

# Applegarth Primary School Newsletter



Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Everyone is truly back in the swing of things this week! The children have been settled in class and are working hard.

Our OPAL Mentor visited school earlier in the week to see how we are progressing with the development of Outdoor Play and Learning. She really enjoyed speaking with the children about it. Thank you for all of your donations so far – we are still playing OPAL bingo so if you have anything else to contribute, please bring it in!

We had great success at the Swimming Gala last week with a very impressive medal haul for many individual and team events – it would seem that this is our school's hidden sporting talent!



myHappyMind has launched this week and the children have responded really well. They love their new journals!

*Mrs Maxwell*



What your child will be learning in the myHappymind 'Meet Your Brain' Module:

- ✓ The key components of the brain and how they work together.
- ✓ The difference between the brain and the mind.
- ✓ The concept of Neuroplasticity.
- ✓ How to calm the brain in times of stress.

# Awards

The winner of this week's Golden Welly Award is *Logan* !

Class	Chosen by Teacher	Chosen by Class
Mrs Burrell	Isla	
Mr Whiteley	Koby	Quinn
Mrs Crossley	Indi	Felix
Mrs Mitchell	Leo	Theo
Mrs Hughes	Jared	Manha
Mrs Cross	Ella	Hannah
Mrs Slinger	Phi Yen	Annie
Mr Edwards	Daniel	Oliver
Mrs Jones	Darcy	TBC until Monday
Miss Mutch	Finn	Elsie



# Artist of the term



Hi I'm Stacey!

Welcome to my corner of the world.

My goal is to offer you an escape to the tranquil Yorkshire Dales through my artwork. With dedication to my craft and a deep commitment to authenticity, I strive to create timeless pieces that not only adorn your walls but also bring the serene beauty of nature into your everyday life.

My studio door is always open, so come in and take a look around.

[Explore Collection](#)

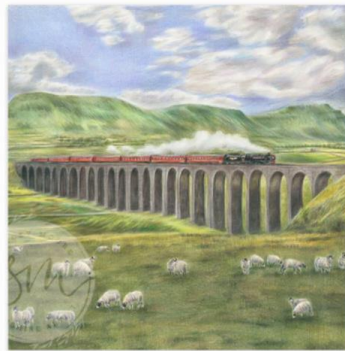
Mrs Burrell would like to introduce you all to the artist of the term: Stacey Moore.

She would like you to explore some of her artwork and perhaps have a go yourself with your families at creating your own artwork using pencils.

There is space on the Art display board in school to create an exhibition of your amazing artwork. Stacey is very excited to see what you produce and is sending us some lovely prizes for those families who get involved.



Winter Majesty  
STACEY MOORE LTD



Ribblehead Viaduct  
STACEY MOORE LTD

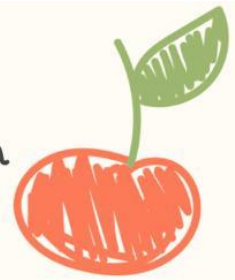


On The Right Path  
STACEY MOORE LTD





Friends of Applegarth



# JOIN OUR PTA

Get involved,  
Voice your opinion,  
make your ideas count  
and make a change!

Everyone Welcome!  
Teachers, staff,  
parents, grandparents  
and community members

Help out as much or  
as little as you can  
at our events.  
No requirement  
to come to meetings



All money raised  
goes back to  
the children

Please message Gemma on  
07907012122 if you would like to  
join our PTA WhatsApp group



As always we appreciate your  
support in improving the lives  
of all of the children of  
Applegarth Primary School



# SAFEGUARDING NOTICES

## Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

We are trying to promote 'Choose Respect' with the children in school this term. Part of our safeguarding agenda is to promote safe ways of dealing with conflict on the playground without resorting to getting physical (e.g. pushing and shoving).

We are asking all parents to explore the idea of 'Choose Respect' with their own children, particularly about how they can use their words to politely disagree and when it is necessary to find an adult to help them to manage a disagreement before it gets physical. Our team is going to start wearing hi-vis on the playground at breaktimes and lunchtimes so that the children can easily identify where the adults are in the area.

