



**Woodthorpe
Primary School**

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Woodthorpe

Primary School

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Newsletter

Friday 17th April

It has been lovely to see all the children return to school after the Easter break! Although we are only at the end of the first week, it has certainly been busy and we have already experienced so many wonderful things together.

We have especially enjoyed welcoming our new starters in Nursery, who have settled beautifully in Ducklings. They are having a fantastic time exploring the areas of provision and making new friends, which is heart-warming to see.

A highlight of this week has to be the Year 5 and 6 pupils who attended the residential trip to Peat Rigg. They completed a range of exciting activities, including river walking, zip-lining, caving, archery, orienteering, and much more. Their behaviour was exemplary, and they were an absolute joy to be with. We are so proud of each and every one of them and hope they catch up on some sleep over the weekend!

Additionally, on Monday we launched our 'Hungry Minds' breakfast initiative. It has been wonderful to welcome the children as they choose their breakfast snacks before the school day begins. From our conversations with them, it seems they are enjoying the variety of food and drinks available, which is helping them to be ready for the day ahead. If you would like your child to receive a free breakfast, please do get in touch.

We are really looking forward to the term ahead and have so many wonderful activities planned for our final term. We really hope the children, and families, enjoy what we have in store! Have a lovely weekend.

Class attendance this fortnight

Cygnets	94.46%	Goslings	98%
Hummingbirds	94.63%	Kingfishers	94.81%
Finch	96.55%	Robins	98%
Magpie	95.17%	Woodpeckers	96.21%
Owl	★ 99.46% ★	Osprey	93.73%
Kite	95.19%	Falcon	94.09%
Hawk	96.55%	Eagle	94.04%
School average for this year		95.13%	

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.elts.org.uk, thank you.

Random Acts of Kindness

As always, it is a huge pleasure to hear about how wonderful our children are beyond school! We are delighted to share some more fantastic random acts of kindness in this newsletter from the last couple of weeks.

Firstly, a huge shout out to a whole family who over the holidays have raised an incredible amount of money for charity by taking part in the Young Lives Vs Cancer Spring Challenge - 1 mile a day anyway you like you. George in Year 5 and Maeve in Year 1 alongside their little brother Ralph and family took part in the 14 day challenge.

They set a target of £150 and quickly reached it, then smashed £200 and were quickly making tracks to £300! They finished on Sunday at a whopping **£429** and a grand total of **25.85 miles over 14 days!** Come rain or shine, George, Maeve and their family took part in the challenge to raise money for the charity which will make such a difference to other young people and their families.

Some miles were biked, some scooted but most walked! Below shows a snapshot of some of their miles and how they were completed.



Secondly. Theo and Anderson, in Year 2, had noticed how much rubbish was on their usual dog walk through the woods so they spent one Saturday litter picking to try tidy it up! They did a wonderful job equipped with their litter pickers and bags ready to tidy up the area. Well done Theo and Anderson we are very proud of your selfless acts of kindness to help keep our local area tidy and look after our environment!



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.

PSHE (Personal, Social, Health Education) and RSE (Relationships, Sex and Health) Policy

At Woodthorpe we implement a PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) Programme across our school called Jigsaw, the mindful approach to PSHE.

Following the Department for Education RSHE Guidance, 'All schools must have an up-to-date policy, which is made available to parents and others'. Therefore, as part of our annual review we will consult with our school community including parents/carers, staff and governors on our PSHE (Personal, Social, Health Education) and RSE (Relationships, Sex and Health) Policy.

Please find our PSHE (Personal, Social, Health Education) and RSE (Relationships, Sex and Health) Policy for Woodthorpe Primary School on our school website <https://www.woodthorpeprimaryschool.co.uk/>. This can be found under the section Our School > Policies > PSHE (Personal, Social, Health Education) and RSE (Relationships, Sex and Health) Policy Spring 2026.

In addition to this, Jigsaw has provided some helpful information to tell parents and carers even more about the programme. Our PSHE and RSE policy and additional documents can be found on our website under the section Curriculum > Personal, Social and Health Education.

