

Woodthorpe Primary School

Executive Headteacher: James McGann
Head of School: Charlotte Grason-Taylor
Chair of Governors: Sheriden Hutchinson-Jones

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

Friday 19th January 2024

Welcome back to the Spring term at Woodthorpe – we hope that you and your family had a wonderful festive break. We have had a fantastic couple of weeks back at school, everybody has settled really well and each class is enjoying their new curriculum topics. We have also had the most magical time at Young Voices, singing as part of an arena choir – you can read more about this on the second page of this week's newsletter. We are hoping to make this an annual Woodthorpe tradition, so keep your eyes peeled later on in the year for details around our 2025 trip. Teachers are busy organising lots of exciting trips and enrichment activities for this term and we know that the children are going to absolutely love what we have in store.

We are also delighted to be able to introduce our 'Reading For Enjoyment' scheme, where each half term, your child will bring home a book of their choice, just for the fun of reading! It is from your help with Book Fairs and school events, that we have been able to provide these books and we are hoping to increase our stocks as the year progresses. More information around this scheme can be found later on in this newsletter.

Class attendance this fortnight!

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|-------------|----------|
| Cygnets | 97.17% | Goslings | 94.67% |
| Hummingbirds | 92.32% | Kingfishers | 96.85% |
| Finch | 97.50% | Robins | ★97.86%★ |
| Magpie | 93.52% | Woodpeckers | 96.54% |
| Owl | 95.67% | Osprey | 95.83% |
| Kite | 96.25% | Falcon | 91.67% |
| Hawk | 96.04% | Eagle | 91.09% |
| School average for this year so far | | 94.75% | |

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



Woodthorpe's Random Acts of Kindness

We are delighted to share with you our first nominated random acts of kindness!

Emily and Agatha in Year 3 have shown great kindness and selflessness by completing a 5k sponsored walk during the Christmas holidays to raise money for the NSPCC. Together they raised £200 and were extremely enthusiastic and energetic walkers!

At Woodthorpe we are beaming with pride! It is wonderful to see our children go above and beyond, truly embracing our Woodthorpe Character!

We would like the school community to continue 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'. This will then be passed on to Miss Britland.

We can't wait to see which random act of kindness will feature in our next newsletter!



Young Voices



Last week, our Young Voices choir had the trip of a lifetime! At midday, a group of year 4s, 5s and 6s travelled to Sheffield Arena for a very special concert. The children had been practising every week for over 3 months, learning the incredible medley of hits, along with dance moves and sign language! On the evening, we were treated to some incredible performances and then it was over to the Young Voices choir where we absolutely raised the roof and didn't stop dancing (especially some of the adults!). The children's behaviour was absolutely wonderful and it is a trip that we will always remember. Well done everybody – you were absolutely fantastic!

Woodthorpe's Reading for Enjoyment!

“Reading is the passport to countless adventures”

Mary Pope Osborne

We are thrilled to be launching our brand new 'Reading for Enjoyment' scheme! Currently, across the school, children bring home a book matched to their reading ability. After listening to both parent and child feedback around reading, we have decided to introduce a 'Reading for Enjoyment' book. We feel a 'Reading for Enjoyment' book is crucial for encouraging a love of reading and can make the activity more palatable for reluctant readers. Initially, your child will have the opportunity to select their special new book once per half term. This book will be easily identified with a gold sticker. Children can return their books once they have enjoyed reading them at home. Remember to keep recording any home reads in your child's reading record – this all contributes to our class reading chart. We are so excited for our children to embark on this new reading journey! Happy reading!



Nursery

To space and beyond!

In nursery we have thoroughly enjoyed learning all about space! We have been busy learning all about what is in our sky and beyond, the planet we live on, what is in the solar system and why humans travel to space. We have made rockets both inside and out, loved exploring non-fiction texts, made the planets using different materials and retold the story 'Whatever Next!' complete with a pair of wellies and a sieve for a helmet!



Creating the solar system

Whilst learning about space, Ducklings have loved exploring the key features of each planet and creating these out of chalk. In our pictures, we have drawn planets, stars and even shooting stars! Nursery have been super at drawing different sized circles to create the perfect planet shapes.



Shout outs - Ducklings

A huge shout out to our all Ducklings for a wonderful start to a new term! We are particularly proud of our new starters who have joined our nursery. You are already showing super listening skills, kind and caring behaviour as well as following lots of nursery routines. In addition to this, our nursery returners have been the most fantastic role models to their new friends showing them just how amazing our children are in Ducklings!

Ask us about...

