

Woodthorpe Primary School

Headteacher: Mr James McGann
Chair of Governors: Mrs Jenny Parker

Our school is a happy, exciting and caring community in which each child thrives.

Friday 15th December 2023



What an incredible term we have had, full of exciting opportunities and amazing progress. It has been a joy to watch the nativities this week and we have just been blown away by the children's performance skills! From twinkling stars, to groovy sheep, Woodthorpe has it all! Thank you so much to everybody that was able to join us and as a reminder, please keep any photos/videos for personal use and please don't share anything on social media – we thank you for your support with this.

This week, we received our Woodland Trust Green Tree School 'Gold Award' for all of our eco work within school. Mrs Banham and our eco team, work tirelessly to make our school more environmentally friendly and this award has been the result of a lot of hard work & dedication. As we move into 2024, we aim to cut at least a tonne of carbon from being released into the atmosphere. We have already started with our plantation programme, recycling, and energy monitoring to help with this ambitious aim.

Finally, we would like to wish all of our children and families a very Merry Christmas and hope that you have a wonderful break. Our last day of this term is Wednesday 20th December. We look forward to welcoming everybody back in school on Monday 8th January 2024.

Class attendance this term!

Cygnets	95.82%	Goslings	94.14%
Hummingbirds	92.34%	Kingfishers	94.87%
Finch	95.77%	Robins	95.20%
Magpie	93.03%	Woodpeckers	95.07%
Owl	95.54%	Osprey	95.97%
Kite	95.81%	Falcon	★★ 96.86% ★★
Hawk	95.01%	Eagle	91.38%
School average for this year so far		94.80%	

Thank you to all those parents who managed to get their child to school on time every day! As a reminder, if your child is absent from school, please call 01904 806464, followed by option 1 to report the absence or email admin@woodthorpe.southbank.academy



100% attendance parent winners

Last week's winner was the parent of a child in Year 2
This week's winner was the parent of a child in Year 3
Congratulations on winning a £10 Amazon voucher!



Christmas Jumper Day

Thank you so much to everybody that donated to Martin House Children's Hospice on our Christmas Jumper Day. With your help, we raised over £200 for the local charity. Thank you, your money makes such a difference to families.

Proud to support

Martin House
Children's Hospice

Registered Charity No. 517919

Here when families need us most

Book Fair

Another enormous thank you to everybody who came to our Book Fair this term. We were busier than ever and saw so many children and families from across school. With your help, we have raised over £400 to help replenish our school library. Thank you.



Christmas Fair 2023

Thank you so much to everybody that came to our Christmas Fair yesterday! From games and hot dogs, to nail painting and hair glitter, there was something for everybody. We also wanted to thank our woodwind group for their wonderful performance of Christmas classics. We raised over £900 for school funds, which will go straight back into opportunities for pupils across school. Thank you so much for your support and to anybody that donated cakes, raffle prizes etc – we really appreciate it.



Creative Writing Club

This half term, we have been transformed into authors in our creative writing club. Each week the children have been writing around different themes and genres and produced some fantastic creations. In our festive newsletter, we thought that we would share a couple of our favourite festive poems for you to enjoy!

Santa Claus

Santa is coming to town,
A drink and a cookie for him,
Naughty elves everywhere,
Toys for the kids.

All the stockings are ready for treats,
Christmas dinner soon,
Lots of pretty presents,
All the family spending time together,
Us all around the Christmas tree,
Songs about Christmas.

Arya (Year 4)

Christmas

C is for cookie and cookie is for me,
H is for happy and happy you should be!
R is for Rudolph the red nosed reindeer.

I is for igloo cold, icy homes,
S is for Santa – Ho! Ho! Ho!
T is for toys wrapped in jolly paper.
M is for merry and a Merry Christmas!
A is for an elf (really the letter E!)
S is for snowman with his little carrot nose.

Alfie (Year 4)

Woodthorpe's Random Acts of Kindness



Does your child do something exceptionally kind?

After half term, we will be launching our Tree of Kindness in the school community! This display is a key image in our school hall and celebrates some of the amazing things our children do each and every day at school and beyond!

Each fortnight, Miss Britland (Personal Development Leader) and the school team will be picking two children across the school to celebrate their 'random act of kindness' in our newsletters. This will include the child's name, what they did, and where possible, include a photograph to show their act of kindness. In addition to this, we will add a 'leaf' to our tree writing the act of kindness and the child's name.

