

Newsletter

Friday 12th December 2025



Well, we have certainly stepped into Christmas with a little extra sparkle and magic at Woodthorpe this year! Our advent calendar has been an enormous hit with everybody and it has been such a pleasure to see the children enjoy the activities on offer. A couple of highlights for me so far have definitely been the children becoming 'book buddies' and enjoying stories across school, as well as our festive playground games which were extremely popular!

Thank you so much to everybody who contributed to our family bauble competition - the tree looks absolutely beautiful and choosing our winners was a really tough choice! In the end, we chose 11 winning families from across school and we hope that you enjoy the sweet treat. Please note, that if you would like to take your family bauble for safe keeping, you are welcome to remove these between now and the end of the term.

I would also like to take this opportunity to really thank our families for supporting our nativities. We are so proud of our children for their glowing performances, but know that this couldn't happen without help and support at home. From costumes, to line and dance practices - we really appreciate it! We really hope that you enjoyed our performances and that they left you feeling wonderfully festive.

Our Christmas fund raising, including the school fair, have raised nearly £2000 this year, which is an absolutely incredible amount. We wish to take this opportunity to thank each and every person that has contributed to this, from baking cakes, to buying raffle tickets, it has all made such a difference. This money goes directly into school funds and is put towards making school unmissable for our children - thank you.

Finally, we would like to wish each and every member of our school community a very merry Christmas. We hope that you really enjoy precious time with your loved ones and we look forward to welcoming you back to school on Tuesday 6th of January.

Class attendance this TERM

Cygnets	96.17	Goslings	★ 97.08 ★
Hummingbirds	94.79	Kingfishers	95.15
Finch	95.73	Robins	95.77
Magpie	96.17	Woodpeckers	95.01
Owl	96.14	Osprey	94.71
Kite	95.62	Falcon	96.27
Hawk	96.46	Eagle	95.53
School average for this year		95.76	

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

What could you do over the Christmas holidays to show a random act of kindness?



Could you:

- * Do something nice for a family member or friend?
- * Make a Christmas card for someone?
- * Donate clothing or toys that you don't need anymore?
- * Help out in our community?

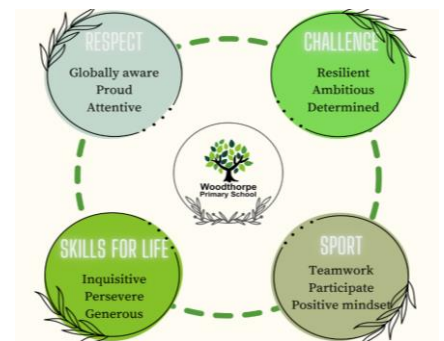
If so we would love to hear all about it! If you would like to nominate your child at any point, please email the school office with the subject 'Random Act of Kindness', the name of your child, a description of what they did and a photo (where possible). This will then be passed on to Miss Britland. Should you be unable to email a nomination in, please contact the school office and request to speak to Miss Britland.

We can't wait to hear about how kind our amazing Woodthorpe children are over the holidays!

Our Woodthorpe Character shout out!



A special shout out to Alfie in Reception this week. Alfie has recently been awarded 'player of the month' for football in November. As part of this prestigious recognition, Alfie got a super shiny medal to keep and a trophy to look after for a couple of weeks. Every weekend, Alfie tries very hard showing determination, resilience and perseverance. This has even been recognised by one of Alfie's football coaches too! Alfie was very proud of getting player of the month and so are we at Woodthorpe! What a fantastic way to show off our Woodthorpe Character in our local community. Well done Alfie!



A Heartfelt Thank You to Sian from Mi Little Bakes

A huge thank you to Sian from Mi Little Bakes for her generous donation of festive treats during our recent nativities! These delightful goodies certainly added a special touch to our celebrations.

The selection of treats included a variety of festive cookies and mini cupcakes.

These contributions exemplify the wonderful collaboration between our school and local businesses, reinforcing the sense of community we cherish at Woodthorpe.



Nursery

A sprinkle of Christmas magic...

In Ducklings we have been enjoying learning about what happens at this time of year, key traditions and things that may happen in our community. We have loved sharing lots of winter and festive stories as well as learning plenty of Christmas songs. Ducklings have also loved taking part in our whole school advent calendar each day too!



