



Dear Parent / Carer

As we finally reach the end of this most unusual Autumn term, I would like to thank every member of our school community for the contribution they have made to keeping us safe, keeping us learning and keeping us in school.

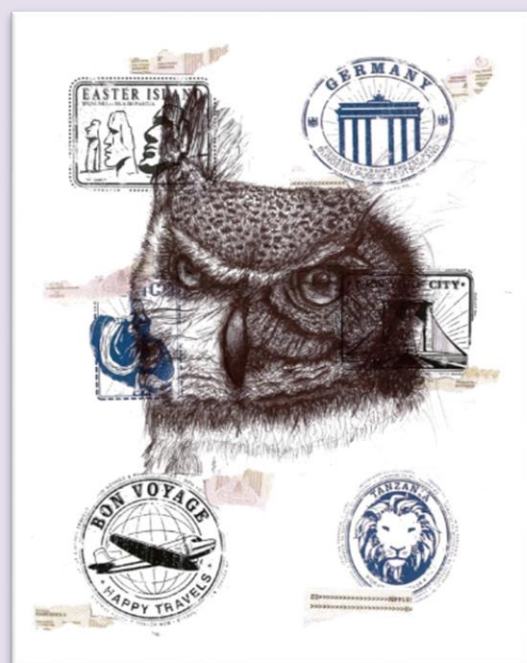
The teaching and support staff teams have gone above and beyond to ensure that learning has been engaging, meaningful and often fun, despite the many and varied challenges presented by Covid restrictions. Students have quickly adapted to new routines, are keen to learn and have enjoyed the opportunity to be with friends, learn new skills and be part of a community. Parents have supported our decisions, followed our guidance and engaged with our new ways of working.

Some days it has felt enough to just get through the day and keep up to date with ever changing safety guidance, plan for catch up and keep remote learning available. Yet despite these challenges, I am enormously proud that we have achieved much more than to 'just keep going'. This year we have introduced a brand new curriculum strand: Finish with a Flourish, seeing staff and students working together on a wide range of activities designed to enhance wellbeing through creativity, physical activity or new challenges. Every Area of Learning has continued to develop teaching and learning approaches through a range of action research projects. Our termly Teaching & Learning bulletin for staff is full of inspiring information about new strategies being trialled and refined across the school.

You may have read in the news across the last few days that routine testing is to be introduced for staff and rapid testing is planned in hopes of replacing self-isolation for schools. Alongside this there are plans for a slightly delayed return in January for some students in some year groups. I will write to parents about this separately once further detail is known.

So, having met every challenge head on and in preparation for the new challenges ahead, it is now time for some well earned rest. I would like to wish every member of our school communities and their families a happy, healthy and safe Christmas and New Year.

Kath Jordan, Headteacher



Covid-19 Reminders

At the time of writing, we expect that North Yorkshire will still be in Tier 2 when we return to school on Tuesday 5th January. Therefore, all members of our school community will be required to wear a face covering in the corridors and other communal areas at all times. In recent weeks we have seen a steady increase in the number of students asking for a mask because they haven't brought their own. Please ensure that you child has their own clean disposable or reusable mask each day. We will have to consider introducing a charge for masks if this doesn't happen.

Please note that the period for self-isolation for close contacts has now been reduced to 10 days with effect from 14th December. It is hoped that processes for testing students and staff who have been close contacts will be introduced in the new year and we will provide more detail about this when we have it. Until this is introduced, please follow the current self-isolation guidance.

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If your child develops any of these symptoms on **Saturday 19th or Sunday 20th December and subsequently tests positive** for Covid-19, please inform school via email admin@nidderdale.n-yorks.sch.uk as we will be required to complete track and trace processes. Please see the letter sent separately for further detail.



Accelerated Reader news

Year 7 students have made a fantastic start on their Accelerated Reader reading scheme. To date, they have read 394 books between them. This equates to 12,803,439 words! Three students have achieved Word Millionaire status - Calen Lock, Matthew Fazal and Molly Gratton. Georgie Apperley has won her bronze award, well done to her and to all our word millionaires. I'm sure I will be awarding more reward badges to our keenest Year 7 readers in the near future. For further information on the Accelerated Reader scheme, please do contact me.

