




£80,661.25
Donations received


£41,059.87
Grants distributed to date




20,041
Breakfasts served


55
Average number of children served
breakfast each day


2
Schools supported

Interim Impact Report
January 2024 – 31 March 2026


Two Ridings
Community Foundation

York Hungry Minds

An introduction

The York Hungry Minds appeal was launched in Autumn 2023, bringing together key stakeholders in the city with the aim of providing a free school meal to as many primary school children as possible. Building on an initial City of York Council-funded scheme to support lunches at **Westfield Primary School**, York Hungry Minds focused on providing free breakfasts, with research demonstrating the significant impacts of this meal on children's wellbeing, attendance and learning.

Between December 2023 and 31 March 2026, the appeal raised £80,661.25. This funding has been used to provide grants specifically for breakfast clubs at two York primary schools during this time: at **Burton Green Primary School** from January 2024, and at **Fishergate Primary School** from January 2025. This work has only been possible thanks to the generosity of brilliant supporters.

Donations have come from a wide range of contributors, including local businesses such as Persimmon, and generous individuals. Many supporters have also chosen to give regularly through monthly Direct Debits, providing a reliable source of funding that helps to plan ahead, and sustain breakfast provision where it is needed most.

The impact so far

Between January 2024 and 31 March 2026, York Hungry Minds funded the delivery of 20,041 breakfasts, supporting an average of 55 children every school day.



FOCUS ON

Burton Green Primary School

Reporting period: January 2024 - 31 March 2026



16,806

Total breakfasts served



41

Average breakfasts served daily



119 - 124

Children enrolled
(varied between)

Burton Green: The stories behind the breakfast club

The breakfast club has become a quiet source of strength for some of Burton Green Primary School's most vulnerable children. Its impact is best understood through the stories of the children whose mornings, and school experiences, have been transformed.

Each morning, Fred* arrives after a turbulent start to life: a year without schooling, a move from Wales, and close family members in prison. Playing Connect 4 with older pupils has become his daily ritual, helping him settle, feel included and build confidence. With this stability, he has passed the phonics screening and now attends school almost every day, providing reassurance and routine for both him and his great-grandmother.

For Jane*, breakfast club has transformed the most difficult part of her day. Her mum's severe mental health challenges once made morning drop-off overwhelming, often preventing Jane from entering the classroom. Now, arriving through breakfast club with her dad, she walks into school calmly and with a sense of safety. Her attendance has improved significantly, and she starts each day feeling secure rather than anxious.

In Year 3, Silvie* begins each morning with a small responsibility that she takes great pride in. After losing her mum last August, breakfast club has become a nurturing space where she can talk to trusted adults and share memories, including the fairy-lit bench her family placed in the garden in her mum's memory. This gentle routine helps her feel grounded, and her attendance is now excellent.



Burton Green stories continued...

For Jake*, breakfast club is far more than a meal — it is a place where he feels valued. He arrives early each day to help set up, taking ownership of a space that has become his sanctuary after losing his mum while living with a dad working three jobs. This sense of belonging has strengthened his academic confidence, and he is now on track for strong SATs results while maintaining excellent attendance.

Alongside them is Oli*, a Year 2 pupil with SEND who shows a noticeable difference on the mornings he attends. He settles more quickly, is less fidgety and arrives ready to learn. Through breakfast club games, he has built friendships, and those friendships have encouraged him to join the school choir — a step that has made him visibly happier and more connected to school life.

Together, these children demonstrate how the breakfast club at Burton Green quietly changes lives. It offers stability for children experiencing trauma, confidence for those who feel uncertain, friendship for those who struggle socially, and a calm, nurturing start to the day for those who need it most. It has become an important part of the school's pastoral support, ensuring children begin each day feeling safe, welcomed and ready to learn.

*Names have been changed to protect children's identities.

What this means for Burton Green Primary School



Emotional Wellbeing & Stability

The breakfast club provides a calm, reassuring start to the day, helping children feel safe, emotionally regulated and ready to learn.



Academic Readiness & Progress

Beginning the day settled and well-fed enables children to engage more fully in lessons and make stronger academic progress.



Social Confidence & Belonging

The welcoming environment helps children develop friendships, build confidence and strengthen their sense of belonging within the school community.



Attendance & Punctuality

By removing barriers to the start of the school day, the breakfast club has helped improve attendance and punctuality for many children.



Family Support & Safeguarding

The provision offers reliable support to families, easing pressure at home while strengthening safeguarding through trusted daily relationships.



More than breakfast: How Burton Green Primary School starts the day right

A visit to Burton Green Primary School's breakfast club showed just how much difference 30 minutes can make. Before lessons begin, children of all ages gather to play games, eat a healthy breakfast and spend time together in a calm, welcoming environment.

Around me, older pupils naturally helped younger children, sharing games, encouraging one another and building friendships across year groups. There was a real sense of belonging, with staff greeting every child by name.

The impact extends far beyond breakfast. Attendance has improved, children are arriving on time and ready to learn, and those who previously came to school hungry are now starting the day with a nutritious meal. The club is also helping children develop confidence, independence and social skills through play.