Jobs in our community

As part of our learning about communities, nursery loved learning about jobs in their immediate world. We loved talking about what we want to do when we grow up, what people do for jobs and what they might wear. As well as this we enjoyed inviting in a couple of visitors to share their jobs. Thank you to everyone who visited us!



Nursery shout out!

A massive shout out to Dottie! Dottie you have been amazing during carpet sessions by always taking part, doing super listening and asking amazing questions. In play you always fully immerse yourself making wonderful independent choices or inviting your friends in your play too. Well done Dottie!

Ask us about...

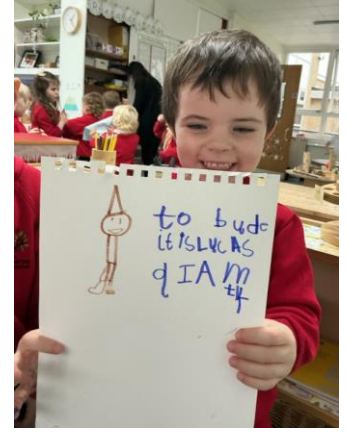
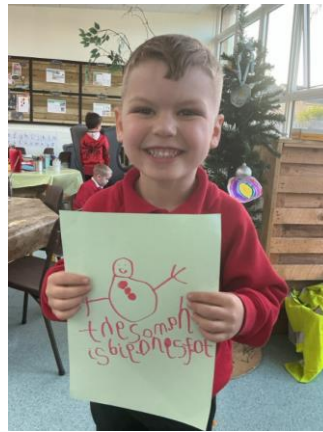
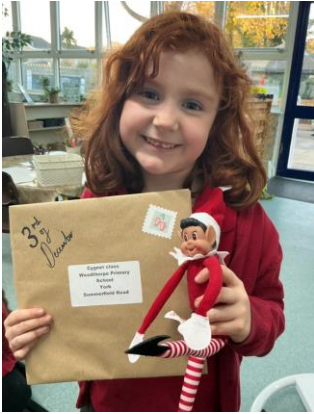
The primary colours. We can tell you what they are as well as what colours can be made when you mix two of them together.



Reception

Christmas in Reception

Our Reception children have been getting well and truly into the Christmas spirit! They shone brightly in their Nativity performance, bringing smiles to everyone watching. In class, they have loved decorating our festive classroom door, creating beautiful Christmas cards and decorations, and sharing lots of magical Christmas stories together. A very special highlight was meeting Buddy the Elf, who brought plenty of excitement and sparkle to our week! We are so proud of their enthusiasm as we get ready for Christmas.



Cygnets shout out!

James- For your great singing in our Christmas performance. You tried so hard on stage and made the perfect soldier. Well done.

Thea- For your wonderful writing this week. You independently wrote a sentence in the writing area and it even included some tricky words too. What a superstar!

Goslings shout out!

Alfie - Your singing and dancing in our nativity was brilliant this week! It was a joy to see you enjoying it so much, well done Alfie!

Logan - You said your lines brilliantly in our nativity this week. You were really loud and clear. Thank you for all your hard work Logan, what a superstar!

Ask us about...

This week we have been learning about special times in different festivals. We have looked at how Hindu's celebrate Diwali and how Christians celebrate Christmas.



Year 1

Year 1 - Baarmy Bethlehem

Year 1 has had so much fun learning and performing this year's nativity, Barmy Bethlehem. It was wonderful to see all the creative costumes, and it was a real delight to share the final performance with families. The children sang beautifully and performed with great confidence and enthusiasm.



Year 1 shout out!

Miss Newson and Miss Carroll are so incredibly proud of each and every one of you. Your hard work, bravery and dedication truly shone through during your nativity performance. We know that performing in front of an audience can feel scary, but you were all amazing and made us unbelievably proud. Keep shining – you were stars on the stage! ✨

Ask us about...

This week, we have been learning about cooking and nutrition. We are learning to describe fruits and vegetables and explain how to identify fruits and name a range of places where fruits and vegetables grow. Ask us to describe the basic characteristics of fruit and vegetables.

Year 2

Finch - Book fair

In Finch class, we loved visiting the book fair! We got to explore all of the amazing books on offer and sit and share the stories with our friends.



