



# Newsletter

**Friday 10th January 2025**

Hello,

I hope you all had time to enjoy the Christmas break and festivities. I want to take this moment to wish you all a Happy New Year and hope you are recharged from the term ahead. It has been lovely to see children return to school in good spirits and ready to dive back into school life.

Year group updates have been emailed home today. They include all the information you need about what your child is learning this half term and how best to support them at home. It also includes information about PE and homework expectations.

As it is the start of a new term, it is a good moment to remind families about the importance of good attendance and punctuality. There is a proven link between attendance and achievement - if your child is in school, they will succeed! We greatly appreciate your support in ensuring that their attendance is as good as it can possible be.

Have a lovely weekend - and be sure to wrap up warm!  
Mrs Winston

## Class attendance this fortnight

Cygnets	94.44%	Goslings	88.48%
Hummingbirds	97.62%	Kingfishers	98.89%
Finch	94.05%	Robins	97.53%
Magpie	99.43%	Woodpeckers	90.96%
Owl	92.31%	Osprey	93.12%
Kite	98.89%	Falcon	93.83%
Hawk	★ 100% ★	Eagle	95.40%
School Average for this fortnight		95.40%	

Thank you to all families who manage to get their child to school on time every day – it makes such a difference. As a reminder, if your child is absent from school, please call 01904 806464 followed by option 1 to leave a voicemail, report the absence on parent mail or email [admin@woodthorpe.elts.org.uk](mailto:admin@woodthorpe.elts.org.uk) before 9am.



### **100% attendance parent winners**

Last week's winner was the parent of a child in Year 6  
This week's winner was the parent of a child in Year 3  
Congratulations on winning a £10 Amazon voucher!



## **Early arrivals**

We have noticed some children arriving onto the Key Stage 2 playground earlier than 8.30.

Please remind your child that they are not to enter the school premises before 8.30, as they will be unsupervised and this presents a safeguarding issue.

## **Random act of kindness**

This week our random act of kindness goes to Robyn in Year 4 for being exceptionally kind!

Every Christmas, Robyn donates clothes and toys to charities. Robyn has always done this off her own back. She has been able to share with her peers and explain how other people would benefit from the things we don't need anymore.

Robyn it is lovely to hear all about your generosity over the Christmas period. You have thought of how to help others with such a selfless act of kindness. We are very proud of you. What another fantastic example of how to be kind and show some of our Woodthorpe Character traits! Well done Robyn!

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', 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.

# NURSERY

## Construction fun!

When Ducklings returned this half term, they were very excited to spot some new tools and toys added to our construction area for the Spring term. They have loved exploring and building together. From rockets for travelling to Space to very tall towers, we have made so much already!



## All about Space!

In nursery this week we have launched our learning all about Space. We have enjoyed talking about what we find beyond our sky and in particular which planet we live on! We have loved looking through lots of non-fiction books as well as draw our very own planet Earth! We can't wait to find out even more next week.



## Shout outs - Ducklings

A shout out to our new nursery starters. You have had a wonderful start to your nursery adventure and enjoyed lots of playing whilst making new friends. Also, a second shout out to our nursery returners. We have been really proud of you showing the newest members of our class all the things we do in Ducklings. Well done everyone!

## Ask us about...

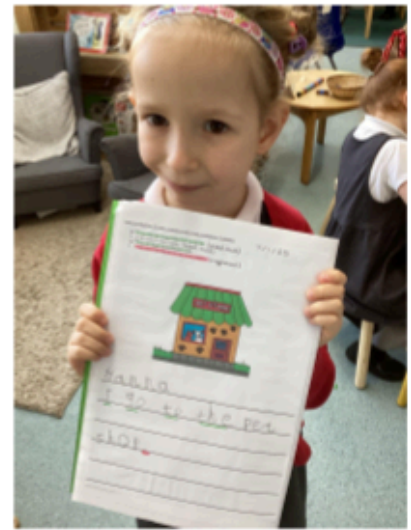
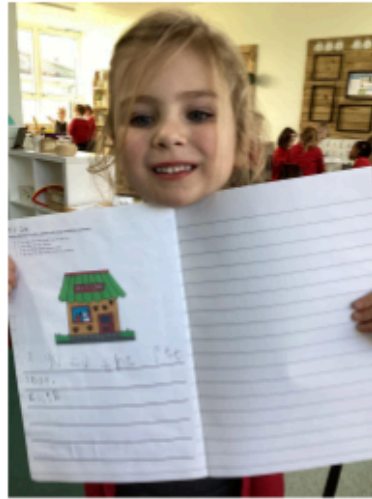
What we can see in the sky! We may even be able to start to tell you a little bit about our solar system too!



