensure a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy.

Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lovell is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SENCO. She recently launched her own site, Neuroteachers, which offers a library of short, focused and engaging videos for educators. Catrina also writes and delivers online training and events for multi-academy trusts, businesses, schools and training organisations.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College