

NEWSLETTER FRIDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am pleased to write with this week's newsletter. This letter and previous versions can be found in the [letters section](#) of our website. Thank you for making the time to read this information each week as it is a key part of our communication with you. This letter and previous versions can be found in the [letters section](#) of our website.

Latest News - Website News Feed

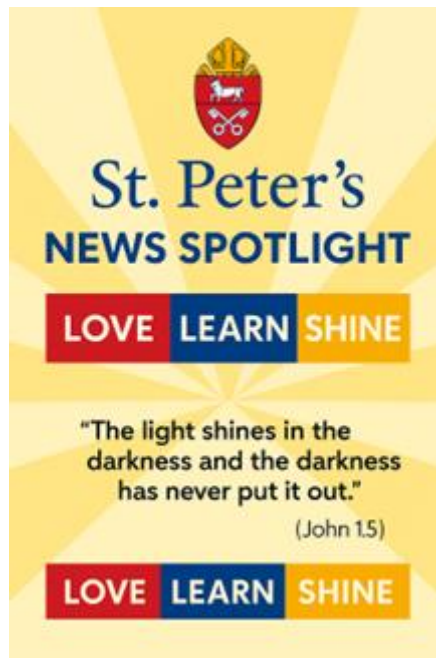
Your Insight into Life at St Peter's Each Week

It has been another vibrant week of Love, Learn, Shine across St Peter's, with children enjoying a rich mix of creativity, exploration and community learning. Eagles began National Storytelling Week with an inspiring rap-focused session led by Alim Kamara, while Sparrows let their imaginations soar through wonderful junk-model robot designs inspired by *The Dragon Machine*. Our Wrens impressed everyone with their beautifully thoughtful behaviour on their latest library adventure, and Year 1 stepped into the rainforest during their exciting trip to Tropical World. We've also welcomed families to a brilliant Scholastic Book Fair and shared updated expectations around mobile phones and SMART devices.

Take a moment to explore the News Section to see the full stories and photos from this joyful week.

Take a peek at the photos and stories that capture the energy and enthusiasm of life at St Peter's visit the [News Section](#) today.

Follow us on [Instagram](#) also



Safeguarding, Welfare & Wellbeing

Safeguarding and Welfare will always be our very highest priority in helping us achieve our vision of [Love Learn Shine](#). We will use this section of the newsletter each week to keep families up to date with a range of key safeguarding and welfare information.

Mobile Phones in School – DfE Update

The Government now expects all schools to be phone-free environments for the entire school day, meaning mobile phones should not be used by children at any time, including during lessons, transitions, breaktimes or lunch. This aims to create calm, safe spaces where children can focus on learning and build positive relationships without the distractions and pressures that phones can bring. Ofsted will also look at how consistently schools apply these expectations.

At St Peter's, our position is clear and aligns with this guidance: our strong preference is that no children bring mobile phones or SMART devices to school, as they are not needed during the school day. Parents can read our full statement in the [Behaviour Policy](#).

In the rare cases where an older child genuinely needs a phone only for safety before or after school, parents must complete the school's permission form. Any approved phone must be switched off and handed in at the office each morning. Children must not use phones during the school day. If they need to contact home, staff will support them via the school phone. Read our recent website article on this topic [here](#).

Monthly Online safety Newsletter for February

This month's Online Safety Newsletter is packed with practical, parent-friendly guidance to help keep children safe and confident in their digital world. Inside, you'll find a helpful overview of free CBeebies apps that support creativity, early learning and reading. There's also an important section on the rise of AI image-editing tools, explaining how children can use them responsibly and why consent and privacy matter. The newsletter highlights key screen-time tips, advice for setting up TikTok safely, and simple ways to support healthy digital habits at home. With clear links to trusted organisations and resources, it's an excellent way for families to stay informed and ensure children enjoy technology safely and positively. Let's keep our children protected online together.



Awards

🌟 This Week's SHINE Award Winners Are...

★ Early Years and Key Stage One

Wrens - Charlie & Esme

Kingfishers - Bowie & Saule

Sparrows - Herbie & Rory

★ Year 3/4

Owls - Luca & Yasmeen

Starlings - Cedric & Jude

★ Year 5/6

Herons - Alastair & Ralphie

Ravens - Freya & Yui-Yui

Eagles - Ariana & Daniel



1 - 🌟 Golden Light Switch Award 🌟

The Golden Light Switch award is presented each week to the class who have earned the most eco points throughout the week. Points can be earned every day by switching off the lights and smartboard when classrooms are not in use. The winning class will keep the trophy in their classroom for the whole week.