What is a random act of kindness?

A random act of kindness is giving your best self to others. It's being selfless, caring, compassionate, and unconditionally kind. It's simply doing something nice for someone else, without them asking and without you doing it for anything in return.

The Mental Health Foundation states, "Research shows that helping others can be good for our mental health. It reduces stress, improves our emotional well-being and even benefits our physical health. In short, doing good does you good." (<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/>)

Examples of random acts of kindness might include - going on a litter pick in your local area, helping an elderly neighbour get their shopping, holding doors for other people, volunteering your time to help others, raising money for a charity such as a sponsored walk, helping to tidy up after a lesson...the list is endless!

We would like the school community to help us with this! We want to hear from families, from school staff and from children about how exceptionally kind we can be.

If you would like to nominate your child at any point, please email the school office with the subject 'Random Act of Kindness', the name of your child, a description of what they did and a photo (where possible). This will then be passed on to Miss Britland. Should you be unable to email a nomination in, please contact the school office and request to speak to Miss Britland.

What better way to start this by capturing a random act of kindness over the Christmas holidays. We can't wait to see all the ways children are exceptionally kind and celebrate this!

Nursery

All about Christmas!



In nursery, we have loved the build up to Christmas! We have enjoyed talking about traditions at this time of year, making the classroom look very festive and learning some Christmas songs such as Jingle Bells and Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer. We have also been amazing at learning We Wish You a Merry Christmas in Makaton too! As well as this, in our art studio we have been busy completing a design technology project, making a sliding Santa chimney! We have worked in groups to decorate and cut out a Santa, attach a lollipop stick and make a night's sky with a brick chimney and sparkling stars. We had lots of fun making Santa pop out of the chimney when complete!

Art - Painting and Colours



We have learnt all about the primary colours. We have been very excited to see what happens when we mix the primary colours red, blue and yellow in different combinations! Ducklings have loved being artists and exploring different shapes and colours of objects including fruits and flowers. Whilst learning about primary colours, we have learnt all about two artists Ruth Faison Shaw and Iris Scott who use their fingers to make marks!

Shout outs - Ducklings

A massive shout out to all our fabulous Ducklings for their Nativity performances this week. Ducklings have been working very hard to learn lots of songs and actions. You blew all of us away with your wonderful voices in our Nativity performances! You really are all shining stars!

Ask us about...

This week we have been learning about Christmas. Ask us about what traditions may happen around this time of year around the world and in our community. You could even ask us to sing you a Christmas song!

Reception

The Nativity

Over the last few weeks, the children have been working very hard rehearsing for their performance of 'The Nativity'. We think we all agree when we say, what a fantastic show it was! We were so proud of every single child.

You really were stars and it was an absolute joy to watch you all up on stage.

We would like to say a huge thank you to all of the children for their hard work and also a big thank you to adults at home for their support with costumes, learning lines and of course coming to watch.

Well done everyone - we hope you have a wonderful Christmas!



All About Winter

Reception have continued their learning about the seasons by exploring winter. We have looked for signs of winter, made wintery pictures and created lots of different snowmen!



Marvellous Marks!

As part of our art unit, we have been exploring different materials that we can make marks with, including crayons, pens, paints and chalks. We have also been doing observational drawings of plants where we have looked closely at the details and tried to draw what we can see.



Shout outs - Cygnets

Jack - For your exemplary behaviour and manners. You demonstrate super listening and attention skills and you always try your best. You are so polite and you set a wonderful example for your peers. We are very lucky to have you in Cygnets class!

Myla - For your passion and exuberance whilst performing our nativity. You have shown dedication to learning the words to our songs which you sang beautifully and delivered your narrator lines so well too! You are a real star, well done Myla!

Shout outs - Goslings

Mia - For always being enthusiastic and keen to learn! You try your best with everything and work really hard all of the time. Thank you for being such a fantastic member of Gosling class, well done Mia!

Jacob H - You have done some super observational drawing this week Jacob. You looked carefully at what you were drawing, took your time and produced a brilliant drawing of a plant. Well done Jacob!

Ask us about...

This week, we have been working so hard on our fabulous show 'The Nativity' and about songs with actions in music; ask us to perform some of our special songs for you!

Year 1

We would like to say a huge WELL DONE to the whole of Year 1 for their 'Baarmy Bethlehem' performance. You have all worked incredibly hard as a team and have shown Miss Bedda and Miss Poulter how much dedication you have. We have been blown away and you should all be really proud of yourselves. Well done and Happy Christmas!