This week we have been learning about space. Ask us about what is in the solar system, what planet we live on as well as who may go into space. You could even ask us to show you how to draw the planets or how to make an incredible rocket!

Reception

Looking After Animals

As part of our science learning, we have been learning all about animals and how to look after them. We started by thinking about pets that we might have at home and what these animals need and we have also looked at domestic farm animals and wild animals. We have enjoyed painting our pets, making our own moving animals, pretending to be animals outside and exploring different animal footprints too.



Deconstructed Role-play

Reception have loved their new deconstructed role-play area, where they have been using cardboard boxes and their imaginations to create all sorts of exciting things from rockets to pirate ships. We have been on so many adventures!



Number Booklets

Reception have been really interested in making books about numbers. They have been fantastic at writing numerals and also counting out the corresponding number of stickers to match.



Shout outs – Cygnets

Erin - For your super reading! You are becoming such a confident reader, using your phonics knowledge to blend words and you demonstrate an excellent understanding too. Well done Erin!

Luca - For working so hard on your handwriting, we have been blown away with the progress that you have made. Your writing is becoming so neat and you are using your phonic knowledge excellently to spell words - keep up the great work!

Shout outs - Goslings

Alice - For being a really creative member of our class. You made a brilliant puppet this week, working independently and being confident enough to ask for help when it was needed. Well done Alice!

Eve R - You are developing into a fantastic writer, making lovely books and writing messages for your friends and family. Keep up the good work Eve - I am really proud of you!

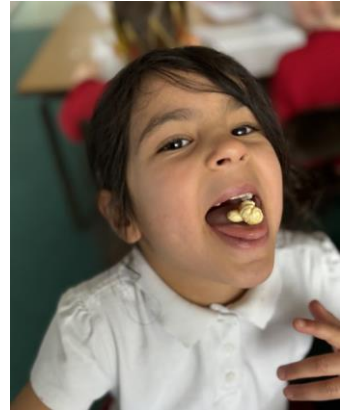
Ask us about...

This week, we have been learning about animals and how to take care of them. Ask us about how we need to take care of different pets.

Year 1

Science experiment

In Hummingbird and Kingfisher class, we have been learning all about our bodies and our 5 senses - touch, taste, sight, hearing and smell. To put our taste buds to the test we rated a range of foods that may taste sour, sweet, salty or bitter! We also answered the challenging question: Does the size of your hands affect the size of your feet? After carrying out our experiment to find a conclusion, we were able to answer this question with a confident...yes!



R.E

Year 1 learnt all about 'What is God's job?' We listened to Abraham's story and found out all about Abraham's and God's special relationship including the promise they made to one another. We then created our own class promise paper chain using the symbols from the religious story to decorate our promises.



Dance

In Year 1, we are really enjoying our dance sessions with Miss Cooper on Mondays! We have been practising our leaps, skips and gallops which are getting better and better each week. Also we are loving practising our class dance to the song 'Can't Stop the Feeling'. Each week, we add more moves and it is starting to look fantastic!



Shout outs - Kingfisher

Raeya - For your fantastic love for reading! You show such enthusiasm and dedication towards your reading. It is so lovely to see, keep up the super work!

Grace - For your super dancing during Miss Cooper's dance lessons! You have shown such perseverance with your newly learnt skills. Well done Grace, we are so proud of you!

Shout outs - Hummingbirds

Lena - For your fantastic dance moves in our Monday dance sessions. Miss Cooper was really proud of your leaps and you gave everyone a brilliant demonstration!

Aurora - A big shout out to Aurora this week for the amount of kindness you show to all of your classmates! You are always willing to help others in lesson time and you always make sure everybody is joining in!

Ask us about...

This week we have been learning about senses in science. We can tell you all about the 5 different senses and which body parts they link to. Please ask us about it!

Year 2

Science

Year 2 have loved testing different materials strength and stretchiness during our Science experiments. We were fascinated to see that elastic bands and balloons were the stretchiest material compared to other materials.



English

We started our new writing unit this week; writing postcards. We really enjoyed going on the Chromebooks to research Kenya and the South Pole before we began our writing.



Computing

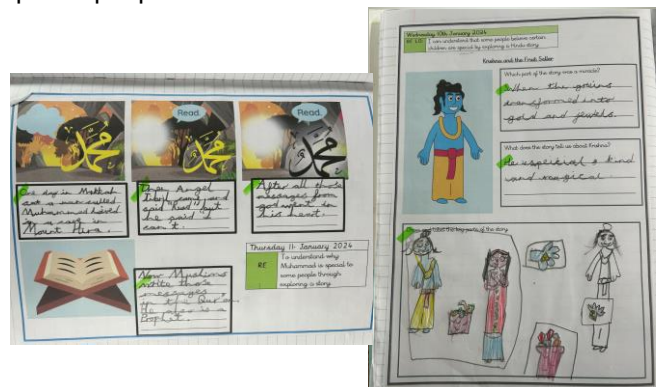
We have been practising our word processing skills in computing. In our first lesson, we were getting to know the keyboard and exploring the basics of touch-typing.

