



Newsletter

Friday 14th November 2025

Welcome to our November newsletter, the children have made a really positive start after their half term break and are busy with lots of different projects and exciting events. Our Christmas team are busy finalising our plans for December and we will be sharing our 'Advent Calendar' with you soon so that you can keep up to speed with all things festive!

Our Remembrance Day was very moving within school, each class observed the 2 minutes silence at 11am and the school was awash with poppies created by children from each year group. In classrooms, children discussed the importance of Remembrance and we know that our fallen will never be forgotten.

We will be holding a '**non-uniform**' day on **Friday 21st November**. We don't require any money to take part in the day, however we would really appreciate any donations of items for our Christmas fair (4th December), including: sweets, chocolate, boxed gifts, toiletries etc. Thank you so much for your help and support with this.

Please don't forget about our 'Tales and treats' evening on Monday 24th November, this will be such a lovely opportunity to share a book and a snack as a family. The session will run from 3:30-4:45pm, so please feel free to pop in during this time.

As you will have noticed, the days are really starting to get cooler and we ask that children come to school with the right cold weather gear: coats, hats, gloves & scarves are highly recommended. If you are in need of any help or support ensuring that your child has the correct clothing for the cooler weather, please speak to a member of our admin team, we are always keen to help our families, especially at this time of year.

Class attendance this fortnight!

Cygnets	95.64%	Goslings	★ 99.61% ★
Hummingbirds	94.96%	Kingfishers	96.69%
Finch	91.49%	Robins	96.56%
Magpie	97.10%	Woodpeckers	94.82%
Owl	97.82%	Osprey	92.22%
Kite	94.83%	Falcon	94.96%
Hawk	96.99%	Eagle	95.80%
School average for this year		95.66%	

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.

Random Acts of Kindness

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. As a reminder - here is our Woodthorpe Character. A random act of kindness may display one or more of the key words, traits and attributes that, at Woodthorpe we want our children to strive for and build during their school journey.



Road Safety Week 2025

Next week, as part of Road Safety Week 2025 (from 16 to 22 November) we will be taking the opportunity to remind our children all about being safe around roads. To support you at home, please see a list of some useful websites and information that you may wish to explore. Please use as appropriate for the age of your child. The theme this year from 'Brake, the road safety charity' is -



Further information can be found on their website directly [Road Safety Week | Brake](#) and [Advice for parents and families | Brake](#)

'Brake' has also shared some of this key information for families too below.

Please help to keep me safe when we are walking near roads.

1. Always hold my hand.
2. Always walk on the pavement or footpath.
3. Always find a safe place to cross the road.
4. Teach me how to use the Green Cross Code.



[Safer journeys anthem](#)



WOODTHORPE WELCOMES YOU TO...

Tales and Treats

LET YOUR IMAGINATION TAKE FLIGHT – COME
AND ENJOY THE MAGIC OF BOOKS!

BRING YOUR FAVOURITE BOOK (OR CHOOSE ONE WHEN YOU ARRIVE), FIND A COMFY
SPOT ON OUR MATS, BEANBAGS OR TABLES AND ENJOY READING TOGETHER AS A
FAMILY.

EMBRACE IN MANY STORIES, SNUGGLES, AND SWEET TREATS!

Monday 24th November, 3:30–4:45pm

Key Stage 1 and 2 hall!



Nursery

Exploring Materials

Nursery has really enjoyed learning about materials. They have learnt what a material is and explored a variety of objects to discover together what they are made from/ of. We have enjoyed exploring lots of nonfiction books all about materials and also had fun investigating which materials let light pass through and those which don't.



A trip to the forest

Nursery enjoyed a trip to the forest to see all the changes since their last visit. Together, they noticed that so many trees were bare and the leaves were scattered all over the forest floor! Nursery loved using the leaves to make leaf decorations by carefully threading leaves on string. They looked super!



Nursery shout out!

A huge shout out this week to Joel for your amazing enthusiasm and effort each day in nursery! You always come to nursery with a beaming smile ready to play and learn with your friends. We have been so proud of the progress you have made so far this year and the excellent role model you are to your peers. Well done Joel!