# RECEPTION

## Our Amazing Writing

Cygnets and Goslings have made amazing progress with their writing. They know how to segment words for spelling and have also been learning how to write tricky words. Their letter formation and handwriting is just getting better and better every week - we are really proud of them!



## Transient Art

The children in Reception have made some fabulous pictures of different animals using lots of different loose parts. They have really enjoyed using an ipad to photograph their work.



## Getting Creative

This week, Reception have been making different animals with moving parts! It's been great to see your different ideas and so many different animals.



## Shout outs - Gosling

**Finley** - For remembering to hold your pen with a tripod grip and for fantastic handwriting and spelling in phonics. Well done Finley!

**Amber** - For playing a turn-taking game with Miss Macdonald, rolling a ball to each other. You waited for your turn each time and had lots of fun. Well done Amber!

## Shout outs - Cygnets

**Effie**- For becoming a big sister over the Christmas holidays to baby Tilly. Effie you are going to make a fantastic big sister and I am sure Tilly is very lucky to have you.

**Stanley**- For helping Lev settle into the Cygnet class and showing our areas of provision. Well done Stanley!

## Ask us about...

This week, we have been learning about subitising to 5. Ask us if we can recognise the number of objects in a group without needing to count them!

# Year 1

## Art - Colour Splash!

Year 1 loved their most recent art unit where they learnt all about the primary colours and how to mix these to make secondary colours. They especially enjoyed painting paper plates in the style of Clarice Cliff using the colours that they have made.



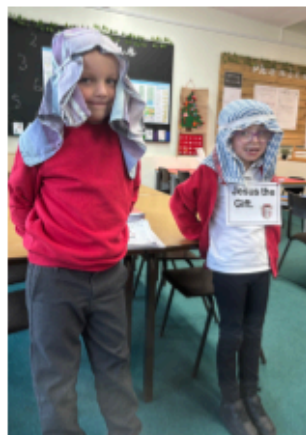
## Science - Sensitive bodies

Year 1 kickstarted the new year off with their brand new science topic 'sensitive bodies'. We looked at the different body parts that humans and animals have. We then used one of our super scientific skills 'grouping' to group different body parts into a venn diagram. Look at some of our fantastic work!



## The Nativity Story

Year 1 loved being part of an interactive re-telling of the Nativity. They learnt all about Christian beliefs about the first Christmas. Thank you to YoYo for this super workshop.



## Shout outs - Hummingbird

Ava - For always setting a fantastic example for your peers and demonstrating beautiful manners. You have such a kind and caring attitude towards your peers. Well done!

Albie - For your hard work in maths recently. You always try your very best and you have made so much progress. We are especially proud of how independent you are becoming with your maths tasks - keep up the super work!

## Shout outs - Kingfisher

Violet - For your recent hard work in Maths! You have blown me away with your hard work and dedication, whilst working independently!

Mario- For your super reading over the christmas holidays! You have made such progress recently and it is fantastic to hear how fluently you are reading now - what a star, well done!

## Ask us about...

In Science we have been learning all about different body parts! Why don't you ask us...

What body parts do animals have?

What body parts do humans have?



