

Newsletter

- Friday 12th September 2025

Welcome back to our new school year!

Firstly, I wanted to personally thank all of our families for the most wonderful start to our school year: our children have been happy, ready to learn and excited for the year ahead - it has been a real joy to see their enthusiasm. Meanwhile, our teachers have been busy preparing exciting opportunities for your children, as well as some surprises along the way!

Thank you so much to our families who managed to make it to our art & DT showcase last Friday, we were overwhelmed by the response and so thrilled that we were able to share the children's creative endeavours.

Attendance still remains our priority within school and we work hard each day to try and help our children and families step through the school gates. Attendance statistics are on the rise nationally, however are frequently still below pre-covid levels. With families and schools working together, children are far more likely to attend and, in turn, increase their life chances as they grow. We are very keen to work with families, therefore if you have any questions about our attendance practices, or would like to discuss anything in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact a member of our attendance team.

It has been so lovely to see children return to school in the correct uniform, ready for the day ahead. As a reminder, we ask that hair is tied back and jewellery is limited to stud earrings in order to ensure that our children stay as safe as possible. Thank you for your help with this.

Finally, after school club needs your help! Our popular after school club aims to cater for as many different children and age ranges as possible. Due to a new influx of children this year, we are looking to see if anybody within our school community could help us with donations of the following: a large toy pram, toy castle, toy car garage, toy work bench & tools. If you have any toys that meet this description, please feel free to drop them into the school office, we really appreciate your help & support with this, thank you!

Class attendance this year so far!

Cygnets	98.71%	Goslings	★ 99.24% ★
Hummingbirds	96.3%	Kingfishers	★ 96.4% ★
Finch	97.38%	Robins	98.17%
Magpie	98.56%	Woodpeckers	94.35%
Owl	95.11%	Osprey	92.20%
Kite	94.36%	Falcon	97.97%
Hawk	95.6%	Eagle	97.02%
School average for this year		96.44%	

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 leave a voice mail, report the absence on parent mail or email admin@woodthorpe.elc.org.uk, thank you.

Random Acts of Kindness

This week we would like to share a random act of kindness that happened just before we broke up for our summer holidays. We are very excited to share this in our first random acts of kindness post this academic year!

James, Aden, Mason, Abi (now in Year 6) and Teddy (now in Year 5), worked hard over a couple of Saturdays selling their preloved books and toys in a street sale at Woodthorpe shops. This was all in aid of Cancer Research UK. Together they raised an amazing £90.25! Below are just a few photos to show their wonderful kindness! Well done to all those involved, you are fantastic role models to our school and shining examples of our Woodthorpe Character!



We are looking forward to what random acts of kindness we will see this year! We have truly been blown away with everything to date. Thank you to all those who have previously shared random acts of kindness with us and taking the time to let school know!

Has your child recently done a random act of kindness? If so we would love to hear all about it! 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

Welcome to Ducklings Autumn 2025

What a fabulous start to Ducklings this year! We have loved welcoming new children to our class as well as seeing some of our returners join us again in Ducklings. Together we have explored our classroom both inside and out, made friends, enjoyed lots of stories and singing as well as plenty of play! Here is just a snapshot of some of the things we have been up to so far...



Nursery shout out!

A huge shout out to our new nursery starters! We have been so impressed with how well you have settled and taken everything in your stride as you start your nursery journey.

Our second massive shout out is to our nursery returners. You have been amazing at welcoming our new Ducklings, been fantastic role models and been wonderful caring friends.

Well done everyone!

Ask us about...

This week we have been learning about our family and friends. We can talk about who is in our family, their names and what they look like. Please ask us about it!



Reception

Our First Week in Reception!

What an incredible start to the school year! Our Reception classes have begun their exciting journey of discovery, friendship, and learning. From fun activities to making new friends, it's been a week filled with smiles and laughter!



Cygnets shout out!

Goslings shout out!

Ivy- For starting school confidently and making lots of friends in your first week at Woodthorpe. You have taken your first week in your stride and I am really proud of you. Well done superstar!

Lucas- For looking after your friends in their first week of school. Lucas you made sure everyone was really happy and included them whilst you put together your jigsaw. Well done Lucas!

Roman - For your fantastic behaviour during your first week at school. You were brilliant at listening and following the rules. Well done!

Bryan - For your fabulous singing! You were so enthusiastic and you knew all of the words to the songs that we've been singing. What a superstar!

Ask us about...

This week we have been learning about making marks with different drawing materials. Please ask us about our self-portraits.



