

# REACH Update

Summer 2021

## Welcome to this REACH Update.

*“Our aim is for York will be the first city to achieve a cultural entitlement for all children and young people, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds and with special educational needs and/or disabilities.”*

### INTRODUCTION

REACH is a consortium of York-based cultural, education and heritage partners working with children and young people. We believe that by working together we can engage every child and young person in creativity, culture, the arts and heritage, remove the barriers to access and improve young people's life chances.

### OUR PARTNERSHIP AND OUR PROMISES

REACH has committed to be the delivery partner of York's Cultural Strategy (2020-2025) key pledge around children and young people. Our Partners have agreed to work together to deliver a series of promises for all the children and young people in the City of York. Evidence suggests that the skills required for success at school, at work and in life are those at the heart of creativity and the arts. We know that participation in creative activities can improve attainment in English and maths and that children who take part in arts activities at home during their early years do better at school as they get older. In these challenging times we need to find ways to help all young people in the City of York to sing, dance, act, make music, perform, design and create.

### RECENT SUCCESSES

#### UNESCO Messages of Hope

Drawings by children at three great local primary schools, St George's RC Primary School, Ralph Butterfield Primary School and Lord Deramore's Primary School, which had been showcased on the walls of the National Gallery in Stockholm have been showcased in York. We managed to arrange for the 'Messages of Hope' display to light the window of 'According to McGee', a contemporary art gallery on Tower Street directly opposite Clifford's Tower. Greg McGee agreed to show the set of drawings so that children, staff, parents and carers could arrange to go and see this wonderful celebration of the children's work.

#### Festival of Ideas/Bags of Creativity

REACH worked with colleagues at the University of York on a 'Festival of Learning'/'Bags of Creativity' initiative with local primary schools distributing 2000+ bags to children on free school meals. The bags were delivered to schools before half-term and are supported by some fantastic on-line videos. We hope the ideas and creative activities will be shared to enhance the curriculum offer with all primary age children during the remainder of the Summer Term. As part of this work REACH partners have developed '50 Creative and Fun Things to do before you are 12 in York!'; a guide for young people and their parents and carers. This guide is attached as Appendix One and was included in the bags.

### SUMMER ACTIVITIES

#### THE SUMMER READING CHALLENGE 2021

Wild World Heroes: The Summer Reading Challenge 2021 is back in libraries and online.

Explore York Libraries and Archives and The Reading Agency have teamed up with WWF to keep children reading over the summer, while challenging them to help save the planet. Through taking part in the Challenge for free in Explore Libraries or online, children will be able to join six fictional characters - 'wild heroes' - to help solve some of the threats to our natural world, learning about the importance of the environment while helping to restore nature levels in the neighbourhood of 'Wilderville'.

We will be presenting The School's Cup to the school with the highest percentage of children finishing the challenge to the number of children in their school.

We will be sending schools

- Invitations to give out to each child in the school to encourage them to take part
- A PowerPoint about the challenge to show in assembly

Children who sign up at their local library will receive

- A Wild World Heroes card to collect stickers and record their reading on
- Stickers as they read books to help them save the world
- Other prizes for reading
- A certificate and medal for completing the challenge.

The challenge launches in libraries on Saturday 17th July 21 and runs until Saturday 11th September 21. Children who prefer to take part in the online challenge will find it at [www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk](http://www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk) As well as the challenge we will be running some children's activities in libraries and parks and digital activities will be available on our website [www.exploreyork.org.uk](http://www.exploreyork.org.uk). Leaflets giving more details of the activities will be available in late June.

## **YORK CIVIC TRUST, IN COLLABORATION WITH YORK EXPLORE KS2 Education Packs**

With a desire to educate the next generation about York's history and heritage, York Civic Trust, in collaboration with York Explore, has produced four beautifully illustrated packs aimed at Primary age children but of interest and relevance to anyone who enjoys discovering York's varied past. Using historic photos, original documents and real life stories from the archives, each pack recounts a national historic event but viewed through a local lens. The reader is taken into Life in York's Victorian Workhouse, shown why Votes For Women mattered and given a taste of what it was like to live through two world wars. It is often said that the story of York is the story of England and these packs show just how true that is. Full of creative activities to engage their young readers the customisable packs can be viewed or downloaded free of charge from the York Civic Trust website. Although aimed at under elevens, they will be of interest to a wider audience too.