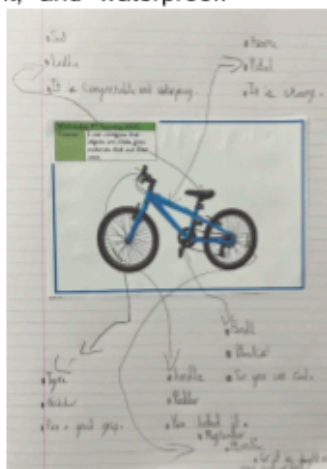
## Reading Superstars!



frame  
 seat  
 handle  
 pedal  
 wheel  
 The gear  
 is strong  
 It's strong  
 I'd shop it  
 like mine

I can imagine the  
 people who make this  
 material that not too  
 many

handle bar  
 rubber and metal  
 plastic type  
 They shake you  
 like a roller  
 coaster  
 strong as  
 steel  
 too good  
 going  
 and  
 going  
 all heavy  
 things  
 that



## RE



**Thomas and Esther** - Congratulations to both Esther and Thomas for completing the Christmas reading challenge during the half-term holidays! You are both already on the bronze level of our class reading chart, and you have helped our class earn points for the whole school reading competition. Great job, both of you!

**Maelyn** - We are so proud of how well you have settled into Year 2! You have joined in with class discussions and shared your ideas and views. We feel very lucky to have you join Finch class; you are a perfect addition!

We are learning to name materials that are used to make objects with different uses, recognise that stretching, twisting, bending, and squashing can cause some solid objects to change shape, and name properties that make materials suitable for their use. Ask us what material would be best to use to make windows and why...

# Year 3

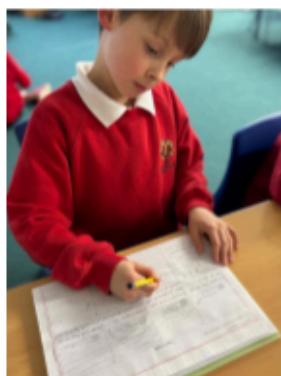
## Forest School

Year 3 loved their first visit to the forest this week! We began working towards our Ruby Robin award. We learnt about how birds fly in flocks in special formations and had a go at flying in our own formations. Then, we made some bird feeders to attract different birds to our forest.



## Science - Rocks and Soil

In Magpie class, we have been enjoying our science topic, materials: rocks and soil. In this lesson, we described the process of fossil formation using a storyboard.



## Marvellous Multiplication

Our first maths lesson of January and we worked super hard multiplying by 10. We know that all multiples of 10 end in a zero!



## Shout outs - Magpie

**Lara** - A massive well done for consistently challenging yourself in all of our lessons. You always add lots of detail to your work and you regularly complete our go for gold challenges - Keep up the great work.

**Oliver** - A huge well done for always putting in 100% effort in our guided reading lessons! You are always keen to join in with our reading, and you always challenge yourself - brilliant work!

## Shout outs - Woodpecker

**William** - for fantastic work in maths! You listened really carefully in the carpet and worked super hard with the questions in your booklet. Great multiplying William, well done :)

**Amelia W** - well done at forest school Amelia! You joined in brilliantly with all of the activities (even touching the slimy bird food!) We are super proud of you, well done!

## Ask us about...

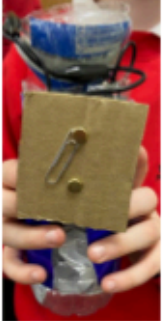
In Science, we have been learning about rocks and soil. Why don't you ask us about it!



# Year 4

## DT - Torches

In DT, We have been using our science knowledge about electricity to help us make an electrical torch. We researched what materials and structure would work best to make sure our torches met the design criteria.



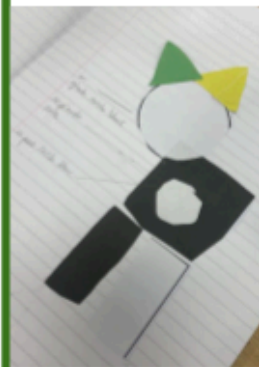
## A muddy walk through Acomb Wood

In Geography, we have been exploring the layers of a rainforest, their importance to the indigenous peoples and how we can protect them. On our field trip, we investigated what our local woodland was used for and, after interviewing local residents, we discussed how we could improve it.



## French - Animal collage

In French, we have been making animal collages inspired by Henri Matisse (an artist we have been learning about in Art) by using different shapes. We discussed the shapes and colours we were using in our work.