We tried really hard to keep our fingers in the correct places on the keyboard and not look at the keys! Great work Year 2. 🖱️



RE

Year 2 have been learning about different religious stories and how some people have a special connection to God. We loved learning all about Krishna, Jesus and Muhammed and finding out why they are seen as special people.



Shout outs - Robin

Isabela - for already getting to gold on our reading chart - amazing work Isabela! Also for always being such a delight in the classroom. Well done.

Isaac - for great investigation work in science. You worked really well with your group and recorded your results clearly to find the stretchiest material. Well done Isaac 😊

Shout outs - Finch

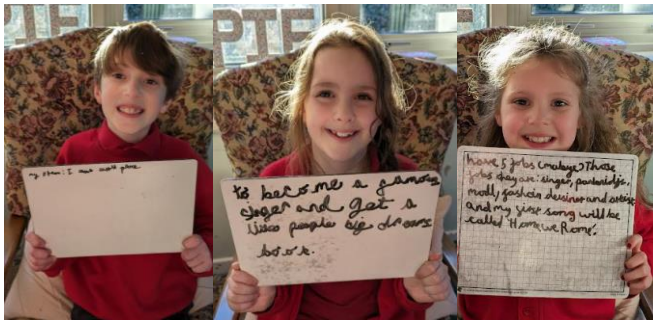
Lara- For your outstanding VIPER questions in guided reading. Lara you are taking guided reading in your stride and your confidence in reading is going from strength to strength.

Nancy- For your wonderful enthusiasm towards all aspects of school life. Nancy, you go above and beyond in all lessons and your reading this week was incredible. Well done.

Ask us about...

This week, we have been working so hard on our postcards about Kenya and the South Pole! We have been learning lots of key facts about the two different places.

Magpie - Dreams and Goals



As part of our new PSHE topic, 'Dreams and Goals', we had to identify a dream or ambition that is important to us and imagine how we would feel when we achieved it! It was a wonderful lesson learning about everyone's ambitions and discussing ways to support each other to reach our goals. We had a wide range of ambitions, from writing a book to becoming a famous singer to achieving world peace!

Woodpecker - Forest school!



Woodpeckers braved the rain last week for their first Forest School session for year 3! We learnt how to safely light a spark with a flint tool, and then used this to set alight a piece of cotton wool. Year 3 showed strong perseverance throughout the afternoon, as it was really difficult to make the fire. It took lots of attempts but we all succeeded in our groups. Woodpeckers are looking forward to developing more life skills in the forest!

Magpie - Tennis

This term, we have launched our brand new PE topic, tennis! We have been busy learning some new key vocabulary, including serve, forehand, and backhand shots. We explored using our 'tennis ready position', which involves having our knees bent, hands up in front of our chest and ready on our tiptoes. The position allows us to be alert in case we need to move left or right to receive and return the ball. Next week, we are looking forward to learning how to hit different targets.



Woodpecker - Investigating rocks



Year 3 have been studying rocks in Science the past couple of weeks! Initially, we examined different rock samples by looking at their appearance. Then we did some scientific testing on them to find out about their properties. Our determination in using these scientific techniques helped us to find out what rock we were looking at!

Shout outs - Magpie

Eviee - Thank you for your incredible work in guided reading. You are taking the time to answer challenging inference questions by using evidence from the text to support your answer. You present your work with beautiful handwriting. Keep it up; you are amazing!

Shout outs - Woodpecker

Oli - You are constantly showing such a wonderful attitude to your learning, and the first few weeks back have been no different! Well done for all your wonderful contributions and careful considerations when learning about different religions in our RE topic. You are a star!

Ask us about...

In science, we recently learnt about 'Rocks and Soil'. We have been exploring the appearance and physical properties of different types of rocks. For example, we learnt that chalk is a soft rock so that it can be used to write! We also have learnt about the formation of fossils and acted like palaeontologists to investigate what fossils can tell us about the history of our world. Ask us how a fossil is formed...

Year 4

Osprey - Science - States of Matter

In Osprey class, we have been enjoying our science topic, states of matter! In this lesson, we were exploring the properties of solids, liquids and gases. We investigated a range of materials to decide if they are solids, liquids or gases. We then came across Oobleck (Cornflour and water). We discovered that this is a non-Newtonian fluid, as it has properties of a liquid and a solid!