#winners

KS1 - Kingfishers

KS2 - Eagles

★ Sharing Our Shine ★

Share Your Shine with Us

We love celebrating the amazing things our children and families achieve outside of school! This is your chance to share successes, achievements and endeavours that make you proud. This section is dedicated to showcasing these wonderful stories and inspiring others. If you would like to feature here, please email us at admin@stpeters.ycst.co.uk with a short

description and any photos you'd like to include. Let's celebrate the fantastic things happening beyond the classroom together!



Diary Dates - All diary dates are now on the Arbor Parent Portal

The term dates for 2025-2026 are published on our website and can be accessed [here](#). Please check when planning any holidays or appointments.

- **Wednesday 11 February** - 9.45am – 11.30am - Lower School Choir Music Event at St Aidan's School - Lower School Choir Members
- **Wednesday 11 February** - Midday – 11.00pm (approx.) Young Voices Concert Sheffield - Upper School Choir
- **Friday 13 February** - School Closes for Half term - All classes

February Half Term Holiday

- **Monday 23 February** - School opens for second half of spring term - All classes
- **Wednesday 25 February** - 7pm - 9.15pm - FOSP Fish & Chips Quiz
- **Thursday 26 February** - 1-3pm - Year 4 Acoustic Guitar workshop in school
- **Thursday 5 March** - World Book Day - All classes
- **Tuesday 17 – Friday 20 March** - Prayer Spaces Event in School – The Snug - Classes TBC
- **Thursday 26 March** - 9.30am - St Peter's Church - Easter Service - All classes & all families welcome
- **Thursday 26 March** – 3.15pm - School closes for Easter Holiday - All classes
- **Friday 27 March** - INSET Training Day – Staff Training School closed to children

Easter Holiday

- **Monday 13 April** - School opens for start of summer term - All classes

General News & Key Messages

Feedback What's Next

Thank you to everyone who shared their views in our recent survey about end-of-term reports and parent consultations. All responses have now been carefully reviewed by leaders and governors, and we have taken time to reflect on what we can do next. We have outlined the key points raised, along with the actions we plan to take, in a more detailed letter.

Families can read this in the [Letters section](#) of the school website, and we encourage everyone to take a moment to look through it. Thank you again for your thoughtful feedback it genuinely helps us improve and continue to serve our children and families as well as we can



Funclub Feedback

We'd like to share an opportunity for all St Peter's families to support our Funclub by completing a short feedback survey which can be accessed [here](#). Even if your children don't currently attend Funclub, your views are incredibly valuable. Understanding what families know or may not yet know about the service helps us shape future provision and ensure it continues to meet the needs of our school community.

If you have a few moments, please click the link below to share your thoughts. The survey is quick to complete, and the Funclub team will share the overall findings with us once responses have been reviewed.

Thank you for taking the time to support this important feedback process.



Respectful Parking Reminder

Thank you to the many families who already park kindly and considerately around school each day. We know morning and afternoon routines can be busy, and we're grateful to everyone who helps keep our children and neighbours safe. For families who need to drive, parking permits remain available from the school office. These permits are designed for short-term use in nearby pay-and-display bays during drop-off and pick-up times.

A gentle reminder that permits do not allow parking on double yellow lines or in front of driveways or access points, including those used by local businesses and residents. Please continue to park legally, safely and respectfully so this supportive arrangement can benefit all families.



Sustainable School Shop

Our Sustainable School Shop at St Peter's continues to thrive, offering families a brilliant way to reduce waste while supporting our community. This week, we're excited to share that a brand-new guitar is ready to find a new home! Families are warmly invited to join our dedicated Facebook group, where you can swap, share or offer preloved school linked items such as uniform, musical instruments, bikes, scooters, PE kit, outdoor wear and classroom friendly books or toys.

Every exchanged item helps us care for our planet and shows our children how small actions make a big difference. As Mrs Williams, our Geography and Sustainability Lead, reminds us:

“Please feel free to gift or sell your own pre loved items to help us all reduce, reuse and recycle.”



Friends of St Peter's (FOSP) Update

A huge thank you to everyone who attended the Friends of St Peter's meeting last week. We really appreciate the support and the brilliant ideas shared. School and the FOSP team would also like to say an extra big thank you to all families who contributed directly to the pantomime tickets. Your generosity raised an additional £1,400, helping FOSP funds go even further for our children.