Shout outs - Kingfisher

A HUGE well done to the whole of Kingfisher class, we have had a fantastic first term in Year 1! You have all made such incredible progress and worked so hard. We have spent time building upon our Woodthorpe character, in particular our resilience and I am so proud of every single one of you! Keep up the brilliant work.

Shout outs - Hummingbird

A big shout out to all of Hummingbirds this week! I want to say a HUGE thank you for all of your hard work this half term. You have all settled into Year 1 incredibly and we have had so much fun learning together already. Also, I burst with pride watching you all perform our 'baarmy' nativity this week; you have all worked so hard to make the performance magical and you SMASHED IT! Have a wonderful Christmas everybody!

Ask us about...

This week we have been learning about our algorithms in computing... Please ask us about it!

Year 2

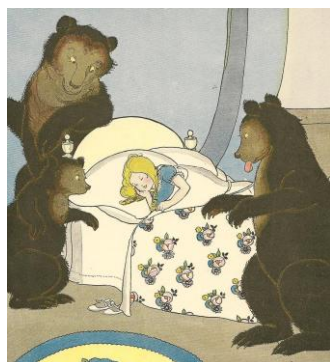
Year 2 Nativity Church trip

Year 2 thoroughly enjoyed visiting St James the Deacon Church and having a workshop all about 'How Christians celebrate Christmas' We made our own Christingles using oranges, sweets and candles before going back into the church to sing some Christmas carols.



Traditional tales- Orchestra Music

In our music lessons, we have been learning about what an orchestra was and how different instruments can be used to help tell traditional tales. We have listened to many different traditional tales and musical stories and have loved adding our own instrumental tunes to each of the stories.



Shout outs - Robin

A massive well done to EVERYONE in Robin class. You have all worked super hard this term and have made amazing progress - we are so proud of how well you have all done. We hope you have a lovely, relaxing Christmas break; you all deserve it!

DT- Testing stability

Year 2 started their structures topic this week, by looking at which 3D shapes have the best stability and which would be useful for Baby Bears chair. We used modelling clay to make the various shapes before using our whiteboards and rulers to carry out our experiment.



Shout outs - Finch

A massive well done to EVERYONE in Finch class for having a superb first term in Year 2. You have all worked incredibly hard and I am so proud of you all. Last week, you all smashed your assessments and we have loved celebrating the many achievements this week. Have a great Christmas Finch!

Ask us about...

This week, in Music we have been looking at what an orchestra is and how different families of instruments make up an orchestra. We can tell you about the different families of instruments and what types of instruments belong in each group.

Year 3

Year 3 - Dementia Yorkshire Christmas Party

Magpie class had the most wonderful time at Dementia Yorkshire's Christmas party! 'Dementia Yorkshire' is a charity that provides support and assistance to those living with dementia in Yorkshire. The group meets monthly at the church, where members can socialise and engage with others in their community. During our visit, we performed a selection of traditional Christmas carols and exchanged Christmas cards. The children adored meeting everyone; it was a very special afternoon.



Year 3 - Art - 3D Sculpture and Design



In Art this week, Year 3 are learning about abstract sculptures! In this lesson, we experimented with folding and rolling our materials to make them 3D, and then explored joining techniques. We enjoyed challenging ourselves to make a 3D structure that stood on its own by joining all our shapes together through balancing, making slots and tabs.

Shout outs - Woodpecker

Jayden - Well done for your perseverance this week in writing! You have been producing a brilliant formal letter of complaint that you should be very proud of. You've had your head down and have been determined to write your best work. Keep pushing through things you find difficult - it will take you far!

Year 3 - YoYo Workshop

Year 3 had a wonderful workshop delivered by the fantastic team at 'YoYo'. We discovered what Christmas

means to Christians and how they celebrate with many different magical traditions. We took part in some of these exciting traditions ourselves, including



dressing a Christmas tree!

Shout outs - Magpie

Joshua - I am so proud of your English writing this week. You have used incredible vocabulary and powerful sentence openers in your formal letter of complaint. Your letter is presented to the highest standard with exceptional handwriting. You are a star!

Ask us about...

In art, we have started our new topic, 'Abstract Shape and Space'. We are trying different ways to make card shapes three-dimensional, e.g., folding and curving the card or joining the flat shapes together. We are also experimenting with making a structure that holds its 3D shape. Ask us who Anthony Caro is...