## Shout outs - Owl

Bella - I have been really impressed with your attitude since starting back after Christmas. You have shown a superb desire to improve your handwriting and it is wonderful to see how proud you are of your work. Keep up this new-found love of learning as you are doing amazingly well!

## Shout outs - Osprey

Teddy - A massive shoutout for your incredible attitude towards your learning. It has been amazing to see you showing pride with your presentation and handwriting in your book. I have also been blown away by your kindness towards peers in the class and supporting them with their learning,

## Ask us about...

In Science, we are learning about solids, liquids and gases.  
Did you know everything that takes up space and can be weighed is made of matter?  
Ask us for an example of each state of matter.



# Year 5

## Art: Monoprinting

In art, we have taken our observational drawings and turned them into our own unique monoprints using ink and acetate sheets. We all worked collaboratively to produce some very impressive results!



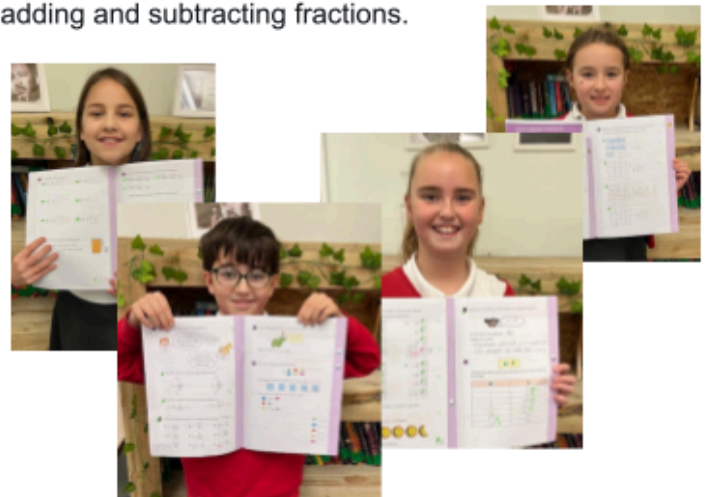
## Does more money mean a happier life?

To support our understanding around the value of money and whether it makes you happy, year 5 have been ranking different items in order of importance: your family, an iPad, the right to an education and many more. We concluded that the items which cost no money at all made us happiest!



## Maths

We are really proud of all the hard work and effort Year 5 have put into their fractions work last term. We were simplifying fractions, converting mixed numbers and improper fractions, finding common denominators and adding and subtracting fractions.



## Shout outs - Kites

Kyle- we loved seeing you flourish during Autumn term: you are hard-working, a supportive peer and have a determination to succeed. We can't wait to see you shine further as the year progresses. ★

## Shout outs - Falcons

Abi - For your outstanding commitment to reading at home! You have now surpassed 500,000 words, and have an exceptionally high reading age, which is a fantastic achievement. Keep it up! ★

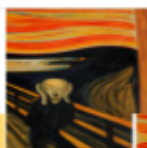
## Ask us about...

- Which planet in our Solar System is closest to the Sun?
- Which planet takes the most time to orbit the Sun?
- Which model of the Solar System is now accepted?

## Year 6

### Art: Photo Opportunity

Year 6 were tasked to use their photography skills to accurately and creatively recreate famous paintings... challenge accepted! We were so impressed with our editing skills and finished pieces!



### **News Just In: Newly- Discovered Animals:**

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.



### Art: Photorealistic Self Portraits

In art, our final challenge relating to photography was to create some photo realistic self portraits. Photorealism allows artists to use traditional painting and drawing techniques to create a piece of art that looks like a photograph. Using this technique, we were able to take a selfie of ourselves, before applying these strategies to a piece of artwork.



### Shout outs - Eagle

A huge shout out to Junior! 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!

### Shout outs - Hawk

A big shout out to Sheyona. You have made such a fantastic impression since joining us in Hawks this year. I have been so impressed with your determination, kind attitude to others and participation in the class community. Well done you, and thank you for all you hard work!