Robin

In computing, we have been exploring algorithms and how to identify and debug them to ensure the computer understands what is being asked. We became human robots, following our partner's clear set of instructions to build an identical tower.



Finch shout out!

Mila - A huge well done Mila for all your hard work in our English and maths lessons! You have been showing excellent determination and you are working more independently. I am so proud of you!

Everlyn - A massive well done Everlyn for your amazing behaviour. You are a brilliant role model in Finch class and you always put in 100% effort into everything you do. Keep up the great work!

Robin shout out!

A shout out to **Violet** this week for always showing exceptional behaviour in our class! You are always putting in 100% to your work and your books are always a delight to read through. Also a shout out to **Eve** this week for her resilience and determination within lessons. I am so proud of how you never give up, Eve, even when the task that you're given seems really tough! Well done you, this inspires the rest of your classmates daily!

Ask us about...

This week in Art, we are going to explore and create maps through various art forms, including drawing, printmaking, and designing stained glass. Why don't you ask us about it?



Year 3

Magpies - Explosive Volcanoes!



This week in Year 3, we really enjoyed creating our very own exploding volcanoes! First, we designed and built our volcano models and then we came together to watch them erupt with bubbling lava!

Woodpeckers - Christmas reading swap

Woodpecker Class are loving all of the Christmas activities. We especially enjoyed visiting Year 5 for our Christmas reading afternoon.



Magpie shout out!

This week's shout out goes to **Lara**! You have worked incredibly hard this week and always been a great helper in class. You have worked especially hard in music where you have done some excellent Viking singing.

Woodpecker shout outs!

Ryan - For fantastic work in maths this week. We were blown away with how speedy you were doing your column addition and how carefully you set it out. Well done Ryan

Mollie - For your amazing independent writing this week. You have tried super hard to include all of the things we have been talking about and your writing is fantastic. Keep up the hard work :)

Ask us about...

This week in art we are going to be transforming 2D shapes into 3D sculptures. We will experiment making sculptures with different materials to create artwork inspired by Anothony Caro.

Year 4

Owls

In music, we composed our own sections to a samba celebration! Each group practised syncopated (off-beat) rhythms with untuned percussion instruments ready for a whole-class performance. We made connections with our South American geography unit too!



Osprey

As part of the Christmas advent activities, we spent time reading with Year 1 and the children absolutely loved it! They enjoyed sharing different stories together and exploring a range of books.



Owl shout out!

Kyro and Ralph - for going above and beyond with your collaborative computing project. Your positive attitude to improving the images to suit the theme, as well as adding humour to your Google slides, was wonderful to see. We can't wait to see what you create next!

Osprey shout out!

Scott and Arthur - for putting in excellent effort during your assessments this week, approaching every task with perseverance and a positive attitude. Your resilience was amazing and you stayed focused even when things became a little bit challenging.

Ask us about...

This week, we are going to be making torches (linking to our science topic about electricity) using a range of materials. We will be researching different torch designs, planning, making and evaluating/testing to see if they work in the dark!



Year 5

Kites

Another week, another wonderful Forest School session with Mrs Banham! Kites thoroughly enjoyed creating Christmas decorations using natural materials, attaching a handwritten card and giving them to someone they care for. Take a look at our festive creations.



Falcons

This week, the children had brilliant fun learning how to play the 12-bar blues and creating their own improvised pieces. They also enjoyed singing along, in unison, to the Moanin' Lisa Blues!



Kites shout out!

Jayde- for your focus and determination during assessment week. You worked incredibly hard and we are very proud of you. Well done ☆.

Falcons shout out!

Logan - For the phenomenal improvement in your reading age this term! Excellent work Logan - keep up the great work! ☆

Ask us about...

This week, we are creating interesting self-portraits, using mixed media and different colours to represent our emotions. Ask us about it.

Year 6

Eagles- Christmas Cards

Last week, we embraced the festive spirit by creating Christmas cards as one of our advent activities that featured cheerful snowmen. Using oil pastels, we carefully crafted snowy scenes, blending colours to bring our designs to life.



Hawks

In Geography we have conducted a local fieldwork enquiry. We went out into our local community and collected data, using a Likert Scale and a Tally Chart, on the types of vehicles we could see. This helped us draw conclusions about the impact of population density on our local area.