Year 4

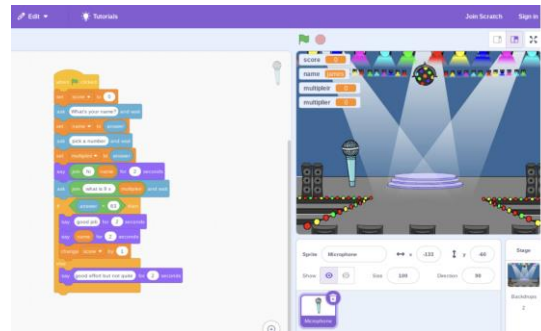
Osprey - English - Writing a dilemma story

In Osprey class, we have been using knowledge from our recent science topic, electricity and circuits, to create a narrative dilemma story. We revisited our science learning by grouping images of objects and equipment that link with electricity. Our challenge was to choose how we grouped each of the items! We have then used this key knowledge to add detail to our writing.



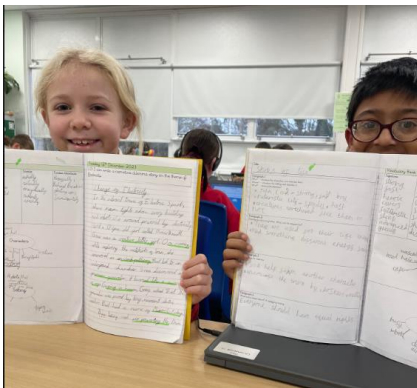
Owl - Computing

In Owl class, we have been working on our coding skills this half term. Using Scratch, we have explored using variables within our code to create a times table game that remembers our names and answers!



Owl - Writing

In our English lessons this week, we have been planning a narrative dilemma story linked to our previous science topic - electricity. Owls explored lots of vocabulary and built a fantastic word bank which they can then use in their writing.



Osprey - DT - Testing circuits

In Osprey class, we have been enjoying our DT topic, electrical systems: torches! In this lesson, we had to use our prior knowledge from our science topic on electricity to build working circuits, as we will be using these when we build our torches. This activity required teamwork, and we all made working circuits!



Shout outs - Osprey

A massive well done to EVERYONE in Osprey class. During assessment week, everybody worked extremely hard and we are so proud of you. It has been fantastic to see that amazing progress everyone has made! Keep up the great work Osprey!

Shout outs - Owl

Our shout out this week goes to Emma! Emma has put huge amounts of effort into her assessments this week and it has all paid off as she has made amazing progress. Keep up the fantastic work.

Ask us about...

This week, in DT, we have been learning about Electrical systems and making torches. We have used a design criteria and a user profile to design our torches, before constructing them. Ask us about it!

Year 5

Forest School

This week in forest school, Kite class had a wonderful time making vegan banana pancakes! We were learning all about how to cook the pancakes carefully and keeping an eye on the temperature of our fires so they didn't get too hot. They were delicious too! Falcons also had a go at out-door baking, making pancakes with eggs, milk and flour. Some groups demonstrated fantastic creativity by spelling their initials with their pancake mix!



Art

In Art this week, we have been researching the Punjabi Liverpoolian artist, Chila Kumari Singh Burman. She combines her cultural heritage with popular culture and has created a thought provoking self-portrait using mixed media. This photomontage is made up of 28 photos of herself! We are excited to use her work to inspire our own.



Music - Blues

Last week in music we learnt all about the blues! Year 5 learnt how to play the 12 bar blues, the blues scale and how to sing 'bent' notes in a blues style. We also learnt about the origins of the genre, and how it has influenced many other types of music since its conception.



Shout outs - Kites

This week's shout out goes to Sam for his determination to ensure all of his work is completed to the best of his ability. Sam has been taking his time to make adjustments and improve the quality of his work in all lessons. Well done Sam!

Another shout out goes to Elsie for her fantastic writing! Elsie has been focussing on her handwriting and made huge improvements with this. Elsie has also produced a creative and carefully planned advertisement for a new cookie cafe! Well done Elsie!

Shout outs - Falcons

This week's shoutout goes to Aiden who has been working incredibly hard to improve his hand-writing and has written a fantastic newspaper advertisement in English this week. Well done you!