Owl - PE Tennis

Owls have been enjoying our new PE unit for this term - Tennis! We started out by practising our footwork, throwing and catching skills and returning to the centre skill. Owls showed great determination to lock down these fundamental tennis skills before being introduced to a ball, racket and net.



Owl - Science - States of Matter

Owls have also been enjoying our Science topic. We have conducted many investigations now into solids, liquids and gases in order to determine their properties. We've also investigated condensation and evaporation and tested how long it takes different temperatures of water to dry after blowing on it!



Osprey - RE - Why do people do charitable things?

In RE, we have been exploring the question 'Just how important are our beliefs?' In this lesson, we learnt about why some people choose to sacrifice things for their religion. We then worked in groups to create mind maps that collected ideas about why people choose to do charitable things.



Shout outs- Osprey

A massive well done to Ryan and Evangelina for reaching gold on the reading chart! It is amazing to see how much reading you have done over the Christmas break. Keep up the great work!

Shout outs- Owl

A huge shout out to Jessica, Raheel, Emma and Bobby on their fantastic times table scores this week. You have made some incredible improvement and I am so proud of you all! Keep practising!

Ask us about...

This week, in science, we have been learning about states of matter. We have explored the three states; solids, liquids and gases. We have also learnt about the water cycle. Ask us about it!

Year 5

Science

In Science, we have been learning about Earth and Space. We've really enjoyed learning about the geocentric and heliocentric models of the solar system and learning lots of exciting facts about the different planets. We have learnt lots about the moon, including the names of different phases of the moon and how this affects the tides in our seas. This week, we made sundials to see how we can use the sun to tell the time and we weighed up the advantages and disadvantages of these when compared with a digital watch. We used our learning from forest school about how to use a compass to help us calibrate our sundials using true north as a starting point.



PE- Swimming

This term, Falcons have started their swimming lessons.

They have shown incredible determination, sportsmanship, perseverance and ambition. It has been wonderful to see everybody give their absolute all into the lessons, no matter how confident or experienced they might be. Another highlight of the lesson has been watching Y5 support one another and make sure that everybody feels encouraged and celebrated throughout the lessons. We look forward to continuing to develop our swimming skills over the next half term.

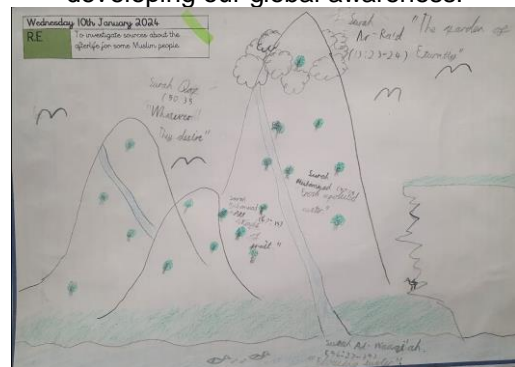


Shout outs- Kites

Mia – You have been working hard in maths this week, applying your knowledge of fractions to new problems. We have been so impressed with your resilience when tackling tricky maths questions - keep it up Mia!

RE

We explored a range of different worldviews in our RE topic this half term, including looking at Islam, Judaism and Christianity. We learnt about different religious views about the soul and what happens when we die. We reflected on our own views and the different practices that each religion follows for funerals and remembering our loved ones. We also explored Dia de Los Muertos, which is a celebratory event to remember those who have died. This has been really helpful for us in developing our global awareness!



Shout outs- Falcons

Alfie - You have been so engaged in your learning this week! You've made incredible contributions in Science discussions and really pushed yourself during some really challenging maths lessons. It is amazing to see your hand up consistently throughout the day and I am so appreciative of all your contributions. Thanks Alfie!

