

# Nidd

# NEWS

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## **Snow News is Good News**

It's hard to imagine that just over a week ago we were completely snowbound when the sun is shining so beautifully today. What a difference a week makes, as these photos show!

Congratulations to Jack Milburn, winner of the DT Snowperson Challenge and Pastoral Snow Sculpture in a lunchbreak competition. Lots more of the great entries were shared in the Key Stage 3 Check In last week.

## **Headteacher's Introduction**

Dear Parent / Carer

As uncertainty continues around when schools will fully reopen, we have been thinking carefully about our remote learning offer. We are doing our best to balance DfE expectations against the lived experience of many of our families, which makes full time online learning unrealistic. We will continue to provide 5 hours of learning each day for all of our students and this offer will remain a combination of live lessons and interaction, pre-recorded materials, web based learning and youtube resources, revision materials and powerpoint tasks.

Whilst conscious that we will never be able to provide the ideal solution for all families, we hope that our offer allows the flexibility required by some families whilst maintaining the structure and routine demanded by others.

As you will be aware, the school has continued to develop our curriculum and ways of working to promote wellbeing and good mental health. With that in mind, we are proposing two minor changes to our remote learning offer:

### **Screen Free Wednesday**

Work set for completion on Wednesday lessons 4 and 5 will be designed to be completed without access to a computer screen or other device. Increased screen time can be damaging for visual health, physical health and mental health. Clearly, there is very little alternative to everyone increasing their screen time at the moment but we hope that this mid week break will help to remind everyone of the importance of at least acknowledging this issue. Some staff will be putting Screen Free Wednesday into action this week and we hope to be fully screen free by next Wednesday.

### **Flourishing Fridays**

Students in Year 7-10 will be familiar with our fortnightly Finish with a Flourish sessions introduced in September. For this remote learning period we would like to extend Finish with a Flourish to Friday period 5 every week. We will provide some suggestions for activities students might like to try but equally it would be great time for hobbies or for those families who are able to spend time together to have some creative fun at the end of the week.

Kath Jordan, Headteacher

## Use your library

Ripon Library is asking young people to help them to create a 'Top books to make you smile' chart which they could promote on the library social media. Children can anonymously recommend their top three book choices at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/XX2S6VF>. The survey should just take a couple of minutes to complete and closes on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January.

### Introducing the Virtual School Library

Oak National Academy and the National Literacy Trust have come together to launch our [Virtual School Library](#) to keep children reading during lockdown.

Every week, a popular children's author will become our '[Author of the Week](#)' and provide a free book or audiobook and exclusive videos and activities aimed at young readers. The first [Author of the Week](#) is Dame Jacqueline Wilson DBE, who talks about how her infamous character Tracy Beaker got her name, offers exclusive activities and recommends her top reads to check out. *The Story of Tracy Beaker* is also available to read for free for a week.

[Visit the Virtual School Library](#)

### Accelerated Reader Scheme

Y7 have achieved some impressive results on the Accelerated Reading scheme. To date, they have read 558 books, which equates to a staggering 17,443,950 words! Three students, Molly Gratton, Matthew Fazal and Calen Lock have achieved Word Millionaire status and we have 7 Bronze award winners- Calen Lock, Matthew Fazal, Molly Gratton, Georgie Apperley, Emily King, Joshua Elston and Jack Lewis. Well done to all!

Quizzer of the Week prize winners will receive their prizes in the post, so look out for those. 7JK are currently ahead in the Form competition, but 7JD and 7JW have until the end of this half term to snatch victory so that could change!

For any further information on the Accelerated Reader scheme, please contact me via email at [vanessa.lester@nidderdale.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:vanessa.lester@nidderdale.n-yorks.sch.uk)



### Parents' Evening

Thank you to all staff and parents for their patience with the technical issues that led to a bumpy start for **Year 10 Parents' Evening** on Thursday. These issues were related to the servers which host the Parents' Evening system. If you missed any appointments due to these technical issues, you will receive an email update from teachers before the end of the week.

We have taken the decision to postpone **Year 9 Parents' Evening**. We will be in direct contact with Year 9 parents to explain more about how the options process will need to work this year and to confirm a new date for the Parents' Evening.