Should you wish to share any feedback or discuss anything further about this policy please contact the school via our school email - admin@woodthorpe.elk.org.uk or school number 01904 806464 for the attention of Mrs Grason-Taylor or Miss Britland. Please ensure that any feedback is shared with school before 27.4.26. We will also be offering a drop in session on 27.4.26 at 4pm should you have any further questions or want to discuss this in more detail. If you wish to attend, please book via the school office.

Please note, this policy is valid until 31st August 2026. From 1st September 2026 we will be following the new DfE Statutory guidance Relationships and sex education (RSE) and health education. Our PSHE (Personal, Social, Health Education) and RSE (Relationships, Sex and Health) Policy will be updated accordingly to reflect new changes.



Nursery

This week we have been learning about a range of fruits and vegetables, talking about different foods and drinks we enjoy and discussing what makes a healthy lifestyle. We have loved exploring lots of different fruits and vegetables by looking at them, thinking about their colours and texture as well as their smell. We can't wait to make a healthy rainbow salad next week.



Ducklings love all types of play both inside and out! Our highlights this week have been enjoying books in the sunshine, playing on the seesaw with new friends and making the best 'water slides' for the boats to shoot down; they went very fast!



Nursery shout out!

A huge shout out to our new nursery starters who have joined us after our Easter break. We have been blown away with how well you have settled, made friends and of course enjoyed lots of play! In addition to this, we have been very impressed with our other Ducklings who have shown their new friends what we do in nursery and more!

Ask us about...

What healthy snacks we enjoy! We can tell you lots about different fruits and vegetables.



Reception

Plants

This week, Reception have been learning about plants and what they need to grow. We have planted our own sunflowers, made flowers in the transient art area, learnt what the different parts of a plant are called and made some beautiful observational drawings of different flowers.



Cygnets shout out!

Thea- For your wonderful writing about a sunflower. You added lots of detail into your writing and added a great picture too. Well done Thea.

Nolan- For your wonderful performance this week. You sang your song that you wrote in the writing area beautifully and the class loved listening to you sing. Well done Nolan!

Goslings shout out!

Aleem – For making super progress with your reading and writing. We are so proud of all your hard work, well done Aleem!

Zain – For your fantastic writing when we do our morning challenge. You have worked so hard on your letter formation and we can really see the difference – what a superstar!

Ask us about...

This week in maths we have been learning our number bonds to 5. Ask us how many we can remember...



Year 1



Kingfisher - PSHE - Our families!

In PSHE, we have begun our new topic exploring different families. The children will learn about the many ways families can be structured and how family members care for and support one another. We started the unit by discussing our own families and identifying the special people within them, which helped us appreciate the similarities and differences between us all.

Hummingbird - Our Wildlife Hero!

As part of our 'Super Scientists' Easter challenge, Lev spent a long time over his holidays carefully making this wonderful bird feeder using a coconut shell. What a super job Lev and a fantastic way of caring for the animals in our environment - the birds will love it!

Well done!



Kingfisher shout out!

Lottie - Lottie very kindly made some beautiful friendship bracelets for the class over the Easter break! It was such a thoughtful act and Kingfisher class love wearing them! Thank you, Lottie, for your kindness!

Hummingbird shout out!

Isaac - For working so hard in maths. You have really impressed me with your growing confidence and independence, especially with learning to count in 2's - great job!

Ella - For your super writing! You are trying so hard with your handwriting and you have also been extending your sentences with your fabulous ideas too, what a star!

Ask us about...

This week, we have been exploring the world of plants, learning about different types of plants and trees, as well as the parts of a plant. Ask us to name the different parts of a plant...

Year 2

Airfield Museum

On the last day of Spring term, Year 2 had the best day adventuring around the Elvington Airfield Museum. We were able to impress the museum's volunteers with our facts and knowledge that we had learnt about the history of flight such as: The Wright Brothers, Amelia Earhart and Bessie Coleman. We loved hearing lots of new facts about the past and how planes have evolved over the years.



Finch shout out!

Carter - A massive well done Carter for your growing confidence in maths! You are working more independently and you often try to challenge yourself. Keep up the great work!

Ethan - A huge well done Ethan for your hard work in our guided reading lessons. You actively engage in all of the lessons and you are building your confidence and fluency. Well done!

Robin shout out!

Mario - A big shout out to Mario this week for his confidence and independence he now shows in our English lessons! It is so lovely to see you create some wonderful sentences all on your own!