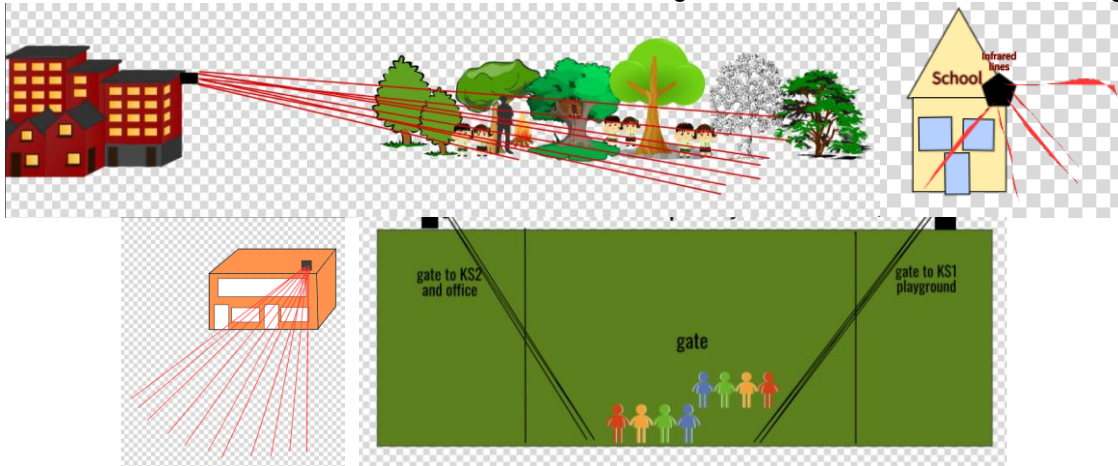
Ask us about...

This week, we have been applying our knowledge of rivers from Geography for our new English writing topic. Ask us about the different rivers we have researched and the range of flora and fauna we might find there...

Year 6

Computing- Big Data:

In Computing, Year 6 have been thinking about how data can be collected, stored and transmitted. We have begun to think about how infrared waves can be used for data transmission, as heat detectors and as invisible barriers. We were challenged to design our very own device for the school based on these ideas: we designed new heat detection fire alarms, intruder alerts and even animal sensing devices. Here are some of our designs:



PE- Gymnastics

In PE, Year 6 have started our new topic of gymnastics. We have been learning how to vault on and off tall apparatus, thinking carefully about the style of our routine and our transitions. We have been incredibly proud of the progress that we have made already!



Science- Evolution

Our Science topic this half term has been, 'Evolution and Inheritance'. By studying variations in different species and researching different scientists (A.R.Wallace and Charles Darwin), we have considered how species have adapted and evolved in order to survive.



Shout outs- Eagle

A massive shout out to Gabija! You have blown us away this week with your determination: you have put 100% effort into every piece of work that you have completed and you have continuously been challenging yourself too. Well done!

Shout outs- Hawk

Verity, you have worked exceptionally hard within independent tasks and during class discussions. You are becoming more confident with your understanding and how to apply this to tasks. During our Science pupil voice, you amazed me with your knowledge of our last topic, light. Well done!

Ask us about...

This week, we have been learning about evolution and inheritance. Did you know that an axolotl can actually regrow body parts and lay roughly 1,000 eggs to support its survival? Ask us about it!

Diary Dates

| | |
|--|--|
| Monday 22 nd January | Islamic Diversity Centre |
| Tuesday 23 rd January | Year 6 Eagle Trip to Murton Park |
| Wednesday 24 th January | Year 6 Hawk Trip to Murton Park |
| Tuesday 6 th February |  <p>Valentines Bake Sale</p> <p>Tuesday 6th February</p> <p>3.30pm outside the school gates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♥ Cakes ♥ Knitted love hearts ♥ Cards ♥ Children's crafts. <p>Any cake donations would be greatly appreciated - please can these be handed into school by Monday 5th February, thank you!</p> <p>We hope to see you there!</p> |
| Wed 7 th February | Year 1 Trip |
| Wed 28 th Feb – Fri 1 st March | Peat Rigg Residential |
| Mon 12 th Feb – 16 th Feb | Half Term Holiday |
| Mon 19 th Feb | Back to school after half term |
| Mon 25 th March – Fri 5 th April | End of Term Holiday |
| 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 [this useful website](#) – where you can access the latest copy of the Digital Parenting magazine and many other additional resources regarding internet safety.

For further information support and copies of our own Woodthorpe digital newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact our school office.



BRAND NEW FROM JANUARY...

Interactive Worship

JUNCTION 
where faith and family come together **KIDS** 

Food **Saturdays 3.00-5.00pm**
St. James the Deacon Church,
Woodthorpe, YO24 2SE

Games **Crafts** **Songs** **Fun** **Stories**

For more information follow
on Facebook: @stjamesthedeaconchildrenandfamilies
or email: nicola.stjamesthedeacon@gmail.com

St. James the Deacon

Community Cafe

Every
Thursday,
9am-12pm
Term Time

ST JAMES
THE DEACON
CHURCH



FREE!

Pop in for a
cuppa and a
chat!

Children's
toys

Food parcels
available

Home-made
cake

Drop ins with the
local area co-
ordinator &
community officer

Sherringham Drive, Woodthorpe, YO24 2SE

For more information, contact
nicola.stjamesthedeacon@gmail.com



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