**All staff at Applegarth know that safeguarding is EVERYONE'S responsibility. Find out more on our [Safeguarding Page](#).**

For information about **Online Safety**, visit our dedicated [webpage](#).

You can also report any concerns you have to our [welfare email](#): [dsl@applegarth.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:dsl@applegarth.n-yorks.sch.uk)

**IMPORTANT – We are a 'NO NUTS'** school due to several children having severe allergies. Please check ingredients carefully and do not send in snacks/lunchbox items that contain nuts.





## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# FORTNITE

AGE RESTRICTION  
PEGI  
12

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Fortnite was launched back in 2017, but it remains massively popular – with more than 850 million active players. That's partially due to the competitive nature of its player-vs-player combat, its pop culture crossovers and its constantly shifting map. Significant updates are rolled out with each new version of the game – known as 'chapters' – and within these sit shorter 'seasons'.

### ALWAYS ONLINE

There's no single-player offline mode in Fortnite: it can only be played online. Internet access can sometimes be an issue when you're out and about (both in terms of connectivity and using up data), so you may find that dedicated young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about trips away – such as days out and holidays – than you might expect.

### IN-GAME COSTS

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – cosmetic 'skins', music tracks and LEGO items – which don't really impact on gameplay but can cost a significant amount. These items are bought with in-game currency, V-Bucks – earned through completing the Battle Pass (which also costs V-Bucks) and can also be purchased from the game's store for real money.

### POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from movies and TV shows like Family Guy and Avatar: The Last Airbender to comic book characters including Batman to other games such as Street Fighter. This means you could have children asking questions about the monster from Alien or Geralt from The Witcher a little sooner than you otherwise might have.

### CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

Fortnite is popular with many gamers of various ages. 'Crossplay' lets friends play with each other, regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo Switch or PC – while the 'party chat' feature allows them to talk to each other during the game. This can, however, put youngsters at risk of hearing inappropriate language from older players in the heat of virtual combat.

### VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

At its core, there's no avoiding that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them from the contest. That said, there's no blood or gore. The violence is rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent comical touches to lighten the mood, such as fishing mini-games and dancing emotes. Machine guns, shotguns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, however, so discretion is advised.

### FREQUENT UPDATES

The game's developers release content in 'seasons' that usually run for around ten weeks. Each fresh update sees items added to the in-game store, changes to the environment's map and a different over-arching theme (such as 'medieval', 'pirates' or 'party'). These regular renewals help to hold players' interest – but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep coming back.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### MATCH GAMING TIMES

Younger players tend to play Fortnite with their friends. With that in mind, it could be worth speaking to the parents and carers of a child's social group and coordinating their gaming around certain times of day. Safety in numbers is obviously a factor here, but it will also help children feel that they're getting adequate opportunities to socialise with their friends online.

### SET SPENDING LIMITS

Fortnite's rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into buying sought-after items before they disappear for weeks or months. This could lead to surprise transactions on bank cards if children are tempted into an impulse purchase. Parents could consider getting a prepaid card for the child or ensuring that purchases require adult authorisation. This can be done through parental settings on a console or account settings in the Epic Games app on PC.

### USE UPDATES AS REWARDS

Fortnite's seasonal updates are free, but each also brings the option of a 'battle pass', unlocking exclusive rewards for playing the game and completing set challenges. The passes cost around £8 and are also available as part of larger bundles. The purchase of passes can be an effective reward to young Fortnite fans for good behaviour or academic performance, or as an incentive for completing chores like tidying their room.

### BE WARY OF SCAMS

The immense popularity of Fortnite with younger audiences – that are generally more trusting – means there's no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite's loading screens, they never ask for a player's account password outside of the game: make sure any young player knows this.

### ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER

Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously on the same console or computer. This can be a good option for siblings or for when a child's friends visit, but it also offers an opportunity for parents and carers to do something fun with their child, while also making sure they're playing the game safely. Who knows? You might even teach them a thing or two!

### Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A long-time gamer, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College



# Sweet Tubs

Northallerton Leisure Centre are collecting empty plastic sweet tubs in aid of Macmillan.

Make sure your tubs don't go to waste and bring your clean, empty plastic confectionery and cracker tubs to Northallerton Leisure Centre to be recycled.

Simply leave your tubs with a reception staff member. All tubs will be collected and taken to a plastic reprocessing centre where they're shredded, before being sold onto plastic manufacturers to use in place of virgin plastics. All money raised from the sale of Tub2Pub plastics will be given directly to Macmillan Cancer Support.



**MACMILLAN**  
CANCER SUPPORT

## Do you know that our school has a Nursery for 3 year old children?

*If you know anyone who would like to attend Applegarth Nursery, please scan the QR code which will navigate you to the website page where you can apply for a Nursery place.*

*You can apply at anytime but children will start the term after they turn 3.*

*Speak to one of the Nursery Team (Mrs Burrell, Miss Melville and Mrs Evans) if you have any questions.*





# OPAL

## We need your help!

Despite the weather getting colder and wetter, we need to keep our school field open for OPAL at lunchtimes. To support us with this, please can your child have **wellies, or spare shoes** and a **waterproof coat with a hood** in school everyday. Their wellies/spare shoes should be in a plastic bag with their name on them



## Digging Area



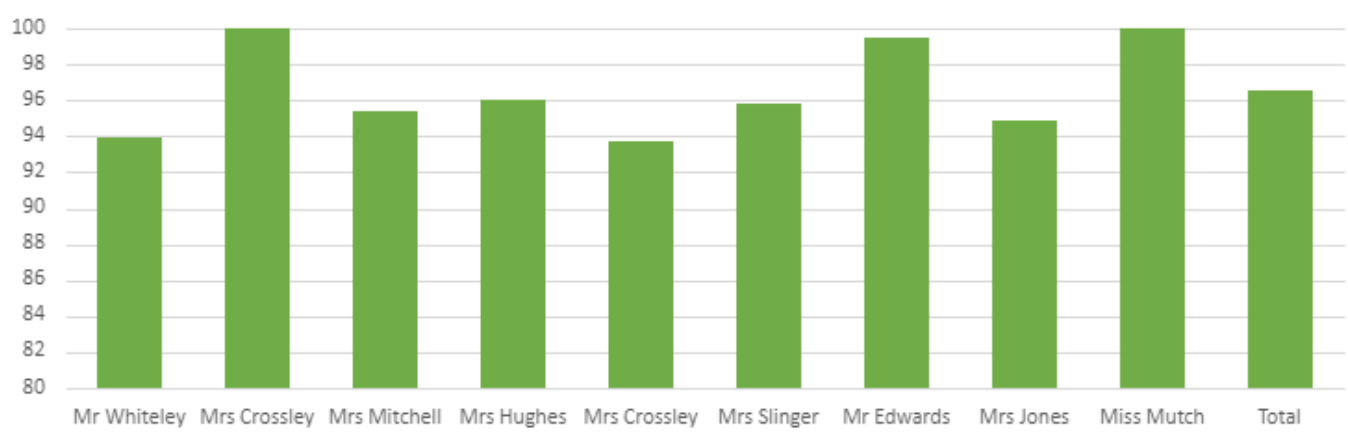
We would love to introduce a 'digging area' onto the field. We are asking for donations of **buckets, trowels, spades, forks etc.** These can be brought into school and given to Miss Mutch/Miss Coatsworth or left in our OPAL donation bin outside the front of the reception. Thank you for your continued support!