There are lots of exciting events coming up next half-term, including a quiz night with a fish-and-chip supper, cake stalls, the Early Years and KS1 egg hunt, and the whole-school decorated egg and bonnet competition. We will also have our sponsored bounce. Please check the calendar dates for full details and how to join in.



Curriculum & Extra-Curricular Spotlight

Curriculum News💡 Learning Updates Made Easy for Families.

📅 Curriculum News Now Online!🌟 Explore School Life at Your Leisure

Simply click [here](#) to access all articles in the news section.

To make it easier for everyone to access regular content about school life and curriculum learning, we've now moved the Curriculum News section from the weekly newsletter to the [News section](#) of our website.

This change means families can now scroll through updates at their own pace, exploring the articles that interest them most—whether it's a peek into classroom learning, a celebration of pupil achievements, or a spotlight on special events.

We hope this makes staying connected with your child's learning journey even more enjoyable and accessible. It's all part of our commitment to helping every child Love, Learn, Shine.

Community News

Smartphone Free Childhood

Founded in February 2024 after one WhatsApp group went viral, [Smartphone Free Childhood](#) is now a community of over 350,000 parents working together to stand up for healthier, happier childhoods.

We've made it our mission to provide solidarity, support and solutions to parents who are struggling with what's become one of the defining parenting challenges of our time.

And we're using the voice of our community to push for more support from the government in the battle to reclaim childhood from Big Tech's addictive algorithms.

Access resources for families [here](#). Sign the pact [here](#).

**SMARTPHONE
FREE CHILDHOOD**

**How should I talk to my child about
smartphones? Tips for parents at
every stage**

FOSP FISH + CHIPS QUIZ

25 Feb
7pm - 9.15pm £10

Lower ground hall at school.
Groups of 10 or buy a single ticket
and we'll put you in a group.
BYOB. Corkage donation welcome.

To book email FOSP2015@yahoo.co.uk
BACS payment to St Peter's PTA, Yorkshire Bank
Acct 16916423 S/C 05-04-54

Join the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch 2026!

Let's make nature count together!

This January, we're inviting all our families to take part in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch—the UK's biggest wildlife survey. It's a fantastic way to connect with nature, help protect our birds, and enjoy quality time outdoors.

Why take part?

- It's simple and fun: just spend **one hour** counting the birds you see in your garden, balcony, or local park.
- Your observations help the RSPB track how our feathered friends are doing and protect them for the future.
- Children love spotting and identifying different species—it's a great learning opportunity!



How to join:

1. Sign up at rspb.org.uk/birdwatch for your free guide.

Choose your hour and start counting!

Submit your results online—it's quick and easy.

Let's see how many robins, blue tits, and blackbirds we can spot!



Share your photos and stories with us—we'd love to feature them in our next newsletter.

Together, we can make a difference for wildlife.
Will you take the challenge?



HAMPSTHWAITE

Youth Hub

YOUR SPACE . YOUR FRIENDS . YOUR HUB



When?

Thursdays 4 - 6 pm
Hampsthwaite Memorial hall
£3.00 + Tuc shop

CONTACT US



Lee McArthur - 07359355962

Email: harrogate.library@northyorks.gov.uk Tel: 01609 536658


JUNK SUPERHERO WORKSHOP

Unleash your inner superpowers in our intergenerational junk superhero workshop. In this fun, hands-on workshop you can work together to build and decorate your own hero who will, of course, have legendary powers!

 **£3 PER CHILD, AGES 5+**

BOOK VIA THE LIBRARY

 **SATURDAY 7TH FEBRUARY**

 **10:30 - 12:00**

 **HARROGATE LIBRARY**

 **NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL**

henshaws



As part of Henshaws Imaginarium Exhibition at Harrogate Library we are pleased to be able to offer you the chance to take part in some workshops that will be running alongside the exhibition. Our wonderful art makers will be leading the workshops and sharing their skills and knowledge about all things creative! Take a look at what's on offer and get booked up as places are limited. We look forward to making and creating with you!

Hope you can join us, Henshaws.

Animal Mask Workshop

Come along to a relaxed, hands-on mask-making session where children can create their own colourful animal masks using recycled painted card and paper, stickers, punches and other craft materials. A playful, creative session that encourages self expression and hands on making.

