



Headlands Community Primary School

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Headteacher – Mr. Andrew Buttery BA (HONS), PGCE, NPQH, NPQEL, SMHL

Monday 14th September 2026

Mr. Buttery's Update

Welcome Back

Thank you to everyone who helped make our first week back at school such a success. The staff team have been really impressed with how smoothly everyone has settled in, especially our 24 new starters in EYFS, who already seem as though they've been at Headlands for weeks!

It has been wonderful to see the children return so positively and quickly settle back into school routines.



Pupil Absence

If your child is unable to come into school please can you contact the school office, either by telephone or email, on the first day of absence. Registers are checked twice a day and the school office will contact any parent/carer where there is an unexplained absence for a pupil. If you know your child will be absent at a future date e.g. hospital appointment, please can the request for absence be given to the school office and not to the class teacher – thank you.

At Headlands our unwavering commitment to attendance centres around child-centric actions, evidence-informed practices, and a shared understanding of everyone's roles and collective responsibilities to promote exceptional attendance.

School attendance is not merely a requirement but a fundamental part of education. It plays an important role in shaping academic success, personal growth, and future prospects, making it an essential aspect of any educational system.

- **Relationships:** School provides a vital social environment for children to interact with peers, develop friendships, and learn essential social skills. Consistent attendance ensures children remain connected to their peer group.
- **Teacher Interaction:** Regular attendance allows for meaningful teacher-child interactions. Teachers can provide personalised support, address questions, and assess individual progress more effectively when children attend regularly.
- **Wellbeing:** High levels of school attendance contribute to the overall wellbeing.
- **School Engagement:** Children who attend school regularly are more likely to engage in extracurricular activities, sports, and other enriching experiences that contribute to their overall development.

- **Academic Achievement:** Regular attendance directly correlates with academic success. Children who attend school consistently are more likely to keep up with the curriculum, perform better in exams, and improve their life outcomes.
- **Sticky Knowledge:** School is where children acquire knowledge and skills that are crucial for their personal and professional growth. Missing days means missing out on valuable learning opportunities.
- **Preventing Knowledge Gaps:** Frequent absences can lead to significant knowledge gaps, making it challenging for children to catch up with missed lessons, potentially resulting in long-term academic struggles.
- **Building Routine:** School attendance establishes a structured routine in children's lives, teaching them time management and responsibility, which are valuable life skills.
- **Legal and Parental Responsibility:** Parents or Carers are legally responsible for ensuring their child's regular school attendance. Failing to do so can lead to legal consequences.

Description	Threshold Attendance	Actual Attendance	Whole Days Absent	Learning Hours Lost
Excellent	100%	190 Days	0	0
	99%	188 Days	2	10
Good	98%	186 Days	4	20
	97%	184 Days	6	30
Satisfactory	96%	182.5 Days	7.5	37.5
Cause for Concern	95%	180.5 Days	9.5	47.5
	94%	178.5 Days	11.5	57.5
	93%	176.5 Days	13.5	67.5
	92%	174.5 Days	15.5	77.5
Unsatisfactory	91%	173 Days	17	85
Serious Cause for Concern	90%	171 Days	19	95
	89%	169 Days	21	105
	88%	167 Days	23	115
	87%	165.5 Days	25	125
	86%	163.5 Days	26.5	132.5
Critical	85%	161.5 Days	28.5	142.5

School Contact Details

For any enquiries, please contact the school office by telephone on 01904 762356 or by email at office@headlands.york.sch.uk. If you have any queries out of school hours, our extensive and regularly updated website may provide you with the information you require.

Contacting the Headteacher

As you will be aware, from Monday 7th September, my time will be split between Headlands and Elvington. If you would like to speak with me in person, I will be based at Headlands on Monday through to Thursday. Alternatively, I can be contacted at any time via email at a.buttery@headlands.york.sch.uk.

School Meals

Thank you to all parents and carers who ordered their child's school meal choices in advance. We are pleased to report that last week's lunch service ran very smoothly, and your continued support with the pre-ordering system is greatly appreciated. School meals can be ordered in advance for the entire half-term. The current cost of a paid school meal is £2.90 per day.

Please ensure that your child's school meals are ordered online through **SchoolMoney**. If you experience any difficulties with the ordering system or require further assistance, please contact the School Office, who will be happy to help.

School Uniform



The children have returned to school looking extremely smart- thank you. They take great pride in wearing our school uniform as it gives them a great sense of belonging.

