



# Keeping our family of schools connected

# NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN TERM ■ DECEMBER 2022 ■ ISSUE 8



**CEO UPDATE**  
from Jo Robinson

If you need to contact me, please do not hesitate to do so by email:  
[jrobinson@ycatschools.co.uk](mailto:jrobinson@ycatschools.co.uk)

Dear Colleagues

YCAT has had a very busy autumn term and for the first time in two years following Covid restrictions our schools have been able to provide children with a full range of wider opportunities and clubs from the start of the school year.

From September our schools have continued to deepen the quality of their curriculums, and this has been supported by the trust providing nine curriculum CPD sessions this term.

During November, within one week of each other, Leyburn and Askwith schools both had full section 5 OFSTED inspections. Both schools are currently waiting for their final inspection reports.

This term's newsletter shares information from the Trust as well as examples of our schools' special end of term events – everybody has certainly been very busy!

Our schools' delivery of a consistent, high-quality education requires children, parents, staff, governors, trustees and members establishing a strong team approach. On behalf of the trust, I would like to thank you all for the vital contribution you make to our schools, and I hope you have a wonderful, well deserved Christmas holiday.

With very best wishes

Jo Robinson



## IN MEMORY OF SUSAN KING

Susan King, clerk to the trust board, sadly passed away in November after a period of illness. Susan provided excellent support to the trust and was a governor at Bilton School and had previously been clerk to the school's governing body. She was also a committed and active supporter of the local community. Susan's positive attitude always shone through and was retained throughout her illness. She will be greatly missed by her family, friends and everyone at YCAT.

## GOVERNANCE

### Chair of Trustee Message:

*The Board of trustees and members are very appreciative of the huge commitment governors, leaders and staff make, ensuring our children are safe and receive a high-quality education.*

*We will continue to support our family of schools develop children's personal development, well-being and learning by systems and approaches that are manageable and effective.*

*Our commitment to improve the fabric and security of school buildings continues and we are bidding for further financial support from the condition's improvement fund for all our schools.*

*This has been a long term for you all and on behalf of all our children, I would like to thank everyone for their tireless support of our schools. We are very proud of our ethos of strong collaboration and working together and as we look forward to 2023 our aim is to grow and strengthen our YCAT family.*

*Have a restful and enjoyable Christmas*

*Best wishes*

*Jenny Baynes*



### Goodbye and thank you

Jan Linsley, Chair of Governors at Hawes Primary School, has resigned after 6 years in the role. Jan has provided sterling work for the school and the trust is very grateful to her for her important contribution to the school's development since it joined the Trust in 2016. During this last term Jan has very kindly been supporting the school's new Chair of Governors, Abbie Rhodes, who will begin the role of Chair of Governors from January.

We wish Jan all the very best for the future.

This term we have provided the following CPD for governors:

- How to evaluate the impact of the Curriculum
- Understanding school finance
- Ofsted Update for Governors

Thank you to everyone who supported our events and we hope that you found them useful.

**Please check the forthcoming events are in your diary:**

Governor Training/Network Meeting	Who for?	Date / Time
Chair of Governors' Group	Chair of Govs	Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> January 6:30pm to 7:30pm
Safeguarding Training for Governors	All Governors	Thursday 16 February 6:30pm to 7:15pm

Next term we will be carrying out a survey of future CPD needs for all areas of governance and planning new programmes for 2023.

## YCAT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



### Leadership support and development

During the last year we have increased the range of support for school leaders and have established a wide range of network groups. Please ensure the dates for Spring term meetings are in diaries.

In addition, we have the following focus groups:

Deputy/Assistant headteacher

Expert practitioner

We will be further developing the provision for both groups next term.



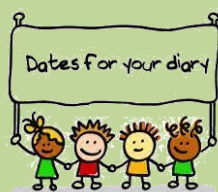
During the summer and autumn terms we have trialed additional support for SEND leadership from ADYS SEND Consultancy. This has been very successful, and by the end of the spring term all our family of schools will have had a full SEND review to support our school SENCOs work. In addition, we have been really pleased with the staff training ADYS have provided on effective support for children with SEND in the classroom and also effective strategies for supporting children with ASD. In the spring term further whole staff training will be provided on supporting children with Dyslexia. Dates to be confirmed.

### TRAINING DAY - 3RD JANUARY 2023

There will be an online session at the start of the training day for all schools from 9.15 - 9.45 that will focus on the importance of leadership alignment to ensure curriculum improvement.