£3 per child. Ages 4+. Book via the library

Monday 16th February

10:00 - 11:00am

Harrogate Library



henshaws

Email: harrogate.library@northyorks.gov.uk Tel: 01609 536658

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Hope you can join us, Henshaws.

www.netball4all.com

FEBRUARY HALF TERM CAMPS



Monday 16th February
&

Friday 20th February

10am til 3pm

Boroughbridge High School,
Boroughbridge

Ages 7 - 14yrs

Come & join us for a great day of netball by
booking your place through the website.



CREATE HALF TERM ART CLUB		
MONDAY 9:00-12:30 DRAWING AND ILLUSTRATION 12:30-4:00 COLOUR AND DESIGN	TUESDAY 9:00-12:30 WATERCOLOUR PAINTING 12:30-4:00 EMBROIDERY AND TEXTILES	WEDNESDAY 9:00-12:30 LINO CUTTING AND PRINTMAKING 12:30-4:00 CREATIVE WRITING
THURSDAY 9:00-12:30 LANDSCAPE PAINTING 12:30-4:00 COLLABORATIVE ART	FRIDAY 9:00-12:30 MIXED MEDIA COLLAGE 12:30-4:00 INDEPENDENT PROJECT	ABOUT THE SESSIONS EACH HALF DAY, WE'LL BE WORKING ON A DIFFERENT ART FORM. IF YOU'RE JOINING US FOR A WHOLE DAY, BRING A PACKED LUNCH! HALF DAY COST - £20.00 FULL WEEK COST - £100.00 CREATE STUDIOS, HEXAGON HOUSE, GROPSBOLD CRAG CLOSE, KNARESBOROUGH, HG2 9SU WWW.YORKSHIRE-CREATE.CO.UK

MUSICAL THEATRE COURSE

FOR YOUNG PERFORMERS AGE 8 - 16 YEARS

30th March - 2nd April 2026

End-of-week performance on stage!
(3:30pm - 4pm on 2nd April)




Join Dance Educational for a fun-filled timetable of singing, dancing, acting and crafts

@

The NEW Birk Crag Centre, Cornwall Road

9am- 3:30pm

info@danceedhg.com
www.danceedhg.com




"....AMAZING WEEK OF THEATRE AND CRAFTING - MY CHILD ABSOLUTELY LOVED IT"

"....THE FINAL PERFORMANCE WAS SPECTACULAR"



DANCE Ed
HARROGATE
STAR QUALITY PERFORMING ARTS

"A fun and extremely well organised campthe whole teaching team were superb."

2 - <https://www.danceedhg.com>

MINI PERFORMING ARTS HOLIDAY CLUB

30TH MARCH - 2ND APRIL 2026

Join Dance Educational for a fun-filled timetable of singing, dancing, acting and crafts



@
The **NEW** Birk Crag Centre
Cornwall Road, Harrogate

9am - 1pm (3:30pm late pick-up)

FOR YOUNG PERFORMERS RECEPTION - YEAR 2

"A FUN AND
EXTREMELY WELL
ORGANISED
CAMP....THE
WHOLE TEACHING
TEAM WERE
SUPERB."



DANCE Ed
HARROGATE
STAR QUALITY PERFORMING ARTS

KIDS MASCOT DESIGN COMPETITION!

Calling all young designers aged 12 and under!

Get creative and take part in our exciting mascot design competition!

MAS Design Consultants Ltd wants **YOU** to design our very own mascot!

What should you design?
Create a fun and friendly mascot for
MAS Design Consultants Ltd, including
our logo!

- ✓ An animal, superhero, robot, or character
- ✓ Colourful, funny, clever, or totally unique!

The Prize £100
Smyths Toy Superstore Voucher!

★ Winning mascot featured on
our social media & newsletter

How to Enter:

✉ Email your drawing to:
Jennifer@masdesignconsultants.com

📄 Or post it to:
Jennifer Tomlin
1 Oxford Street
Guiselley
Leeds
LS20 9AX

MAS DESIGN
CONSULTANTS LTD



Important Dates:

📅 Closing date: Friday 27th February 2026

📅 Winner announced: Monday 2nd March 2026

We can't wait to see your amazing mascot
ideas - **Have fun** and good luck!