## Bikes

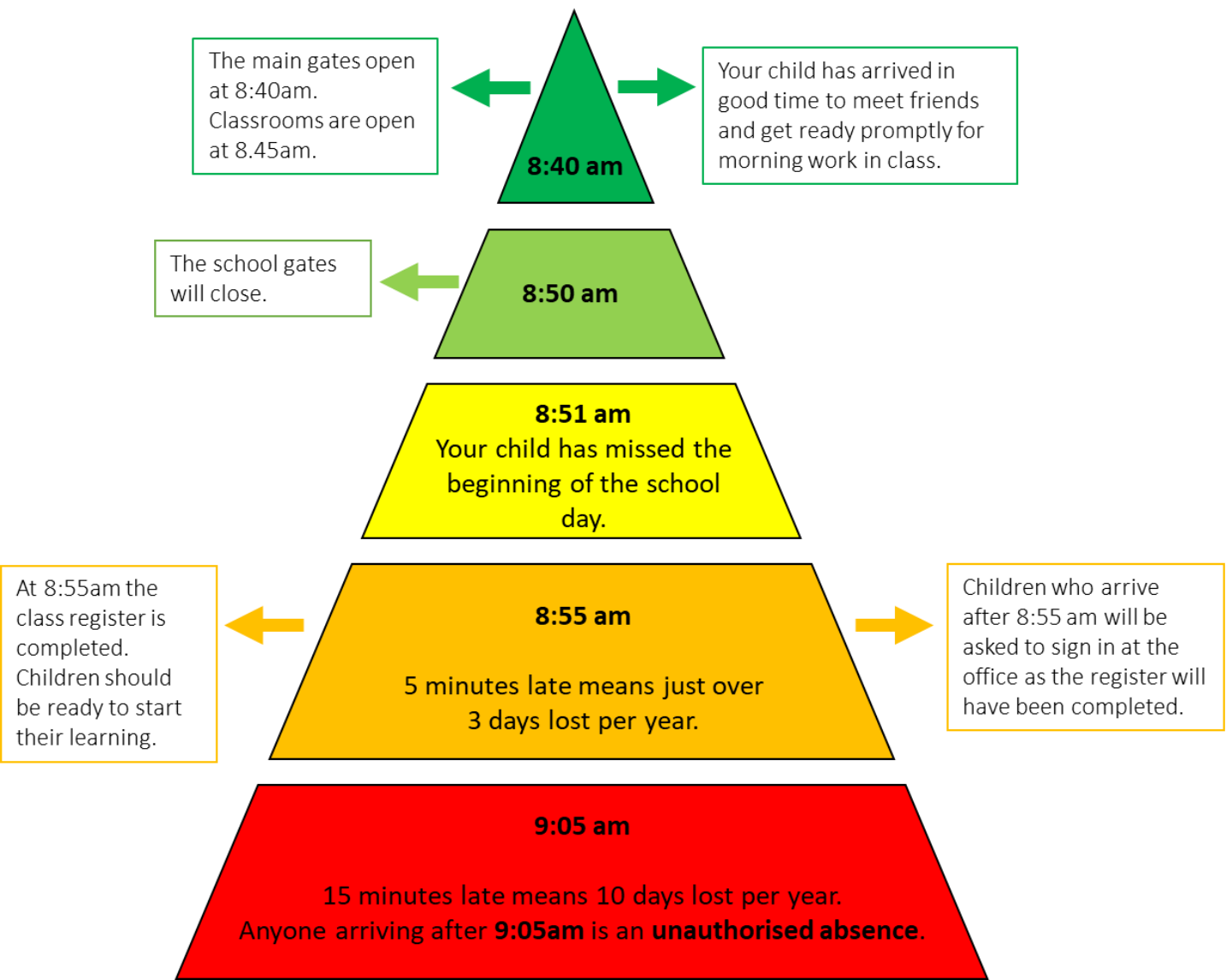
We are really short of bikes that are suitable for our **KS2 children**. If your child is growing out of their bike and it is in good working order, we would happily accept your donation.

We also have EYFS/KS1 bikes in need of minor repairs – if there is anyone in our school community who knows their way around a bike and is happy to help, then please let us know at the School Office.