The packs, "Life in York's Victorian workhouse", "Votes or Women", "Life in the First World War" and "Life in the Second World War" are free and can be accessed here:

<https://yorkcivictrust.co.uk/home/education/ks2-education-packs/>

For even more learning resources, including education packs on WWI Chocolate Letters, Conscientious Objectors and creative writing packs taking inspiration from historic theatre programmes and crime and punishment records, see our Resources for Schools page

<https://exploreyork.org.uk/archives/learning-community/resources-for-schools/>

## **PILOT THEATRE**

Tenacious Women

Wednesday 16 June 2021, 7.45pm to 9.15pm

York Festival of Ideas, Zoom Webinar - FREE (pre-booking required)

<https://yorkfestivalofideas.com/2021/calendar/tenacious-women/>

What does it mean to be a woman with a northern accent in leadership settings in 2021? With a special focus on arts, media and politics, a panel of tenacious women come together to share their experiences, and offer advice and inspiration.

Tenacious Women is part of Pilot Theatre's Northern Girls project. Speakers include Helen Thomas, Head of BBC Radio 2 and Sharon Watson, Principal of the Northern School of Contemporary Dance, with more panellists to confirm. The discussion will be chaired by Esther Richardson, Artistic Director of Pilot Theatre. Suitable for age 14+

Crongton Knights and Noughts & Crosses teaching resources – English and Drama KS3&4

We have a special offer until the end-of-term to access our Crongton Knights webcast and learning resources for only £15. We also have an extensive teaching resource pack available for teaching Noughts & Crosses. <https://www.pilot-theatre.com/present-work/pilot-connects>

Teacher Consultation

Pilot Theatre is looking to consult with secondary school / college teachers and leaders about how we can develop our creative and educational offers further.

We would be interested in hearing your thoughts about: theatre school trips, practical creative workshops in school, teaching resources which accompany theatre productions, and how theatre and the arts can support literacy, wellbeing, and PSHE. The consultations will take place via Zoom, with the option of either Monday 28 June at 7-8pm or Monday 5 July at 4-5pm. Please email [Oliver@pilot-theatre.com](mailto:Oliver@pilot-theatre.com) if you would like to share your thoughts with us.

## **DON'T MISS THIS BRILLIANT SCHOOLS COMPETITION:**

The Sheldon Memorial Trust Schools Competition: Vikings in your Classroom!

The Sheldon Memorial Trust has teamed up with York Archaeological Trust to present a unique opportunity: a prize worth £1000 for a primary school in York and its environs to explore York's history. This package of learning activities and resources will equip and encourage learners to think about the lasting transformation of the city by its Viking settlers and their descendants, using the expertise of the YAT team and its JORVIK Viking Centre. Schools will receive:

- A series of bespoke virtual outreach sessions, hosted by a member of our expert Viking team

- The use of a Viking loan box, packed with replica items and notes to guide you in their interpretation and use
- A set of crafting resources for you to keep, so that your learners can have a go at some Viking-era crafts for themselves
- A collection of Viking fiction titles by top children's authors, to supplement the Viking content of your school library!

To be in with a chance of winning, tell us your top three questions about the Vikings of York. You can do this with letters, drawings, or even a video: your class might enjoy role-playing some aspects of life from Viking times! The class with the most creative and persuasive approach will be the winner.

