



## 'Everyone Successful Everyday'

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16<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a busy end to a fantastic Autumn term. The Christmas performances were wonderful, and we are so proud of the children. This week there are many other exciting things happening for the children such as the Elf Run, Christmas parties and Carols at Whitkirk Church on Thursday. The children have worked hard since September and have achieved lots of success across the curriculum. I am sure you will agree that Tapestry is a joy to look through.

Money raised through the PTA Christmas raffle ticket and tickets purchased for the performances will be used towards the cost of the children's Christmas parties and new books for the library. The raffle raised £185, which is brilliant. Thank you for your ongoing support. This year, the School Council have chosen to share the Elf Run sponsor money between 2 charities. We will donate half of the money to Simon on the Streets, which will provide food at Christmas for people who are homeless in Leeds.

[Providing hope for those without a voice | Simon on the Streets](#)

The other half is going to Zarach. Their mission is to end bed poverty for children. They provide beds, pillows and bedding for families in need. [Homepage - Zarach](#)



Thank you to the Colton Sports and Social Club for their support with parking for our Christmas events. In case you don't already have tickets, there is a Children's Christmas Party on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December from 2-4pm. Tickets are £5.00.

### **Funding**

It feels sad to even be writing this, but we wanted to make parents aware. As a relatively small school, we are in receipt of what the government calls the 'Minimum Funding Guarantee'. That means, we receive the lowest amount per pupil to do our very best with. Our school is great – the pupils are brilliant, the staff are fantastic and our families are supportive. However, we can't do all the things we would like to. As a school, we currently have a deficit budget and maintaining what we have is becoming even more challenging as costs continue to rise. If anyone works for a business who might be willing to support or sponsor us as their 'charity' we are very open to having those discussions. We all want the very best education for our children but what we have is being stretched beyond what is manageable. We would be extremely grateful for any support you might be able to give or ideas you might have that could help.

We also have some very good news though... the recent house building in the local areas has meant we are eligible for some 'Section 106 funding'. This spending has to meet a range of criteria and be signed off by the local council. I am thrilled to announce that we are going to be able to replace the existing Kids' Club with this funding. The cabin at the back of school is very tired and in need of replacing. We have already had some surveys carried out and plans are being drawn up. When I have more information, I will share it with you. It is likely that works will begin at Easter, and we estimate that it will be completed by December next year. This is an exciting project and it will mean Kids' Club can offer additional places as well. There will be some changes to Kids' Club and access to the site during the build. Once these plans are finalised, we will share the arrangements with you.

### **Parents Survey Results 2024**

As you may remember, you were asked to complete a parents / carers survey recently and we would like to share the results with you.

99% of parents and carers said their child feels happy at school.

95% of parents and carers said their child feels safe at school.

98% felt that the school encourages the children to behave well.

100% felt their child was well taught in school and that the school teaches a good range of subjects.

99% said they felt they could approach the school if they had any concerns.

100% felt their child was motivated and making good progress.

96% said the school deals with bullying effectively.

80% said their child can take part in after school clubs (we are working to increase the variety on offer)

99% of parents and carers would recommend our school to another parent.

### **ParentPay**

We have had some valuable feedback from parents regarding ParentPay. There have been a couple of issues with the system, and we are now looking into alternative options. As soon as we have more information, we will let you know. Thank you for sharing your views – hopefully we can improve things all round as a result of the feedback.

### **School Attendance and Absences**

Attendance at Colton is always high and our pupils love coming to school. We are continuing to encourage children to wash their hands and maintain good hand hygiene as it is easy for germs and bugs to spread at this time of year. Our attendance rates are above National figures for the term at 96.4% (National is 94.7%), Can you guess which classes have experienced a wave of Chicken Pox this term? Hopefully everyone is now fully recovered.

Class	Attendance this week	Attendance so far this year
Year Reception	93.7%	96.0%
Year 1	93%	93.7%
Year 2	96.7%	95.3%
Year 3	97%	98.4%
Year 4	98.1%	98.2%
Year 5	97%	96.7%
Year 6	95.8%	96.8%

We do understand how expensive family holidays can be and encourage you to minimise any absence from school due to holidays. These absences will not be authorised, and children miss important curriculum content when they are out of

school. We would like all children to have attendance above our target of 97% by the end of the year. Thank you for your continued support as we work together to achieve the very best education we can for your children.

### Staffing

Mr Brodie will sadly be leaving us at the end of term. He has been offered an exciting new opportunity with the Prince's Trust and we wish him every success in his new role. We would like to thank him for all his hard work and dedication to the children. Mr Brodie is hoping to continue to run the after school Pokemon Club – depending on his new working hours – we will confirm this as soon as we can.

Miss Sissons is supporting the children with their pastoral needs in an afternoon, so we are really grateful to her for stepping in. We will be advertising for a new Pastoral Lead very shortly and hope to make a great appointment in the spring.

We would like to wish all our families a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy 2025. Enjoy the holiday and see you next year!

With best wishes,

*Mrs Caroline Johnson*  
Headteacher

### Dates for your diary

Date	Activity
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	'Elf Run' in aid of Simon On the Streets and Zarach
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Carols at Whitkirk Church - 10:15am
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	PTA pop up shop on the playground at the end of the day School Closes for Christmas holiday
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	School reopens
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> January	D'side Drug Education Workshops
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> January	Graffiti Art Workshops for Y 2/3/4/5
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> January	Y3/4/5/6 visit to Leeds Playhouse
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	Y2 Skipping Workshop
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	NSPCC Number Day
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	School Closed – Training Day
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> and Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents / Carers Meetings
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> to Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 6 Residential to Robinwood
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> April	Languages Day