Eagle shout out!

A huge shout out to both **Bobby** and **Charlie** for demonstrating an incredible, resilient and positive attitude during assessment week. You approached each challenge with determination and you stayed focused continually throughout the week, without giving up. Well done, Bobby and Charlie. We are so proud of you!

Hawk shout out!

A big shout out to **Bethany** for always being an excellent role model, as well as being ready to help other children in class, particularly in computing! You have really been going above and beyond, well done and keep up the good work!

Ask us about...

Last week, we were learning about themes and variations in music, using the idea of Pop Art to help us. In Pop Art, a particular image is repeated but with changes to the colours. This is very similar to music: the melody (the theme) is repeated in different ways (variations) by changing the tempo, pitch and dynamics, for example. Ask us about it!



School Information

Coming soon...

Friday 18 th December 2025	Break up for Christmas
Monday 5 th January 2026	Staff Training Day (no children in school)
Tuesday 6 th January 2026	Back to school
Monday 12 th January 2026	Purple Pig Visit for Reception
Wednesday 14 th January 2026	Year 3 Trip to Howsham Mill
Wednesday 4 th February	Year 5 Tudor trip to Merchant Hall

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





With Christmas soon on its way, we wanted to remind our community with some ways to keep safe online over the festive period.

When getting new technology it is important for parents and carers to know about how to keep their children safe by setting up appropriate parental settings and controls. Here are a very helpful websites with lots of useful information for how to support online safety.

- SWGfL – <https://swgfl.org.uk/audience/parents/>
- UK Safer Internet – <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>
- CEOP – <https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/professionals/resources/>



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SETTING UP NEW DEVICES FOR CHILDREN

At Christmas, millions of lucky children will be excitedly ripping the wrapping off new phones, tablets, computers or consoles. However, in the rush to let young ones enjoy their shiny gadgets, many parents neglect to set these devices up safely – increasing the chances of children going online and stumbling across adult content, making expensive downloads or installing unsuitable apps. A little time configuring the device properly can save a lot of anguish later. Here are our top tips to ensure that a dream gift on Christmas morning doesn't turn into a nightmare by New Year.

PASSCODES FOR IPHONE/IPAD

If your child's getting their own iPhone or iPad, you can set parental controls that make it difficult for them to access inappropriate content or download expensive apps. Once the device is set up, go to the Settings app and tap Screen Time, then select Use Screen Time Passcode and enter a passcode. Keep it to yourself so your child can't switch the protection off.

SCREEN TIME SETTINGS ON IPHONE/IPAD

Once you've set a Screen Time Passcode, you can adjust various safety settings. You could, for example, only allow communication with people from the Contacts app, place restrictions on App Store purchases and apply age limits to movies, music and web content. There are many more protective options available within the Screen Time settings section.

FAMILY LINK FOR ANDROID

Parents can manage Android phones and tablets, as well as Google Chromebooks, through Google's Family Link app. This gives your child some independence (and their own Google account) but lets parents monitor which apps are being used, set limits on content and ensure that parental permission is required to install apps. Look for Family Link in the Google Play Store.

ADD A CHILD TO FAMILY LINK

The easiest way to add a child's device to Family Link is to set it up with its own Google account. It's a good idea to create this before they use their new phone, tablet or Chromebook. Once they're logged in, open the Family Link app on your phone, press '+' in the top right and add a new family member using their Google account details. Then follow the on-screen instructions.

FAMILY SHARING ON A MAC

Families using a Mac get similar screen time options to iPhone and iPad users. Again, if you're setting up a Mac for a child, make yourself the main admin and add them as a user. This is handled through Apple's Family Sharing service, which not only allows you to put controls on child accounts but share apps and other purchases with them too. Search 'family sharing' at <https://support.apple.com>.

PLAYSTATION PARENTAL CONTROLS

With parental controls for the PS5, you'll need a PlayStation Network account (as the 'family manager') and the child will need their own account, which they should sign in with on the console. This all needs to be set up in advance, so you might want to do it before the big day. Go to PlayStation.com and search 'family account' for instructions.

DISCUSS IT WITH YOUR CHILD

If you're planning to implement any kind of restriction or protection settings on your child's new device, we'd recommend having a discussion with your young one first about what these controls do, and what they are for. If you try to impose parental controls surreptitiously or with no advance warning, don't be surprised if your child tries to find a way around them.