Another huge well done to Freddy who has shown commendable determination during our multiplication unit in maths. He has shown fantastic perseverance during reasoning and problem solving questions, resulting in lots of successes in maths over the last two weeks. Well done Freddy.

Ask us about...

Our maths topic, multiplication and division! We have been challenging ourselves to multiply 4-digit numbers by 2-digit numbers, using the column method!

Year 6

Art: Photo Opportunity

As part of our current art topic, Year 6 have been making their very own photomontages, which have been inspired by Chris Plowman. We have also been looking at how to take high quality images using a macro lens, which can take really clear and sharp images of objects. Afterwards, we were able to use a variety of different methods to edit our photographs: editing the colour saturation, replacing the colours and using different special effects.



Music: Theme and Variations

Our music topic this half term has been based on Pop Art, themes and variations. By learning about the different parts of the orchestra, we have been able to relate these to corresponding Pop Art images. Eagle class were even lucky enough to hear some instruments being played from the woodwind and brass sections of the orchestra. Did you know that the piccolo can produce the highest pitched note in the woodwind section?



Shout outs - Eagle

A huge shout out to **Romanie!** You are such a dedicated and focused member of our class and you continuously strive to be the best that you can be. We are so incredibly proud of the work that you are producing: it is clear that you are listening intently in every single lesson and taking every piece of advice on board! Well done!

News Just In: Newly- Discovered Animals

Pan-sea: the newly-discovered mammal

Hippopoda melanolatus (pan-sea): graceful, appealing, prey. These creatures, which are a mutated species of a panda and a seahorse are easily recognised by the public because of their distinctive, special, curled tail and their unusual, gleaming eyes. Although many people are aware of this creature and that they appear adorable, they are in extreme risks of extinction; poachers hunt pan-seas down for their trunk ridges; they get strangled by the nets and because many people are cutting down bamboos, they die from starvation. In China, it is common to find them near the sea and mountains. However, you can still spot them in other countries.

Diet

Pan-seas are excellent, skilled scavengers that find food within familiar areas (seaweed, bamboo shoots, algae and leaves). These species have three main skills to assist them in scavenging: an extreme intensified sense of smell; long, bent tail which can swing tree to tree and their sharp, large claws that allows them to cut bamboo. Even though they have amazing defense mechanisms, it does not stop them from being prey (because they are smaller and weaker than other animals). As a result, it is important for them to have certain characteristics (to protect themselves), which means it would be less common for them to get hunted. To stay alive, their survival instincts include: swimming rapidly by using their large, majestic fins; camouflaging where they can blend into snow while on a mountain and tuck and roll that allows them to escape from predators. However, this still doesn't stop them from being endangered.



Reproduction

After fertilisation, female pan-seas have a gestation period of 70-90 days (2-3 months). Comparing it to similar species of animal, it is much longer than a seahorse but much shorter than a panda. After they give birth, they (on average) will have 2-5 offspring (cubs), which is similar to a panda's 1-2 offspring.



In English, Year 6 have been writing a non-chronological report based on the discovery of a new animal species.

Drawing on our key science knowledge based on classification, we have been able to classify our animals and explain why they belong to that particular animal group as a result of their diet and methods of reproduction.

Shout outs - Hawk

Scarlett, during our English lesson, you have shown great enthusiasm and brilliant desire to improve your skills. As a result, your non-chronological report was exceptional: you used higher level punctuation, controlled your level of formality and ensured your text was cohesive. I am very proud of your progress!

Ask us about...

This week we have been learning about photography in art. We have been able to understand how to capture clear, crisp images by considering backgrounds, shadows and camera settings. Ask us about it!

Diary Dates

Wed 20 th Dec	Last day of term
Mon 8 th Jan	First day back at school
Tue 9 th Jan	Young Voices
Mon 12 th – Fri 16 th Feb	Half Term
Mon 19 th Feb	Back to school
Wed 28 th Feb – Fri 1 st March	Peat Rigg Residential
Mon 25 th March – Fri 5 th April	Half term
Mon 8 th April	Teacher Training Day
Tue 9 th April	Back to school

Woodthorpe wrap-around care

We are delighted to be able to offer full wraparound support for our families. This starts from 7.50am and continues until 5:45pm daily. Our offer includes care for all of our children, from nursery to year 6. *Nursery pupils must book wraparound care sessions through the nursery as, due to the childcare funding, they receive, the charges are different.*

Breakfast Club: (7.50-8.50am) **£4.20/session £3.15/siblings.** Children have a wide range of breakfasts and also have the chance to play games with their friends or take part in a morning physical activity to really help wake them up.