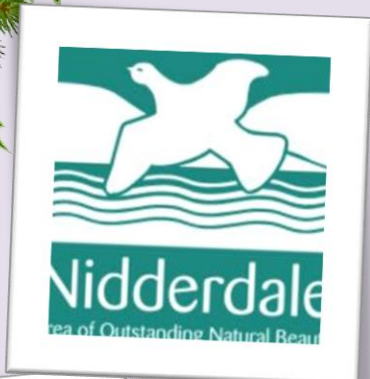
Miss Lester

Finish with a Flourish

We have been delighted by the way students have responded to our new Finish with a Flourish sessions on Fridays. When we asked our Year 7-10 students to select their new activities for the Spring term, we also asked them what they had enjoyed about the first sessions and what they had gained from them. Here's a selection of their comments:

- 'I enjoyed being creative and spending time with other people in my year group that aren't in my form.'
- 'I enjoyed looking forward to it when it was the day for doing Flourish Friday!'
- 'Made me happy' 😊
- 'Confident, made new friends, found new hobbies – thank u'
- 'I really like to try new things and now really love running club!'
- 'Feeling like I belong.'
- 'Having a lesson to wind down on a Friday afternoon and looking forward to going to that lesson.'
- 'To have a relaxing time to not think about if I have got homework, just a here and now time.'
- 'Being very happy and calm.'





KS4 News

Student Leadership Team are pleased to announce their two chosen charities for the new year. Fundraising activities will be planned to support :

Harrogate Hospital & Community Charity (Registered Charity No: 1050008) and The Friends of Nidderdale AONB (Registered Charity No: 1118228)

We hope you will agree these are two very worthwhile charities and hope you will support by donating during fundraising events.

Y10 Student Leadership Team have been busy this week with litter picking in and around school and promoting how important it is to keep Nidd Clean via Tutor Time announcements and virtual assemblies. First fundraising venture will be 'Guess the Bear's Name' with a chance for only lucky student to win a Giant Teddy Bear donated by Mr Shergill of 'Ace Elevators'.

Other Key Stage 4 News

- Well done to Y11 on their preparation and hard work throughout mock exams. Wishing them every success with results.
- Y10 Parents Evening will be held on 14th January - don't forget to book appointments via the parents evening system.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Mrs J Ashton - Key Stage 4 Learning Manager

KS3 News

The winners of the first Key Stage 3 Pizza Party of 2020 are **7JW**. They achieved the highest number of positive points and fewest negative points on ClassCharts this term and also received the most Nidd STAR nominations – they have done incredibly well and I'm very proud of how well they have settled into life at Nidderdale.

Today they will celebrate their victory in style with their Form Tutor Mr Wolfram, enjoying pizza and a movie together.

Well done 7JW!!

Next term all the totals will be reset and the Easter Pizza Party will be up for grabs for any form group in Key Stage 3 – good luck everyone!

Mrs Wright





Outdoor Education Fun

It has been a fantastic term for the Outdoor Education Department. Alongside our Year 10 and KS3 programmes who have been biking, climbing and learning bushcraft skills, Year 7 successfully completed a challenging hill walk supported by their peers. This was a great opportunity for our new students to build friendships and increase in confidence as they settle into Team Nidd. They all put in loads of effort and should be extremely proud of themselves. Luna the Therapy Dog has also accompanied many of the Outdoor Education trips this term and despite getting the bus extremely muddy, has been a valuable member of the Outdoor Ed staff!

Mr Coudwell



TikTok Update Parental Controls with Family Pairing Feature

TikTok is used by many teenagers and sometimes children younger than that 13 despite its terms and conditions. Using the new Family Pairing feature can allow parents to guide their child's TikTok experience in a safer way. Features include:

- Search: Decide what can be searched for. This includes content, users, hashtags, or sounds
- Screen Time Management: Sets how long your teen can spend on TikTok each day
- Discoverability: Decide on the account being private (you decide who can see their content) or public (anyone can search and view content)

To find out more information about TikTok's Family Pairing feature, [click here](#).