SET AN ADMIN ON PCs

On Windows PCs and laptops, it's important not to let your child share a general user account or be the main admin on the device. If you're booting up a new family PC or a child's own device, set it up using your own account details and you'll become the admin by default. Then set up children with their own separate account: Settings > Accounts > Family & Other Users > Add Other User.

SET WINDOWS LIMITS

Once your child's account has been created, a parent admin can go back into the Family & Other Users menu and apply limits to it. These include restricting screen time, the type of games and apps that can be installed, web filters and more. Microsoft also includes reporting tools which, for example, can email you with a weekly summary of your child's activity on the device.

TREAT AN XBOX LIKE A PC

The same control settings you use for a PC can be used to apply parental controls on an Xbox. Again, once your child is signed into the Xbox with their own account, you can then monitor and regulate their activity from a PC or web browser. Microsoft's dashboard allows you to manage voice communication through the console, so you can limit who can contact your child, for example.

INSTALL XBOX FAMILY SETTINGS

If you don't have a PC, but your child does have an Xbox, it might be easier to use the Xbox Family Settings app for iPhone or Android. Here, you can restrict console screen time (particularly handy if the console is in a bedroom), restrict communication and monitor the types of game being played. There's also a feature where you can allocate spending money for games or in-game purchases.

STAY VIGILANT

It's important to remember that none of these methods is 100% foolproof. Nobody will ever invent flawless filters or parental controls – not least because what's unacceptable to some parents is perfectly acceptable to others. So although devices' parental controls will help to keep your child safe online, they work best side by side with good old-fashioned parental vigilance.

Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the *Sunday Times*, *Which?*, *PC Pro* and *Computeractive*. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on *Newsnight*, *Radio 5 Live* and *ITV News at Ten*. He has two children and writes regularly about internet safety issues.



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Community board

Join us this Christmas at St. James the Deacon

**CHRISTMAS 2025
AT ST JAMES THE DEACON PARISH CHURCH**

Saturday 13 December 3:00pm, Nativity Workshop
Thursday 18 December 7:30pm, Carols by Candlelight Service
 followed by mince pies and mulled wine
Christmas Eve 4:30pm, Crib Service with Christingles
 11:00pm, Midnight Mass
Christmas Day 10:00am, Said Eucharist with Carols
Sunday 28 December 10:00am, First Sunday of Christmas
Tuesday 30 December 9:30am - 12:30pm, Tuesday Tots Extra
Wednesday 31 December 10:00am, New Year's Eve Eucharist

Come and celebrate Christmas with us!



Crib Service
 with Christingles
Wednesday 24th December
 4.30pm
 ST JAMES THE DEACON
 PARISH CHURCH
 ACOMB MOOR, YORK

Follow St. James the Deacon Children and Families on Facebook for details of our family worship in the New Year - Alternate Saturdays, 4-6pm




Dress up Nativity & Christmas Crafts
For unto us a child is born!
Saturday 13th December
 3pm
 St. James the Deacon Church, Woodthorpe, YO24 2SE

Children's Nativity Christmas Activities & Crafts Festive Buffet Tea
 For further information, please contact Nicola at nicola@stjamesthedeacon.org.uk or through our Facebook page - St James the Deacon Children and Families
 Website: www.stjamesthedeacon.org.uk




TUESDAY TOTS EXTRA
NEW YEAR FAMILY ACTIVITIES
9.30AM-12.30PM
 St. James the Deacon Church, Sherringham Drive, YO24 2SE
 Children must be supervised at all times.
FREE
TUESDAY 30TH DECEMBER
 Toys, games & crafts for all ages
 New and preloved school uniform
 Buffet Lunch
 Drinks & snacks
 Food parcels to take home
 Playgroup and baby area
 Workshop to be confirmed
 For more information, contact: nicola@stjamesthedeacon.org.uk
 Follow us on Facebook: St James the Deacon Children and Families




All are most welcome to join us at

Carols by Candlelight Service

WITH THE STAMFORD BRIDGE SINGERS



Thursday 18 December 2025

7:30pm

followed by mince pies and mulled wine

St James the Deacon Church, Acomb Moor