After School Club (3.15-5.45pm) **£8.20/session £7.18/sibling.** At after school club, children start the session by having a snack and completing a 'circle' activity. From this, pupils then have the option to complete activities with their friends, take part in physical activities or relax with a book or film.

If you are interested in our wrap-around care options, please pop into the office and ask for our wraparound care administrator, Caroline Young.

Childminders

Within our local area there is also a number of Ofsted registered childminders, a full list of these are available via the YorOK website: <http://www.yor-ok.org.uk/families/Childcare/childcare.htm>

The school also holds an up-to-date list of local childminders who are able to offer 15 and 30 hours care, please contact the school directly for this information.

Support Via the Pupil Premium

Given the difficult times and changes to people's circumstances. If you feel that you might be eligible to claim 'Pupil Premium' for your child, we will be able to support you with items such as school uniform, breakfast club and daily school meals etc... Please email our school office (admin@woodthorpe.southbank.academy) or call in person to discuss 01904 806464. **You will need to currently be in receipt of one of the following:**

- Universal Credit, (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- Child Tax Credit, provided you are also not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual household gross income that does not exceed £16,190 (as assessed by HMRC)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit

A run-on of Working Tax Credit – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

Digital Parenting

As a school, we are always keen to promote online safety and would like to share the following website – where you can access the latest copy of the Digital Parenting magazine and many other additional resources regarding internet safety:

<https://www.vodafone.co.uk/mobile/digital-parenting>

For further information and support, please do not hesitate to contact our school office.





**Family
Christmas
Workshop**

Saturday 16th
December
3.00 - 4.30pm
St. James the Deacon
Church, Woodthorpe,
YO24 2SE

**For unto us
a child is born!**

**Children's Nativity
Christmas Activities & Crafts
Festive Refreshments**



For further information, please contact Nicola at
nicolastjamesthedeacon@gmail.com or through our Facebook
page - St James the Deacon Children and Families
Website: www.jamesthedeacon.org.uk



Carols by Candlelight
with guest singers
"The Clerkes of All Saints"

MONDAY 18TH DECEMBER 2023
7:30 PM
FOLLOWED BY MINCE PIES AND
MULLED WINE

ST JAMES THE DEACON CHURCH,
ACOMB MOOR, YORK





ignite
SPORTS COACHING

MULTI-SPORT HOLIDAY CLUBS!

ACOMB PRIMARY SCHOOL
8.30AM - 4.30PM

AGES 5 - 12 (YR 1 - YR 7) WELCOME!

SCAN HERE TO BOOK



CHILDCARE VOUCHERS ACCEPTED!



LET THE FESTIVE FUN BEGIN!

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS MULTI SPORT CLUB

TUE 2ND JANUARY - FRI 5TH JANUARY

ACOMB PRIMARY SCHOOL

AGES
5-12
(YR 1 - YR 7)

BOOK
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CHILDCARE VOUCHERS ACCEPTED

10% OFF WHEN BOOKING ALL 4 DAYS

25% SIBLING DISCOUNT

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Dear Parent/Carers,

We are delighted to announce the launch of two new websites www.raiseyork.co.uk and www.yorksend.org. They have been created with children and young people, parents, carers and professionals to make it quicker and easier for local families to get the information they need about local services and community support.

The **Raise York** site is part of the city's new network of Family Hubs; a project funded by the Department for Education to bring together organisations supporting children and families in a 'one stop shop'. A network of people, places and online support from pregnancy through to adulthood (age 19 years, or 25 years for people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities), the aim is to make it easier to get advice, help and support on a wide range of topics including infant feeding, mental health support, health visits and parenting classes.

In partnership with Raise, York SEND Local Offer (yorksend.org) is also being relaunched onto its own site. The new website site provides a dedicated resource for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, their families and the professionals working with them.

The York SEND Local Offer sets out services and activities available to children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities; support is available from birth to 25 years old. Our website provides helpful information for families at every stage of their journey, whether this is to learn about what Special Educational Needs are, to find out about the support available with or without a diagnosis, or to understand what preparation for adulthood looks like for young people with disabilities, the website covers all.

Take a look at both websites:

www.yorksend.org

www.raiseyork.co.uk

If you have any questions, please email yorklocalofferSEND@york.gov.uk