



**Woodthorpe
Primary School**

Executive Principal: Mr James McGann

Head of School: Mrs Charlotte Grason-Taylor

Associate Head of School: Mrs Helen Elsworth

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Newsletter

- Friday 10th October 2025

What a lovely week we have had within school, it has been a delight to visit each class and see the children engaged within their learning. From pulse and beats in Y1 music, to mastering long division in Y6, it really has been a pleasure to see such a thirst for knowledge.

Next week will be our first parents' evenings of the year. This will be an opportunity to share in your child's progress, see their wonderful work and to also meet your child's class teacher. We will also be providing teas and coffees to parents in the KS2 hall, where Mrs Grason-Taylor will be available on Wednesday night and Mrs Elsworth on Thursday. Please feel free to drop in for a chat, or to introduce yourself if we haven't yet had the chance to meet.

Representatives from our school dinner provider, Aspens, will be available during parents evenings next week. They will be offering taster samples from the current menus and will have information about menus, theme days and dietary or allergy requirements. There will also be a pre-ordering demo to help families access Swift Kitchen online. Aspens acknowledge that their start within school (from September 2025) has not been to their usual standards and are keen to showcase their school dinner offer. Thank you for your understanding and perseverance whilst we are working with Aspens to make their systems more user friendly and appropriate for our school community. We are feeding back your comments which we are assured are being acted upon.

Class attendance this fortnight

Cygnets	96.19%	Goslings	★98.57%★
Hummingbirds	94.18%	Kingfishers	95.73%
Finch	94.26%	Robins	97.71%
Magpie	96.39%	Woodpeckers	96.55%
Owl	94.61%	Osprey	94.94%
Kite	96.34%	Falcon	98.17%
Hawk	98.30%	Eagle	95.87%
School average for this year		96.26%	

Thank you to all those parents who manage to get their child to school on time each day, it really does make a difference. Missed days really add up - if you have any queries about attendance, or would like any support with getting your child into school, please speak to a member of our attendance team who would be glad to help.

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.



Thank you for your support for World Mental Health Day 2025. Our school shone in all things yellow! During the day, we continued to raise the importance of mental health and the positive things we can do to support this. Please find below a selection of websites that you can use at home to continue to support your child's mental health. Please select and use the information as you feel appropriate for your child and their age.

- **Childline Toolbox** - A list of ideas, games and activities to support feelings - [Toolbox | Childline](#)
- **YoungMinds parent/carer section** - [Parents Mental Health Support | Advice for Your Child | YoungMinds](#)
- **NHS - Children's mental health - Every Mind Matters** - [Children's mental health - Every Mind Matters - NHS](#)
- **Raise York - Emotional wellbeing** - [Children and young people aged 5 to 19 – Raise York](#)
- **NSPCC - Children's mental health** - [Signs That a Child Is Suffering From Mental Health Issues | NSPCC](#)
- **Mental Health UK** - [Advice for parents and guardians - Mental Health UK](#)

Random Acts of Kindness

Has your child recently done a random act of kindness? If so we would love to hear all about it! This could be something in our community including raising money for charity, being kind to neighbours or keeping our local area tidy!

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.

We can't wait to hear how else our amazing children have been this half term!

Halloween Competition

We are delighted to share an exciting Halloween competition organised by Co-op Funeral Care, which allows our children to engage creatively with the festive spirit. Participation is entirely optional and sheets will be sent home with your child next week. Please ensure submissions are handed into the office by Friday, 17th October, with your child's name and class written on the back. We appreciate the opportunity to collaborate with local businesses, fostering community ties. Prizes will be awarded to the winners the following week. Thank you for your continued support.





Sharing the harvest!

Straight after school on **Tuesday 14th October**, our school Eco team will be sharing locally grown apple crumble and custard!



This will be a 'pay as you feel event' and we hope that you will love sharing our autumn abundance. All proceeds go towards school funds.

You will find our stall near the main school entrance.



Nursery

Ducklings have loved learning all about their senses. We have learnt about how we can use our senses each day - sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch! Together we have used these in the nursery to smell herbs, taste lemons, hear musical instruments and much more. We even learnt a very catchy song all about senses too!



Nursery shout out!

A huge shout out to **Maisie!** We have been blown away by your behaviour, kindness and fantastic carpet times. You have been a super role model to so many Ducklings and been a shining star on our chart on many occasions. Well done Maisie!

Ask us about...

We have been learning all about our senses. Ask us to name one and what we can use it for!



Reception



Our Woodwork Adventure

This week, our reception children stepped into the woodwork area for the very first time! They donned their safety goggles and got hands-on, practising their hammering skills by tapping golf tees into melons.



Cygnets shout out!

Florence- For always being a positive role model to other children in our class. You always go above and beyond in every lesson and your phonics is going from strength to strength.

Isabella-Eve- For your super progress in phonics over the past two weeks. It has been a pleasure seeing your confidence grow. Well done!

Goslings shout out!

Freddie M - For always being a polite and helpful member of the class. You are a lovely friend to the other children in reception. What a superstar!

Joseph - For making great progress with reading and writing. Your confidence has really grown over the last few weeks and we are all really proud of you. Well done Joseph!

Ask us about...

This week we have been learning all about how to be fit and healthy. We have looked at why brushing our teeth helps them stay healthy along with looking at what food is good for our bodies and which food we should eat every so often.



Year 1

Kingfisher - Part-whole models

To start our new 'addition and subtraction' topic in maths, we first looked at part-whole models. The part-whole model is a way of representing the relationship between a 'whole' and its component parts. We started by looking at ways to make different parts of the whole. We then drew our own part-whole models with items and objects we like! We had lots of dinosaur and food-related drawings!