Little Crickets

Indoor Car Boot Sale

OATLANDS INFANTS SCHOOL
SATURDAY 28TH FEBRUARY
DOORS OPEN 2PM-5PM

- £1 entry per family • Cash only
- Tombola • Refreshments

Sellers book your table using this QR code

- Tables are provided
- Table size - 6ft
- Full table - £10
- To share a table - £5

Little Crickets
LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

All proceeds support Little Crickets
Keep 100% of what you sell

Feb 26 - Footy Camp Post

**ONLY £28
PER DAY
1000 - 1500**

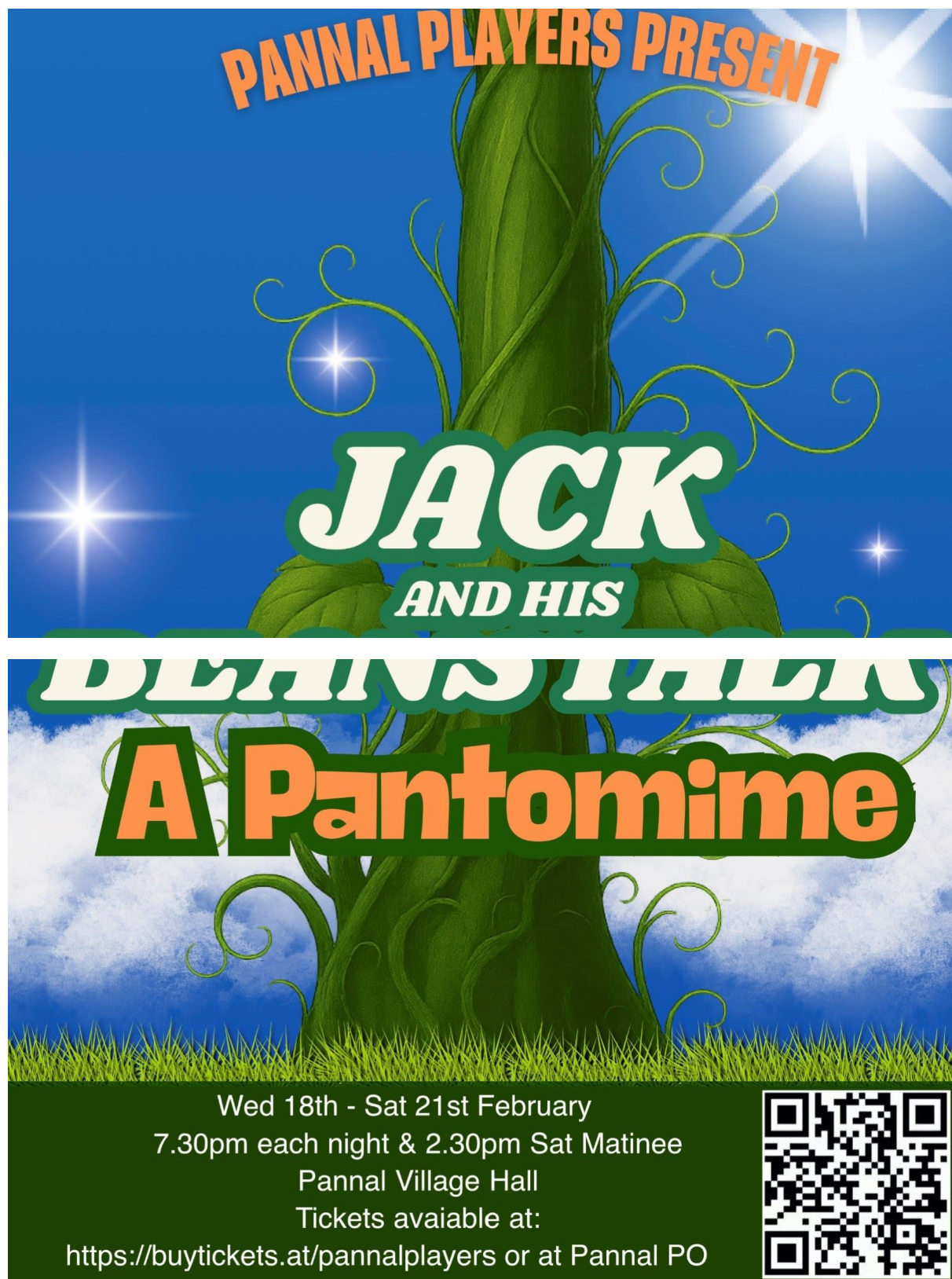
**FEBRUARY HALF
TERM
FOOTBALL
CAMP**

**MONDAY 16TH
FEBRUARY 2026 -
THURSDAY 19TH
FEBRUARY 2026**

**INSIDE
SPACE
AVAILABLE**

OPEN TO CHILDREN OF ALL ABILITIES IN SCHOOL YEARS 1 - YEAR 6. THE CAMP
MIXED FUN ACTIVITIES AND FOOTBALL FOR EVERYONE. INSIDE SPACE AVAILABLE
FEBRUARY WEATHER! TO BOOK YOUR CHILD'S PLACE PLEASE VISIT THE LINK
REF ID: A1OW <https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=pQvWhJAVLgQJ6ynQvQ7QRmTJvhMsWcN69sK7RUMDYxSUhBTDJINzJMSFIUMkhLM0MwVkJ5U6>
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BEANSTALK