Ask us about...

Materials. Pick an object and ask us what it is made from. We can even tell you some properties of the material/object too!



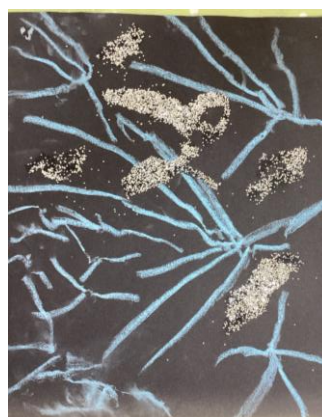
Reception

Autumn Adventures in Reception

This week, our Reception children have been embracing the beauty of autumn!

From making stunning firework pictures to threading leaves during our forest school sessions, the children have truly immersed themselves in nature. They also had a brilliant time crafting leaf crowns and practising their observational drawing skills with the vibrant leaves around them!

It's wonderful to see them exploring the changing seasons while developing their creativity.



Cygnets shout out!

Jessie- For your wonderful writing last week. You thought really hard about all your phonics, finger spaces and letter formation and it was a delight to see the progress you are making. Well done Jessie.

Reuben- For your incredible fireworks drawing last week. You spent a long time adding detail to your picture and I loved how you included the houses as well. What a brilliant artist you are.

Goslings shout out!

Ayla - For having a fantastic attitude to learning and for trying your best with everything. You always listen carefully and you are a really polite and helpful member of the class. Well done Ayla!

Pippa - For trying really hard in phonics and for making super progress with your reading. You did super blending in your reading practice session this week. What a superstar!

Ask us about...

This week in maths we have been learning about circles and triangles. Ask us about the properties of these shapes and where we might see them in the environment.



Year 1



Kingfisher - Handwriting.

This week, we have been learning how to form our pre-cursive letter 'f'. To begin, we practised writing on whiteboards, allowing us to focus on the correct movements and letter shape before transferring our work on to paper. Throughout our handwriting sessions, we have been following our Ready to Write Checklist, ensuring we sit with the correct posture and hold our pencils properly. We have shown great concentration and care as we continue to develop our handwriting skills.

Hummingbirds - Absorbent or not absorbent?



Hummingbirds have really enjoyed carrying out scientific experiments in science this week. They learnt that absorbent means a material soaks up liquid. Then, they enjoyed testing different materials to work out which were the most absorbent and which were not absorbent at all. Great investigation skills Hummingbirds!



Kingfisher shout out!

Nairah - Thank you for your wonderful writing in English! You use beautiful, cursive handwriting and you always present your work to the highest standard. You use accurate punctuation and finger spaces. Keep it up, Nairah, you are a star!

Hummingbird shout out!

Theodore - For working so hard on your handwriting. Your hard work is paying off and your writing is becoming so neat. Well done - keep up the good work!

Ruby - For always having exemplary behaviour and manners in class. You are such a role model for your peers and it does not go unnoticed. Thank you, Ruby, for being such a star!

Ask us about...

This week in, science, we have been learning about different materials and their properties. Ask us which materials would be best to build a big, strong bridge and why!

Year 2

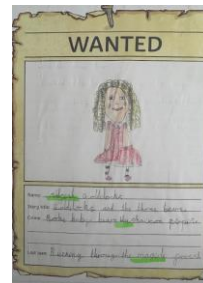
Finch - Science

In Finch class, we have loved learning about microhabitats in science this week. In this lesson, we visited our school forest to gather and record data about minibeasts that live in different microhabitats on our school grounds. We found lots of different minibeasts hiding under logs and stones and in the soil!



Robin - English 'Goldilocks WANTED!'

In English, Year 2 have been reading "Goldilocks" by Lauren Child and have started discussing how Goldilocks can come across as 'selfish' due to her mischievous behaviour. She barged into the three bears' house, ate their porridge, broke their chairs, and slept in their beds! As a result, the three bears asked us to create WANTED posters explaining the crimes that Goldilocks committed in the Fairytale Forest. There were some incredible posters!



Finch shout out!

Sylwia - A huge well done Sylwia for all your amazing effort in our writing this week! You have included lots of fantastic ideas, brilliant description and your presentation has been outstanding. Keep up the amazing work!