You are able to purchase clothing from any outlet, however, for those wishing to have the school logo on their clothing, our official school uniform is supplied by 'Get Branded':

www.getbrandedworkwear.co.uk/collections/headlands

Term Dates for 2026-2027

The following are based on the **recommended term dates** provided by City of York Council for schools in the City of York area for the academic year 2026-2027. In addition, all schools will also be closed to pupils for a further five staff training/professional development days.

Autumn term 2026

- First half of term: Monday 7 September to Friday 23 October
- Half-term holiday: Monday 26 October to Friday 30 October
- Second half of term: Monday 2 November to Friday 18 December

Spring term 2027

- First half of term: Monday 4 January to Friday 5 February
- Half-term holiday: Monday 8 February to Friday 12 February
- Second half of term: Monday 15 February to Friday 19 March

Summer term 2027

- First half of term: Monday 5 April to Friday 28 May
- Half-term holiday: Monday 31 May to Friday 4 June
- Second half of term: Monday 7 June to Monday 26 July

Headlands Training Dates

- Monday, 7 September 2026
- Monday, 19 October 2026
- Monday, 4 January 2027
- Friday 28 May 2027
- Monday 26 July 2027

Information about term, holiday and closure dates for schools across York can be found on the [council website](#).

School Ethos and Values

At Headlands, we are committed to creating a positive, inclusive and supportive school community in which every individual is valued and respected. Our ethos is founded upon the principles of honesty, tolerance, respect and social responsibility, alongside high expectations for both learning and behaviour.



Our core values reflect the attributes and behaviours that we seek to develop in every member of the Headlands community. These values are embedded throughout school life and help to shape the way in which we learn, work and interact with one another.

We believe that developing these values enables our children to become confident, responsible and resilient lifelong learners. By promoting them consistently, we aim to ensure that Headlands is a happy, safe and supportive environment where every child is encouraged to achieve their full potential and make a positive contribution to the wider community.

RESPECT

Children and adults at Headlands show respect for one another, for themselves and for their environment.

RESILIENCE

Children and adults at Headlands persevere in the face of challenges and stay calm in stressful situations. They take risks and understand the value of making mistakes.

KINDNESS AND EMPATHY

Children and adults at Headlands are able to put themselves in other people's shoes and show concern and care for others, both within and outside of the school. They look after one another and can put others before themselves.

CREATIVITY

Children and adults at Headlands can think for themselves and find creative solutions to problems.

ASPIRATION

Children and adults at Headlands challenge themselves to be the best they can.

INDEPENDENCE

Children and adults at Headlands can resist distraction and make good decisions. They have the skills needed to work alone or as part of a group. They take ownership of their learning and know what they need to do to make progress.

Nut Free School

Nuts can cause severe allergic reactions in a wide range of ways. A person with an allergy does not have to eat nuts to have a severe reaction, this can be caused by surface contact and airborne particles. Peanut allergy affects around 2% (1 in 50) of children in the UK and has been increasing in recent decades.

It is important to know that peanuts are a legume and from a different family of plants to tree nuts. A peanut allergy does not automatically mean an allergy to tree nuts although it is not uncommon to be allergic to both peanuts and some tree nuts.

As a school we have a responsibility to keep our pupils, staff and visitors safe and to reduce risk of harm. As you can imagine in a busy school environment this can be a challenge and following consideration, we feel the only way to protect the aforementioned groups is by removing the allergens from school.

What does this mean?

- Pupils staff and visitors will not be able to bring products containing nuts or peanuts into school.
- Parents and carers must notify staff if their child has any known or suspected allergy to nuts and provide the necessary medical information.

What products will not be allowed in school?

- Peanuts and nuts and products containing peanuts or nuts.
- Peanut butter or peanut based chocolate snacks, for example Snickers and nut based chocolate spreads etc.
- Items where peanuts or nuts are listed as main ingredients.
- Nut or peanut based oils or products.

This list is not exhaustive, so please check the packaging of products carefully.

What products are allowed?

- Items that "may contain nuts" and "may contain traces of nuts" or "made in factories that use nuts". These present a low risk and are not direct ingredients in the products.
- All other non-nut based snacks and food stuff.

To find out more information about nut and peanut allergies please follow this link: www.allergyuk.org/types-of-allergies/food-allergy/.

Thank you for your continued support in keeping our children safe in school.

Summer Reading Challenge

As mentioned last academic year, the Summer Reading Challenge was available to children over the holiday to encourage them to keep reading.



If your child completed the challenge, we would love for them to bring their certificate into school so that we can celebrate their achievement together.

Dates For Your Diary

29th September 2026 – Individual photos

1st October 2026 – Year 6 Bikeability Group 1

19th October 2026 – Training Day

23rd October 2026 – Whole school Immunisation

26th October 2026 – School closed for half term

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Andrew Buttery