## 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

Mon 13th Jan	Year 3 Woodpecker - Trip to Howsham Mill
Tue 14th Jan	Year 3 Magpie - Trip to Howsham Mill
Tue 21st Jan	Year 6 Eagle - Trip to Murton Park
Wed 22nd Jan	Year 6 Hawk - Trip to Murton Park
Fri 14th Jan	Last day of term
Mon 24th Jan	Back at school
Tue 11th March	Whole class school photos

### 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) **£9.00/session £7.50/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 are 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.elk.org.uk](mailto:admin@woodthorpe.elk.org.uk) 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.

# Online Safety

## Top tips for managing screen time

We all understand and see the benefits of our children utilising online devices to connect with friends, learn new skills and explore the world. However, it is important to recognise the risks accompanied with higher screen times: spending too much time looking at screens can impact sleep cycles, development and even mental health. As a result of this, it is important to encourage our children to take regular breaks from using their devices and balance their screen time. Parent controls have also been developed so that screen time can be managed. Please have a look at some of the top tips below,

If you would like any support with this, please feel free to speak to Miss Bedda, either in person or by emailing the school office.

### Top Tips for... MANAGING SCREEN TIME

According to the latest stats, people aged between 8 and 17 spend four hours on digital devices during an average day. Obviously, a new year is ideal for fresh starts and renewed efforts – so lots of families are trying to cut down their combined screen time right now, creating more moments to connect with each other and relying less on gadgets to have fun. Our top tips on reducing screen time are for everyone, so you can get your whole family involved in turning over a new leaf this year!

**GET OUT AND ABOUT**  
If the weather's decent, spend some time in the garden or go for a walk. Even a stroll to the local shop would do: the main thing is getting some fresh air and a break from your screen.

**TRY A TIMED TRIAL**  
When you're taking a screen break to do a different activity or a chore, turn it into a game by setting yourself a timer. Can you complete your task before the alarm goes off?

**GO DIGITAL DETOX**  
Challenge yourself and your family to take time off from screens, finding other things to do. You could start off with half a day, then build up to a full day or even an entire weekend.

**LEAD BY EXAMPLE**  
Let your family see you successfully managing your own screen time. You'll be showing them the way, and it might stop some of those grumbles when you do want to go online.

**AGREE TECH-FREE ZONES**  
Nominate some spots at home where devices aren't allowed. Anywhere your family gathers together, like at the table or in the living room, could become a 'no phone zone'.

**BE MINDFUL OF TIME**  
Stay aware of how long you've been on your device for. Controlling how much time you spend in potentially stressful areas of the internet – like social media platforms – can also boost your wellbeing.

**'PARK' PHONES OVERNIGHT**  
Set up an overnight charging station for everyone's devices – preferably away from bedrooms. That means less temptation for late-night scrolling.

**SWITCH ON DND**  
Research shows that micro-distractions like message alerts and push notifications can chip away at our concentration levels. Put devices on 'do not disturb' until you're less busy.

**TAKE A FAMILY TECH BREAK**  
Set aside certain times when the whole family puts their gadgets away and enjoys an activity together: playing a board game, going for a walk or just having a chat.

**SOCIALISE WITHOUT SCREENS**  
When you're with friends, try not to automatically involve phones, TVs or other tech. Having company can be loads more fun if your attention isn't being split.



## Woodthorpe School Tour



# Woodthorpe Primary School

We are hosting our next school tour on **Wednesday 12th February 2025 at 1:30pm.**

If you, or you know of someone in our local community who is thinking of joining our school nursery we would love to show you/them around. During the tour we will focus on our Early Years Provision as well as look around our whole school seeing learning in action. This is a fantastic way to see our school and our wonderful children!

Should you wish to book a place on our school tour, please contact our main office via the email [admin@woodthorpe.elc.org.uk](mailto:admin@woodthorpe.elc.org.uk) or telephone 01904 806464.

Should you have any specific queries related to the Nursery you can also contact the Nursery directly via the email [ducklings@woodthorpe.elc.org.uk](mailto:ducklings@woodthorpe.elc.org.uk).

Please note, any current applications received for our Nursery children starting in the Summer Term 2025, we will write to families in due course to offer a stay and play session ahead of them starting.