**The deadline for submissions is 31st December 2021.**

## **OUR PARTNERS**

Our partners, who share this passion and commitment, are:

- City of York Council
- Creative Learning Partnership
- York Cultural Leaders Group
- Explore York Libraries and Archives
- Guild of Media Arts
- Independent artists
- Joseph Rowntree Theatre
- LazenbyBrown
- Make it York
- National Centre for Early Music
- National Railway Museum
- NYBEP;
- York Primary Schools
- Pupil Referral Units
- York Secondary schools
- York Special Schools
- University of York
- Voluntary & Community organisations
- Pilot Theatre
- York Army Museum
- York College
- York Dance Space
- York Minster
- York Museums Trust
- York Music Hub
- York Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- York St John University
- York Theatre Royal
- Yorvik Group/YAT
- IVE (Arts Council Bridge Organisation)

## **REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

**We want to produce REACH Newsletters focusing on Autumn/Spring opportunities for children and young people. Could you provide a brief outline of anything your organisation is planning. The next Newsletter will go to schools, partners and other organisations in August. Thank you.**

## **PLEASE SHARE THIS UPDATE!**

**Please share this REACH Update with partners, friends, colleagues, interested individuals, anyone who can help make a difference for children and young people, who are the future of this City!**

## **For More Information Contact:**

Chris Edwards (Chair, REACH)

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# 50

Creative and Fun Things to do before you are 12 in...

# YORK

Always ask an adult to help if you are using sharp or hot things and always tell them where you are going when you go out.

1. Make a card for someone to show that you care about them.
2. Collect some twigs, leaves and seeds and make a picture from them.
3. Have a picnic with your family. This can be indoors or out.
4. Create a treasure map. You could make one up or draw a place you know. What treasure would you hide?
5. Lie on your back and see what shapes the clouds remind you of.
6. Blow a dandelion clock and count how many times you blow before all the seeds have gone.
7. Make a board game and play it with someone.
8. Put paint fingerprints on paper, let them dry and draw on them to turn them into different animals.
9. Make a rubbing from a tree, a brick wall or something else with an interesting texture.
10. Try the free Little Vikings I Spy Trail of York
11. Make paper planes with your family or friends and see whose plane flies the farthest.
12. Play a new musical instrument that you would like to try.
13. Learn to swim.
14. Conduct a science investigation.
15. Sing with other people.
16. Join a club and learn something.
17. Make something delicious to eat.
18. Learn to Dance. York Dance Space can help you.
19. Bake some cakes and sell them to raise some money for a charity.
20. Find the nearest playground to your house and have a go on at least 3 things there.
21. Go for a walk in your neighbourhood and write down 10 things you hadn't noticed before.
22. Make a mask and see if anyone can recognise you.
23. Grow something that you can use to make a tasty meal.
24. Learn a poem and tell it to someone in your family.
25. Find out why recycling is important and how you can help with it.
26. Do something to benefit your local community.
27. Share your favourite book with a friend, your family or a carer.
28. Take part in a new activity or sport.
29. Go and see a theatre performance, or make up and act in your own play.
30. Learn some words or signs from a different language to the one you usually speak.
31. Have fun blowing bubbles. Can you blow small bubbles? Can you blow different shaped bubbles?
32. Try some food from a different country or culture.
33. Learn to cross the road safely.
34. Visit the Eye of York and see how many historical landmarks you can spot - or pop into the Army Museum and find out something new.
35. Walk all round the City Walls and enjoy some great views of York.
36. Create a list of questions to ask someone about their job.
37. Explore York Minster, which is free if you live in York.
38. Find out some information about something you enjoy and share it with your family or friends.
39. Meet and hold (if you wish) an animal.
40. Visit the Museum Gardens and find the ruins of St Mary's Abbey, The Yorkshire Museum and the Hospitium. Did you see a squirrel?
41. Visit your local Explore library, get your library card and borrow a book.
42. Make up a story and tell it to a friend, your family or a carer.
43. Visit York Art Gallery and then create your own work of art.
44. Visit the National Railway Museum and decide which train you like the best.
45. Go on a school trip or a trip with your family.
46. Sit in an open space with your eyes closed for 5 minutes and listen to find out what you can hear.
47. Go out in the dark and look at the stars in the sky.
48. Go down some of the Snickleways in the city centre.
49. Look for the cat statues that are on some of the buildings in York.
50. Make a home for wildlife or a bird feeder near your house.