Year 1

Kingfisher - Incredible Handwriting



In Year 1, we start our 'pre-cursive' handwriting journey. This week, we have spent time learning how to write letters 'i', 't', and 'l'. We must concentrate on using a leading line with each letter and ensuring that they are the correct height and sit on the line. It is tricky work!

Hummingbird - Marvellous Marks!



Year 1 started the year with their first art unit, 'Make your Mark', by exploring the artist Bridget Riley. We learnt how to create a variety of lines. Then, we practised them using different media, including string, pencils, coloured pencils, chalk and oil pastels. What super work!

Kingfisher shout out!

Hummingbird shout out!

Finley - I have been so impressed with all the incredible facts you have shared this week! I was especially proud when you used the words 'herbivore', 'omnivore', and 'carnivore' when describing different animals' diets! Keep it up!

Jemima - You have blown me away with how hard you have worked in art and your fantastic learning about different types of lines. You have been so engaged in our lessons and have really tried your best - what a role model, well done!

Ask us about...

This week, we have been learning about seasonal changes. Please ask us to describe the typical weather in each season and to name some activities and events associated with them.

Year 2

Finch - Attack, defend, shoot

In Year 2, we have loved our first PE lesson; attack, defend, shoot! In this lesson, we practiced our dribbling skills, making sure we had control of the ball and could stop on command. Then, we worked in pairs to practice passing.



Robin - Wonderful drawing!



Year 2 have settled back into school remarkably well! During our first week, we showcased our wonderful drawing work to our adults. We used charcoal to create various mark-making techniques, and we applied these newly learned skills to create an observational drawing of our class teddy bears!

Finch shout out!

Robin shout out!

Ezmae - A huge well done for your amazing effort and determination in our first weeks back to school! You always try your best and you are always ready to learn. Well done and keep up the great work!

Gabriel - A huge shoutout to Gabriel this week! He has demonstrated that he is a fantastic role model for Year 2 and is the first Robin to reach silver on our behaviour tracker. Well done Gabriel!

Ask us about...



This week we have been learning about life processes and the characteristics of living things in science. Please ask us about it!

Year 3

We started Year 3 by looking at how prehistoric people in the Stone Age created art. We loved going outside to scavenge for a range of natural materials to create different pigments in our art books. We also showed great resilience when painting on our cave walls and this made us realise how tricky it must have been for the prehistoric people to paint in caves!



We loved our Prehistoric art unit last week. We produced some fantastic drawings, made paints using natural materials and created our own cave art work.



Magpie shout out!

Bobby - You have worked incredibly hard in our art lessons this week! You have shown great enthusiasm when answering questions and you have taken real care with your artwork showing great resilience. Your fox cave painting was particularly incredible. Well done!

Woodpecker shout out!

Kyson - For working really hard all week. You have written some fantastic sentences in English and done brilliant work in maths - great work Kyson.

Hope - For being such a fantastic role model to the rest of Woodpecker Class! You have worked hard in every lesson, always listen carefully, have great ideas and are also super helpful - thank you!

Ask us about...

This week we have been learning about skeletons. We found out about why we have a skeleton and about some different joints and bones on our body. Please ask us about it!

Year 4

Art: Drawing & Power Prints



At the end of the project, Year 4 worked collaboratively to create beautiful 'power prints' which reflected tone, collage and markmaking techniques!



Forest School - Print making:

Year 4 had an exciting time at Forest School, exploring nature and enjoying the outdoors. They also experimented with printmaking, using leaves and paint to create beautiful, textured artwork.



Owl shout out!

Osprey shout out!



Milo - Milo has had a fantastic start to the term. His behaviour and attitude in class has been exemplary. He wrote a beautiful letter in English that showed some real flair and was a pleasure to read. Well done!

Mila - I've been so impressed with Mila's enthusiasm and resilience in both Art and Forest School, always approaching each activity with energy, creativity, and a positive attitude. ★What a superstar! ★

Ask us about...

This week, we have been learning about the digestive system. We did an experiment using different materials to learn how each part works and what their role is - please ask us about it!

Year 5

Falcons: Superb scientists! We have begun our topic on mixtures and separations with a series of exciting experiments, exploring the methods used for sieving and filtering. We then learnt how to produce scientific diagrams to illustrate the experiment that we conducted.



Kites: NYT journalists- What a way to emerge ourselves in our new writing topic than pretending to be journalists for The New York Times. Our job was to interview eye witnesses of Phillipe Petit; a brave, courageous (and slightly crazy!) man who tightrope walked between the Twin Towers.



Falcon shout out!

Kite shout out!

Beth - for your outstanding learning attitude in all subjects! You have been a wonderful role model to your peers and your reading accomplishments are already phenomenal! Well done, Beth.