Robin shout out!

Albie and Thomas M - A big shout out to Thomas and Albie this week for their brilliant independence in our English sessions. I have been so proud to see you phonetically sound out your sentences to create some wonderful pieces of writing!

Ask us about...

This week, in science, we have been learning about microhabitats. Ask us about how to classify minibeasts and the different microhabitats they live in!



Year 3

Magpies

In Magpie class, we have enjoyed learning the vocabulary for different colours and shapes in French. We have played lots of games, like find the shape to help practice our pronunciation. Also, we have noticed how similar some words are in French to English.



Woodpeckers

We have been doing lots of investigations about forces and magnets in Year 3. We have investigated friction and looked at how and why things move differently on different surfaces. We also tested materials to see if they are magnetic or non-magnetic.



Magpie shout out!

This week's shout out goes to **Ayda** for showing creativity in your English writing. You have shown great focus and have been thinking carefully about your word choice - well done!

Woodpecker shout outs!

Delilah - For brilliant work in maths. You have tried really hard to work independently and we have been super impressed with how well you have been doing.

Noah - For always being a super role model in Woodpecker Class and for fantastic English work last week - well done :)

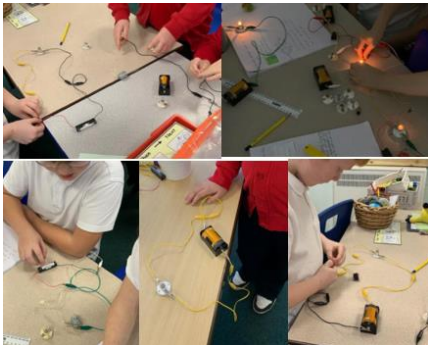
Ask us about...

We have been testing magnets to discover which poles repel and attract. We have also been investigating which materials are magnetic - why not ask us about it!

Year 4

Owls

Owls have LOVED exploring electricity and circuits in science this week. We have used batteries, wires, light bulbs, buzzers and switches to test series circuits. They have shown fantastic enthusiasm for science!



Osprey

Osprey have been working extremely hard in maths this week! We have been focusing on the 3 and 6 times table. They have shown great resilience and determination on the word problems and challenges.



Owl shout out!

Leon - We were blown away by your investigative and enquiry skills in science! You worked really well in a team and asked great questions. Well done!

Osprey shout out!

Theo - I am so proud of your effort and enthusiasm in science this week! You have been extremely engaged in all of your learning and have enjoyed helping your group build a circuit. Your subject knowledge is incredible!

Ask us about...

This week, we have been writing an informal explanation text about how an electric pencil sharpener works. We have been using our imaginations to make our writing creative and interesting for the reader.



Year 5

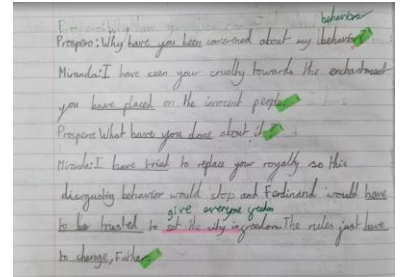
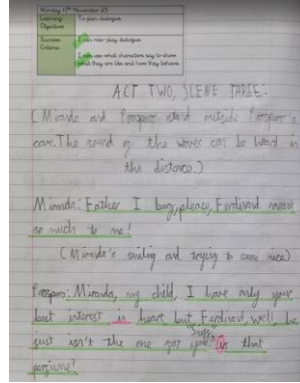
Kites

In the forest last week, Kites overcame some tricky challenges to produce some wonderful Nordic braids. Some of us are now using them as bracelets and bookmarks!



Falcons

Over the last two weeks, Falcons have thoroughly enjoyed reading (and performing) Shakespeare's *The Tempest* and writing their own imagined scenes in the format of a playscript.



Kites shout out!

Teddi- thank you for being a shining star in our classroom. You regularly share insightful thoughts and ideas and always work to the very best of your ability. Keep up the good work ☆.

Falcons shout out!