## Dates for the diary:

Network/Group	Date (all meetings start at 3:45 and end at 4:30pm)
Expert Practitioner Group	Thursday 2 March 2023
Early Reading and Writing Network	Wednesday 1 February 2023
SENCO Network	Thursday 28 February 2023
Deputy Headteacher and Senior Leader's Group	Thursday 26 January 2023
EYFS Network	Wednesday 8 February 2023
Safeguarding Network	Tuesday 17 January 2023



## HART CPD CALENDAR 2022/23



- Ensuring your school's classroom pedagogy supports pupils' memory and fluency in the new curriculum second session – Thursday 5 January – 3:45 – 4:45pm
- Preparing to meet the expectation of OFSTED second session - Monday 9 January - 3.45 – 4:45pm
- Leading science in primary schools - Thursday 12 January - 3.45 – 4:45pm
- HART MEETING - Thursday 19 January - 9.30-11.30am
- Deepen your curriculum monitoring incorporating the principles of "Deep Dives" – Monday 23 January - 3.45 – 4:45pm
- Leading English in primary schools - Tuesday 31 January - 3.45 – 4:45pm.
- Ensure leadership meets the needs of SEND pupils – Tuesday 21 February - 3.45 – 4:45pm
- Leading mathematics in primary schools - Monday 27 February - 3.45 – 4:45pm
- How to use simple evidence-based projects to help identify strategies that will help pupils remember learning – Monday 6 March - 3.45 – 4:45pm
- HART MEETING - Thursday 16 March - 9.30-11.30am
- HART MEETING - Tuesday 23 May - 9.30 -11.30am

## RESEARCH UPDATE



OFSTED have recently published a research review about provision for early years. This is part of a series of further reviews for early years which will be published throughout the year.

### 'Best start in life: a research review for early years'

Published 14th November 2022.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/best-start-in-life-a-research-review-for-early-years>

This is a helpful review particularly providing clarity about integrated planning for explicit teaching instruction, play and provision.

#### KEY FINDINGS FROM THE REVIEW

- ✓ Know what you want children to know and be able to do- your intended curriculum.
- ✓ Know what gaps children have and address gaps so children can be taught with their peers.
- ✓ Introduce new knowledge by explicit teaching and follow this with provision for play and activities supported by adult intervention.
- ✓ Provision will follow children's interests but expand their interests across all areas of learning.
- ✓ Ensure communication and language is at the heart of the curriculum supported by high quality adult interaction?
- ✓ Prioritise your curriculum to meet needs in light of Covid recovery.

This review will help early years practitioners plan effective sequences of connected learning.

#### THE WORLDS BIGGEST LEARNING SURVEY FEBRUARY 2022

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uyiCC\\_qaB7w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uyiCC_qaB7w)

This link will provide a 40-minute talk with John Hattie about the key findings from phase 1 of the survey.

Below is information about the survey and key findings

- Scale of survey 29,000 respondents answered 36 questions. The survey was from 10 years and above.
- Reliability of the survey is high 0.9+
- Strategies for knowing and remembering knowledge facts are different from strategies for deeper learning e.g., connected knowledge and concepts.
- It is not knowing lots; it is transferring learning to the deep.
- Leadership matters- e.g., the top 25 schools outperformed other schools for the number of discussions with pupils about their learning.
- Leadership that is successful in developing pupils learning has a strong learning culture that places pupils learning first.
- The culture will focus on pupils knowing what they are learning and what they already know that will help learning.
- Pupils are very anxious about making errors and mistakes in all schools because it humiliates them with other pupils, and or teachers. 50% of all pupils in the survey did not like making errors.
- Leadership rhetoric may state a strong focus on learning, but is there enactment?
- Self-regulation is more important than meta cognition and it is vital if there is to be learning. For example, Willingham stated that self-regulation is the most important thing that helps pupils' remember - if the child does not want to remember it will not happen.
- Academic buoyancy or resilience is needed.
- Pupils' expectation is higher than teacher expectation.
- Teachers should provide the right amount of challenge- not too much and not too little. Follow the Goldilocks principle.
- Do teachers making mistakes in lessons use this as an opportunity to teach pupils the importance of mistakes and errors?
- Six out of 10 pupils leaving primary school do not go to school to learn they go to school to meet friends.



- His definition of a growth mindset is- Growth mindset is having the confidence to be challenged in a task. We need to make it clear to pupils the goal and what they already know.
- We should try to encourage pupils to be their own teacher, and this will help encourage lifelong learners.