The school's Headteacher, Ash, summed it up perfectly:

"I wish we'd done this years ago. Attendance is up, children are happier, behaviour has improved and it's the best possible start to the day for everyone."

A Year 5/6 teacher has also seen significant improvements:

"Since the breakfast club started, attendance has improved dramatically. Children who used to miss crucial form time are now arriving early because they want to come. Our SATs results have improved too."

The Early Years Lead highlighted the wider benefits:

"Our buddy system gives younger children a gentle start to the day, with older pupils modelling kindness, sharing and problem-solving. Many children are learning these important social skills through play, while enjoying a healthy breakfast."

Children were equally enthusiastic:

"You feel good when you've been to breakfast club. You have energy, you've seen your friends and you're ready to learn."

Parents have embraced the club too, valuing the reassurance that their children are safe, well fed and happy before the school day begins.

Thirty minutes each morning is improving attendance, wellbeing, confidence and readiness to learn, proving that breakfast clubs offer far more than just a meal.



FOCUS ON

Fishergate Primary School

Reporting period: 24 February 2025 - 31 March 2026



3,235

Total breakfasts served



14

Average breakfasts served daily



11 - 55

Children enrolled
(varied between)

Fishergate Primary: The impact of the breakfast club

The breakfast club has already made a measurable difference for children at Fishergate Primary School. Comparing one half term with the breakfast club in place against the previous half term without it, shows improvements across attendance, behaviour and children's overall wellbeing.

Attendance increased by nine percentage points overall, with most children attending school more regularly. Academic outcomes remained stable, with almost all children maintaining their expected levels in reading and maths, while one child progressed to Greater Depth.

Behaviour also improved significantly, with incidents falling by almost 40%, suggesting that children are arriving at school feeling calmer, more settled and better prepared to learn.

Staff also recorded an increase in safeguarding disclosures. While this may appear concerning at first glance, it reflects something positive: children are developing trusting relationships with adults in school and feel safe enough to share worries and ask for help.

Alongside these improvements, children continue to engage well with the breakfast club, making good use of the daily provision and benefiting from a consistent, supportive start to each school day. Together, these outcomes demonstrate that children are becoming more confident, connected and ready to learn.

"Breakfast Club at Fishergate impacts the children in so many ways that go beyond just a healthy breakfast. It means that the children are at school on time, have had time to socialise before lessons start and are calm and ready to learn. The older children love to help the little ones and some lovely friendships have formed. Children moving up into new classes know older children from Breakfast Club and have become more confident.

It really is such a positive thing in so many ways.
Breakfast Club Lead - Fishergate Primary School

Fishergate Primary School in numbers



Attendance

- Increased by 9 percentage points, rising from 63% to 72%.
- 22 children improved their attendance, while 7 children experienced a decline.



Academic Outcomes

- Outcomes remained stable, with 11 children Working Towards Standard (WTS), 18 at Expected Standard (EXP) and 1 child achieving Greater Depth (GD).
- One child progressed from Expected Standard to Greater Depth, while all other children maintained their attainment.



Behaviour

- Behaviour incidents reduced by 37.5%, falling from 16 to 10 during the half term.
- 2 children showed improved behaviour, 25 remained stable, and no children experienced an increase in behaviour incidents.



Safeguarding

- 12 safeguarding disclosures were made by 8 children, reflecting growing trust in school staff and increased confidence to share concerns.



Looking ahead to the next phase

Following the success of this work, a new 3-year programme of free breakfast provision has been launched for invited schools across York. This has been made possible by substantial multi-year donations from the Persimmon Foundation, a local businessman and the Traekpaert foundation, as well as ongoing support from York people and businesses. The participating schools are:

- Fishergate Primary School
- Burton Green Primary School
- Haxby Road Primary Academy
- Hob Moor Community Primary Academy
- Tang Hall Primary Academy
- New Earswick Primary School
- St Lawrence's Church of England Primary School
- Poppleton Road Primary School
- Woodthorpe Primary School
- Osbaldwick Primary Academy
- Lakeside Primary Academy

We look forward to sharing the impact of this expanded programme in future reports.



A message from the York Hungry Minds Steering Group

Thank you

Every breakfast served and every story in this report has been made possible by the generosity of our supporters.

Together, you have helped provide 20,041 breakfasts for children across York. Thank you for showing what is possible when a community comes together to ensure no child starts the school day hungry.

Working closely with schools, York Hungry Minds directs funding to where it can have the greatest impact, supporting children who need it most and helping to improve wellbeing, attendance and achievement.

Help us reach more children

But the need continues to grow, and schools cannot meet it alone.

That's why we're asking businesses, residents and everyone who cares about the future of children in York to join us. Your support can help ensure that every child has the opportunity to start the school day nourished, supported and ready to reach their full potential.

Whether you choose to make a one-off donation, become a regular supporter or champion the appeal through your business or community group, every gift makes a difference.



20,041 breakfasts served
Thousands of brighter mornings
One city making a difference



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