Hummingbird - Keeping the Pulse

We have learnt that the pulse is like the heartbeat of the music. We have enjoyed listening to different pieces of music and finding the pulse. Then, we learnt some simple songs to practise moving to the pulse and clapping simple rhythms.



Kingfisher shout out!

Anderson - For your impressive knowledge during our introduction lesson on part-whole models. You demonstrated confidence when sorting objects into similar groups and could explain the different parts that make up a whole! Well done!

Hummingbird shout out!

Evie - For working so hard in maths. You are trying your best, focusing on your number formation and independently using resources to help you work out answers. As a result, you are making super progress. Keep up the fantastic work!

Ask us about...

This week, we have been learning about keeping the pulse in music. Ask us to clap the rhythm of our name in time to the pulse!

Year 2

Church Trip - Harvest Festival

In Year 2, we visited St James the Deacon Church to learn all about Harvest Festival! We watched videos about food, learnt the key parts of the Harvest Festival, and made our own wreaths showing what we are grateful for.



Fee Fi Fo Fum - English Writing

This week in English, we began our new creative writing unit based on the story "Jim and the Beanstalk" by Raymond Briggs. We focused on creating rhyming words and incorporating powerful adjectives into our writing. Additionally, we practiced using exclamation marks and conjunctions to enhance our work!



Finch shout out!

Marley - A huge well done, Marley, for challenging yourself in all of our learning this week. You have been working independently, and you have shown brilliant determination. Keep up the fantastic work!

Robin shout out!

I want to give a big shout-out to **Ava and Oliver** this week for their incredible behaviour, which continually inspires the rest of Robin class. I am so proud of how you both have taken the initiative to pick up litter around our school playground during break times to keep our school tidy and presentable-well done!

Ask us about...

This week, we have been learning about call and response with a theme of animals in music. Please ask us about it



Year 3

A Stone Age Experience

What a fantastic time we had last week on our Stone Age Day. We spent the whole day in the forest living like Stone Age people - hunting, making tools, cooking over a fire, making clay pots, building our own houses, weaving and more.



Magpie shout out!

This week's shout out goes to **Ella**! You have worked so incredibly hard in maths this week. I have been super impressed with your attitude towards joining in during lessons and working hard in your maths book. Keep up the great work!

Woodpecker shout out!

A massive shout out this week to **Reuben** and **Eleanor**. Despite the rainy start to Stone Age Day, you both got stuck into all of the activities and really impressed all of the adults with your fantastic attitude, behaviour and hard work. Well done ☐

Ask us about...

This week we have been learning about ballads in our music lessons. Please ask us about them!

Year 4

Osprey - Forest Fun

This week, we had a double birthday celebration in the forest! We played lots of games, toasted marshmallows, wore party hats and most importantly had loads of fun!



Owls - Football Skills

This half term, Owls have been practising our football skills. We have learnt how to dribble the ball, where to stand to defend and how to move onto the ball. Great skills Owls!



Owl shout out!

Oliver - You have made a fantastic start to Year 4 and always surprise me with your *incredible* vocabulary in English lessons as well as your impressive explanations in maths. Keep up the great work!

Osprey shout out!

Nancy - A huge well done to Nancy for your resilience and independence during English. You have challenged yourself to ensure you meet all the success criteria. You should be really proud of your progress!

Ask us about...

This week, we have been learning about body percussion in music! Please ask us how we created the sounds of the rainforest using just our bodies and created texture and dynamics!



Year 5

Walk like an Egyptian

This week, we have enjoyed exploring different aspects of music. We have composed our own pieces, recording our work using graphic score and have had fun performing these to the class. We have also learnt how to perform a piece of music entitled 'The Gift of the Nile', both using our voices and the glockenspiels!



Vicious Vikings or Friendly Farmers?

We have absolutely loved our Vikings topic where we used a range of sources to decide whether Vikings really lived up to their blood-thirsty brute stereotype. We found that Vikings were actually skilled craftsmen, talented engineers and keen traders.



Falcon shout out!

Emily H - your writing this week has been incredible! Your effective use of expanded noun phrases in your letter enabled you to create a really powerful piece of work - well done! ★

Kite shout out!

Dexter - you have impressed us with your independence recently; the work you completed about Anglo-Saxons responding to the Viking invasions was wonderful - keep it up! ★

Ask us about...

This week we have been learning about composition and staff notation... please ask us about it!

Year 6

Music- Fingal's Cave

Felix Mendelssohn, watch out! After appraising the work of this classical composer, we used a variety of instruments to replicate the sound of waves. Next, we fulfilled the role of composers and conductors by using superb teamwork to create a group composition which features changes in textures, dynamics and pitch.



Words Hurt Workshop

Last week, we took part in an inspiring workshop led by the University of York focused on respect and the 'Words Hurt' campaign. Together, we signed a class pledge to use kind and supportive language and prevent any negativity within the wider community.



Hawk shout out!

Big shout out to **Ellis** for working hard on your spellings and getting 10/10 on your spelling test this week! Keep up the hard work!

Eagle shout out!

A huge shout out to **Kyle** this week! You have been working incredibly hard on your arithmetic scores: in the last week, you have increased your mark by 10, which is a fantastic achievement.

Ask us about...

This week we have been learning about classical music relating to oceans and Fingal's Cave on the Isle of Staffa! We have researched the composer Felix Mendelssohn and created our own music to depict waves by focusing on pitch, dynamics and texture. Please ask us about it!



School Information

Coming soon...

Wed 15th Oct	Parents Evening
Thurs 16th Oct	Parents Evening
Wed 22nd Oct	Last day of term
Thurs 23rd Oct - Fri 31st Oct	October Half Term
Mon 3rd Nov	Back at school
Wed 5th Nov	Flu Vaccination
Thurs 6th Nov	School Photos - Sibling/single

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.

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