The learning survey particularly highlights the challenge of overcoming young adults self-consciousness about asking for help in lessons and learning from their mistakes.

## GENERAL UPDATES

A very warm welcome and good wishes to **Andrea Walker** who was appointed executive headteacher at Hawes Primary School from September and to **Sian James** appointed interim headteacher at Bilton Primary School who was previously deputy headteacher.



**Andrea Walker**



**Sian James**

### **Bradleys' Both Community Primary School to join YCAT**



We are looking forward to welcoming Bradleys' Both Community Primary School to the YCAT family of schools in 2023. During the last two years we have worked more closely with the school and are pleased they have chosen to join YCAT. The academy conversion process has begun, and we hope this will be completed before the end of this school year. We will keep you updated on conversion progress in the next newsletter.

## EARLY WRITING



We are really proud of the work our schools have done this term to develop further their Early Writing curriculums.

An effective writing curriculum gives pupils the opportunity to develop proficiency in two interrelated areas of writing:

### TRANSCRIPTION

Spelling and Handwriting

and

### COMPOSITION

Articulating ideas and structuring them in speech and writing

Between EYFS and Year 2 it is essential that children build their knowledge of these two areas in small progression steps and have lots of opportunity to practice so they develop fluency and automaticity at each stage before they move on.

Across our schools, staff have started to develop progression documents for Early Writing which are aligned to the school's Early reading curriculum and phonics approach. Our schools are striving to ensure all children have correct pencil grip and letter formation by the end of EYFS and that dictation approaches are used effectively to develop children's fluency to write accurate simple sentences in line with their phonic ability.



### YCAT CENTRAL OFFICE UPDATES

If you need to contact the central office, please email:  
[finance@ycatschools.co.uk](mailto:finance@ycatschools.co.uk)

### CIF Bids



The 2023/24 bids for CIF Projects have now been submitted. We will find out in April if we have been successful. We will update you as soon as we know anything.

### Audit

A big thank you to everyone who supported us by providing information for the auditors when requested. Both, the internal and external audits for the Trust have now been completed. We are waiting to receive the final feedback from the internal audit. In the new year we will update schools with any changes to processes and procedures as necessary.

## MyView

Are you set up on MyView?

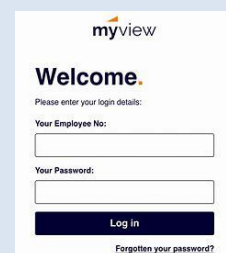
With MyView you are able to access and change your personal details, view your payslips online, access your P60 and much more.

Please use the following link to access [MyView](#)

All the help and information that you need to get started is on the welcome page.

If you are a new user you will need a current email address and your YCAT 10-digit employee reference, if you do not know your reference please get in touch and we can advise you.

The MyView user guide can be found at [MyView User Guide](#)



## Teachers' Pensions



Your pension is one of the key benefits of your career and it's important to make sure all your details are kept up to date. The easiest way to do so is to register for a My Pension Online (MPO) account.

With MPO account you can:

- Check your service and salary details to make sure the correct pension calculations will take place
- Keep your contact details up to date
- Let us know who you wish to receive a death grant if something were to happen to you.

As well as checking your details you can view your Benefit Statement, which is updated monthly, complete online forms, and use calculators to understand your benefits.

All you need to register is:

1. A few personal details
2. Your National Insurance number
3. Your email address - we recommend a personal email address.

[Register for My Pension Online](#)

## Local Government Pensions



Are you a member of the Local Government Pension Scheme? Did you know you can view your pension records at

<https://mypension.northyorks.gov.uk/>

If you are not already registered for this facility, instructions on how to access your online pension record can be found by double clicking the link below.



Online ABS  
instructions.pdf

Any queries regarding Annual Benefit Statements should be directed to the Pensions team on **01609 536335**.

Finally, from everyone in the YCAT Office we would like to wish you a very restful Christmas and a Happy New Year, we look forward to working with you all again next Year.

Best Wishes

Sarah, Janine & Suzanne



## OUT AND ABOUT IN YCAT SCHOOLS



Christmas  
Panto Fun  
at  
Askwith  
School







# Christmas Time at Bilton School







## Autumn term activities at Harves School







*Lots of Festive  
Learning  
at Leyburn  
School*







*Merry Christmas from Osmotherley School!*







*Merry Christmas from Lothersdale School!*