PANNAL PLAYERS PRESENT

JACK
AND HIS
BEANSTALK
A Pantomime

Wed 18th - Sat 21st February
7.30pm each night & 2.30pm Sat Matinee
Pannal Village Hall
Tickets available at:
<https://buytickets.at/pannalplayers> or at Pannal PO



Vocal Project Days - Poster

North Yorkshire and York Music Hub

VOCAL PROJECT DAYS



Love to sing?

Want to perform with others?

Come and be part of our new Vocal Groups

A fun and inspiring space for young and aspiring singers from across North Yorkshire and York to rehearse, learn, and grow together.

For more details, email:
Countyhall.Music@northyorks.gov.uk



scan to register



7 March
18 April
16 May
20 June

10am - 3pm



Escrick C of E
Primary School
Carr Lane
YO19 6JQ

Vocal Project Days are **FREE**, &
open to all children and young
people from North Yorkshire
and York in Years 4 to 13

North Yorkshire and York Music Hub

ENSEMBLES PROJECT DAYS



Play an instrument?

Love making music with others?

Come and be part of our Instrumental Ensemble Days

A fantastic opportunity to rehearse, perform,
and develop your ensemble skills with other
musicians from across North Yorkshire
and York in a supportive and
welcoming environment.

For more details, email:
Countyhall.Music@northyorks.gov.uk



scan to register



15 March
19 April
14 June
20 June

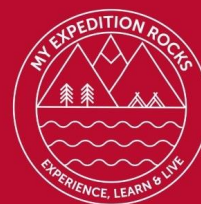
10am - 3pm



The Regen
Centre
Landing Lane
YO19 6PW

Ensemble Project Days are **FREE**, &
open to all children and young people
from North Yorkshire and York above
grade 2 on their instrument.

FEBRUARY ROCK CLIMBING



Our holiday climbing sessions are an ideal way for kids to get enjoying a new sport and meeting new people during the holidays. Activities including climbing and bouldering, it is an action-packed day.

Holiday Session - £62.50 (7-17 years old)

Climbing Hub, Bradford: Tues-Fri, 10:00-16:30
The Big Depot, Leeds: Mon, Thurs & Fri, 9:30-16:00
Live for Today, Harrogate: Mon-Wed, 10:00-16:30

Childcare Vouchers accepted



Book online or contact us via email



WWW.MYEXPEDITIONROCKS.COM



INFO@MYEXPEDITIONROCKS.COM



North Yorkshire County Music Service Instrumental Lessons



See
website for
details and
discounts
available

www.northyorkshiremusichub.co.uk

Supported using public funding by



ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND



We teach in 91% of secondary schools and
95% of primary schools in North Yorkshire

The County Music Service provides tuition in a wide variety of instruments:

Brass: cornet, trumpet, trombone, horn, euphonium, tuba; **Woodwind:** clarinet, flute, oboe, saxophone, bassoon; **Strings:** violin, viola, cello, double bass; **Guitars:** classical, acoustic, electric; **Percussion:** tuned percussion and kit; **Voice** and **Keyboard/piano**

Up to **32 lessons per year** are offered to pupils in small group or individual lessons. These take place mostly during the school day and are available to pupils attending schools throughout North Yorkshire. Lessons are sometimes available beyond the end of the school day or on Saturdays at music centres.

Rotating Timetables allow for minimal disruption to the school day. **Regular contact** through **Practice Diaries** and **Termly Reports** ensure that parents are in contact with the Teacher and can support their child's practice at home.

Instruments are available to hire or can be bought using our assisted purchase scheme – see website for more details.

We also run six Saturday morning music centres across North Yorkshire.

To register interest and to find out more details visit:

www.northyorkshiremusichub.co.uk

Contact us

County Music Service, CYPS Business Support,
County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AE

Tel: 01609 532 783

Email: MusicServiceTuitionRequests@northyorks.gov.uk

Or visit our website at: www.northyorkshiremusichub.co.uk

If you would like this information in another language or format please ask us.
Tel: 01609 780 780 email: customer.services@northyorks.gov.uk