Harley- for your enthusiasm for science! Thank you for always contributing your insightful and thought provoking ideas to class discussions, you have helped us deepen our knowledge around mixtures and separation.

Ask us about...

This week, we have been learning about mixtures and how to separate different substances within a mixture. Please ask us about it!



Year 6



To kick start Year 6, we were tasked with designing and creating a prototype of a waistcoat. We had to consider our choice of material, fastenings and decorations while ensuring that it met our design criteria. We were incredibly proud of our sewing skills: we became masters at threading needles and using running stitches.



Year 6 had a fantastic time delving into the characters of Dad and April from 'The Last Bear' during a role-play session. This immersive activity not only brought the story to life but also enabled us to explore the characters' emotions, which we beautifully articulated in our log book entries!



Hawk shout out!

A big shout out to Daisy, I was so impressed by your resilience in DT this week! You really pushed yourself to develop your sewing skills and independence, becoming confident and being able to add your own flair to your waistcoat, as well as helping others. Well done!

Eagle shout out!

A huge shout out to Layla! You have truly shone this week by crafting a stunning waistcoat, showcasing your beautiful stitching skills and impressive independence! ☐ You have also been a wonderful team player, generously supporting your classmates too!

Ask us about...

This week we have been learning about many different designers like Vivienne Westwood, Thomas Burberry and Stella McCartney. Please ask us about them!

School Information

Coming soon...

Thurs 18th Sep	Reception Parents Meeting 2.30pm
Wed 24th Sep	Year 5 Kites trip to Yorkshire Museum
Thurs 25th Sep	Year 5 Falcon trip to Yorkshire Museum
Wed 22nd Oct	Last day of term
Thurs 23rd Oct - Fri 31st Oct	October Half Term
Mon 3rd Nov	Back at 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) £4.70/session £3.70/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) £10.00/session £8.40/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 email the school office.

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.

Your child may be entitled to additional funding!

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.elt.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

Excel Learning Trust



Exciting Opportunity: Become a Committee Member for Inspire Alternative Provision

Are you passionate about supporting vulnerable young people and making a difference in their education? Excel Learning Trust's alternative provision Inspire is looking for dedicated and committed individuals to join its first-ever academy committee (a sub-committee of the trust board).

About Us

Inspire provides tailored education to vulnerable students, offering them the opportunity to thrive in an environment that understands their unique needs. We are proud to have recently been registered with Ofsted, and we are now seeking forward-thinking individuals to shape the future of our provision and ensure the highest standards of education for our students.

Why Join Us?

- Be part of something new and exciting – as a founding member of our academy committee, you will have the opportunity to support the direction and development of Inspire from the ground up
- Make a lasting impact – by supporting vulnerable students in overcoming barriers to education and helping them unlock their full potential
- Work collaboratively with a dedicated leadership team and passionate educators to provide the best possible educational experience
- Play a key role in the governance of a newly established, Ofsted-registered provision

What We Are Looking For

We are seeking individuals who are passionate about education and the wellbeing of young people. As a committee member, you will be expected to attend regular meetings, contribute to strategic decision-making, and help ensure that the provision continues to meet the highest standards.

This is your chance to make a meaningful contribution to the lives of vulnerable students and help shape the future of Inspire.

If you are ready to make a difference, we want to hear from you!

For further details on how to apply, please contact Sophie Triffitt, Governance Advisor on s.triffitt@elt.org.uk

For more information about the provision and to arrange a visit, please contact Rickie Wilson, Head of Centre, on r.wilson@inspire.elt.org.uk

- Closing date for applications: 12 October 2025
- Interview date: to be confirmed



Community board

ST JAMES THE DEACON CHURCH
sjt

STARTING Rite

A 5 week Baby Centred Course

TUESDAYS
10.45AM - 12.45PM

In each session, we share a book, sing songs, chat and get a handout to keep!

- Week 1 - Peekaboo!
- Week 2 - Guess how much I love you
- Week 3 - Splash!
- Week 4 - Bubble talk
- Week 5 - Storytime

Why this group?
You may be asking what church can offer you and your family.
You may be wondering about what values you would like your child to grow up with.
Starting Rite helps you to think through and answer these, as well as giving lots of time for your own questions, while having lots of play and bonding with your baby!

Running from
23.09.25 - 21.10.25

For more information or to book, contact:
nicola@stjamesthedeacon@gmail.com



ST JAMES THE DEACON CHURCH
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St. James the Deacon Community Cafe

Parent Hub

Drop off, drop in!

Thursdays term time
at 8.50am

Free hot and cold drinks and cake!