Teddy - For reading the entire play at home and then using his knowledge to produce his own excellent, imagined scene, complete with Shakespearean language - very impressive! ☆

Ask us about...

This week, we have been learning about reversible and irreversible changes in our science lessons. Ask us about changing states of matter.

Year 6

Odd Socks Day- Anti Bullying Week

This week, Year 6 kicked off Anti-Bullying week by partaking in Odd Socks Day! We wore our brightest, quirkiest odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique. It was such a fun way for us to start conversations about kindness, respect and embracing our differences.



Science- Light

In science, we have been investigating light. Through planning our own scientific enquiry, we have been able to investigate the effect of distance between an opaque object and a light source on the size of a shadow. We have also studied the different angles involved in reflection and we now know that the incoming ray is equal to the reflected ray.



Eagle Shout Out!

A massive shout out to **Jacob** and **Emma**! You have both blown me away with the imagery and detail that you have incorporated into your spooky setting descriptions. Your ideas were fantastic and so unique. Keep shining!

Hawk Shout Out!

A huge shout out to **Adam** for your courage, determination and resilience when going swimming for the first time! Keep up the good work!

Ask us about...

This week we have been learning about light in science. Did you know that periscopes reflect light between two mirrors at a 45 degree angle and were used in WW1 by soldiers to see over the trenches? Please ask us about it!



School Information

Coming soon...

Monday 17 th November	Start of Road Safety week
Tuesday 18 th November	Year 4 Pedestrian Training
Thursday 20 th November	Communication and language parent meeting – Reception & Nursery
Friday 21 st November	Non uniform day – sweets, chocolate or raffle donations
Monday 24 th November	Year 6 Eagles Geography walk
Monday 24 th November	Tales and Treats 3:30pm
Tuesday 25 th November	Year 6 Hawks Geography walk
Tuesday 25 th November	Nursery Stay and Play
Wednesday 26 th November	Year 5 cinema trip
Thursday 27 th November	Nursery Stay and Play
Thursday 4 th December	Christmas Fair 3:20pm
Friday 19 th December	Last day of term



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DATE:
3rd – 8th December

LOCATION:
KS1 Hall

Find these
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Family Information

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



Community board



Free classes at York St John University's Community Language School

Enrol your child to
Italian, Spanish,
Mandarin Chinese
or Japanese classes

Classes take place on Saturday
afternoons for one hour

At York St John University,
Lord Mayor's Walk, York, YO31 7EX



To express your interest,
please email cls@yorks.ac.uk
or scan the QR code to visit
yorks.ac.uk/community-language-school



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Language School
AT YORK ST JOHN UNIVERSITY

Est.
2016

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**CHRISTMAS
CRAFT
Fair**

**SATURDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2025
10AM - 1PM**

- CRAFT STALLS
- REFRESHMENTS
- CAKE STALL
- JEWELLERY
- GIFT IDEAS
- CARDS
- KIDS CRAFTS
- ... & MORE!

**ST JAMES THE DEACON CHURCH
ACOMB MOOR, YORK**



Festive Family Fun



The Enormous Christmas Pudding

Mon 1 Dec 10.30 York Explore

A fun festive show by Story Craft Theatre, enriched with visual storytelling; including puppetry, shadow puppetry and Makaton throughout.

Aimed at families with 2 to 6 year olds



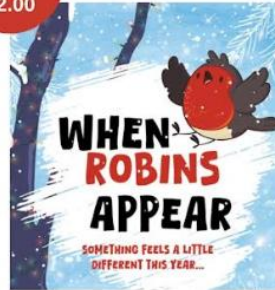
Tickets
from
£2.00

When Robins Appear

13 - 21 Dec at Clifton, Tang Hall & York Explores

A heart-warming, high-energy show from Next Door But One. Packed with catchy songs, an enchanting design and plenty of audience interaction.

Aimed at families with 7 to 11 year olds.



Santa's Dreams

22 Nov, 13 & 20 Dec various libraries

Fun storytime with author Karen Langtree and perhaps Santa himself. Aimed at 3 to 7 year olds

Visit Ticket Tailor or scan the QR code for more details

explore

Libraries and Archives

Follow our story:



www.exploreyork.org.uk