# Attendance w/c 6<sup>th</sup> January



School Attendance	National Attendance
%	%



# School Calendar

## 2024/2025 Academic Year

Event	Class/ Phase	Location	Date and Time
No After School Club	Whole School	Applegarth Primary School	Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> January
NSPCC Number Day- come dressed in numbers	Whole School	Applegarth Primary School	Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
World Book Day (more to follow)	Whole School	Applegarth Primary School	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
Science Week	Whole School	Applegarth Primary School	7 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> March 2025





# WINTER TIMETABLE

Talks are delivered online via zoom 7pm to 9pm £24 each

If you can't make the date ask for the link to the recording, available for 48 hours afterwards

Book online at [facefamilyadvice.co.uk](http://facefamilyadvice.co.uk)

go to the PARENT page

<b>FREE - Decreasing Depression</b> <b>FREE - Anxiety Explained</b>	<b>25 NOV</b> <b>20 JAN</b>
What is ACT?	26 NOV, 21 JAN
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	28 NOV
Supporting a Child with ADHD	5 DEC, 2 JAN
Understanding Anger	16 DEC, 13 JAN
Facing Defiance	17 DEC, 14 JAN
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	19 DEC, 16 JAN
Anxiety-Based School Avoidance	7 JAN
AUTISM: Improving Communication	9 JAN
Raising Self-Esteem	27 JAN
Supporting Healthy Sleep	28 JAN
Improving Family Communication	4 FEB
Introduction to OCD	18 FEB

# Rock Climbing Clubs 2025



Since 2021, we've been teaching young people how to become independent climbers. From **knot tying** to **belaying, bouldering** to **lead climbing** we progress through the essential skills both Indoor and Out, developing self confidence to fitness in a long-term hobby.

**Novices:** Wednesday - 17:00-19:00, Silsden Primary

Friday - 17:00-19:00, Silsden Primary

Saturday - 9:30-12:30, Climbing Hub/Ilkley

Saturday - 11:30-13:30 or 13:45-15:45, Ermysted's

Sunday - 9:30-11:30 or 11:45-13:45, Ermysted's

**Advanced:** Saturday - 9:30-12:30, Ilkley/Climbing

**Ages:** 11-16 (Silsden) 8-12 (Ermysted's) 8-17 (The Climbing Hub)



"THE CLIMBING SESSIONS NOT ONLY HELP WITH PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT BUT ALSO ARE BRILLIANT FOR BUILDING CONFIDENCE."

£20.00-27.50 per session



Book online or contact us via email



 [WWW.MYEXPEDITIONROCKS.COM](http://WWW.MYEXPEDITIONROCKS.COM)

 [INFO@MYEXPEDITIONROCKS.COM](mailto:INFO@MYEXPEDITIONROCKS.COM)



# HOLIDAY ROCK CLIMBING



Our holiday climbing sessions are an ideal way for kids to get out and enjoy the great outdoors during the holidays. With activities including climbing, abseiling and weaselling, it is an action-packed day.

Just a packed lunch and old clothes for climbing, scrambling, crawling and squirming amongst the rocks and we'll provide the rest.

**£55.00, or £102.50 for siblings (7-16 years old)**

**The Climbing Hub, Bradford:** 18th, 19th or 20th February

**The Big Depot, Leeds:** 17th February, 10:00am-4.00pm

**Times:** 10:00am-4.00pm

**Childcare Vouchers accepted for The Climbing Hub**



**Book online or contact us via email**



 [WWW.MYEXPEDITIONROCKS.COM](http://WWW.MYEXPEDITIONROCKS.COM)  [INFO@MYEXPEDITIONROCKS.COM](mailto:INFO@MYEXPEDITIONROCKS.COM)





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SESSIONS**

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**S**vimMark



**clubmark**



**Autism  
Central**  
For parents and carers



# Northallerton Coffee Mornings

**Northallerton Library & Customer  
Services Centre, 1 Thirsk Rd,  
Northallerton DL6 1PT**

**Thursday 16th January  
Thursday 6th February  
Thursday 20th February  
Thursday 13th March  
Thursday 27th March**

**1pm - 2.30pm**

**"A wonderful  
opportunity  
to connect with other  
parents going through  
similar experiences"**



**[www.autismcentral.org.uk/NEandY](http://www.autismcentral.org.uk/NEandY)**

Autism Central  
is funded by:



Autism Central is delivered in North  
East and Yorkshire England by:



**DAISY  
CHAIN**  
Autism & Neurodiversity