Millie - Well done Millie for having such a fantastic start to your school day every day last half term! It is such a joy to see you excited to enter our classroom every morning with a big smile on your face!

Ask us about...

This week we are learning about plants in science. We are going to plan, conduct and evaluate our very own experiment determining what a plant needs in order for it to survive. Why don't you ask us about it?



Year 3

Magpies

This week in science we have been learning about the different parts of a plant and their functions. We have also set up two enquiry questions on how air and water affect plant growth. We have really enjoyed observing the changes in the plants each day!



Woodpeckers

Before half term we completed our DT unit 'Constructing a Castle'. We tried really hard to make different 3D shapes out of nets and loved using them when constructing our castles.



Magpie shout out!

Tyler - For showing a fantastic interest in our English sessions and creating some super sentences about Ernest Shackleton's life. You have tried really hard to include both coordinating and subordinating conjunctions - well done!

George H - For your brilliant effort in our guided reading sessions! You have worked really hard at following the text and have had a go at trying to read the text as fluently as you can!

Woodpecker shout out!

Tommy A - For a fantastic start to your Ernest Shackleton recount. You have tried super hard with your spelling and handwriting and have used lots of conjunctions. Great work!

Stanley - For brilliant work before half term when we made castles in DT. You tried hard making 3D shapes out of nets and then worked really well with your group when you were making your castle. Well done :)

Ask us about...

We have started our new Science unit all about plants. Why not ask us about the 5 things plants need to be healthy.

Year 4

DT – constructing pavilions

A part of our DT topic, we made pavilions for the rainforest! We began by practicing our design using sweets where we were very restrained not to eat them all so that our buildings were stable and strong!

We had loads of fun making them and sharing our amazing designs with the class! Look out for them being made into real pavilions - they were that good!



Owl shout out!

Noah – you have worked really hard at improving your handwriting and presentation in your books. Keep up the effort and progress, we are really proud of you!

Osprey shout out!

Artjoms - You showed fantastic dedication by completing your homework to a very high standard over the Easter holidays! You've impressed everyone with your enthusiasm and creativity in tackling the science challenges. Well done!

Ask us about...

This week we are learning about the classification of animals using Venn diagrams and classification keys. Ask us about it...



Year 5 and 6

Exciting Activities

What a fantastic few days we have had: fun in the forest; animal artwork; Lego man waterslides and maths challenges galore! It has been a pleasure sharing a whole range of experiences with you all and seeing you showcase your skills, resilience and determination- well done everyone!



STEM Challenge

This week, we have completed an exciting STEM challenge: designing a waterslide for a lego man. To be successful, we had to work like engineers to design and test our ideas and to make any necessary changes to our models to overcome any problems that we encountered.



Kites shout out!

Michael - For great determination to complete the square number cycle in maths! Your focus and systematic thinking helped you to work through the very challenging activity- well done!

Falcons shout out!

Ajay - The effort and skill that you demonstrated when completing your rainforest artwork was exemplary. You took your time to blend different colours together to create the perfect shades, which helped you produce an excellent drawing!

Ask us about...

This week, we have learnt all about the importance of resilience through completing a range of problem solving challenges in maths. This showed us the importance of perseverance in finding our solutions. Ask us about it.



Peat Rigg

This week, some of our Year 5 and 6 children embarked on a 3-day residential to Peat Rigg. Whilst there, they took on some epic challenges: river walking, orienteering, archery and caving (to name a few)! Each and every child achieved many goals and showed some outstanding teamwork and perseverance along the way- here are some of their highlights.



A huge shout out to every single child who attended our residential this year! You blew us away with your respect, behaviour, attentiveness and positive attitudes. Every single one of you challenged yourselves in more ways than one and it was wonderful to see you strengthen (and even create) friendships. We were so proud of the way that you represented our school and hope that you have created some life-long memories.



New screen time guidance for parents of under-5s

The government has published new guidance on screen use for children under five. The new guidance is available for free on the [Best Start in Life website](https://beststartinlife.gov.uk), with key tips including:

- Under 2s: Avoiding screen time other than for shared activities that encourage bonding, interaction and conversation.
- 2 to 5-year-olds: Trying to keep it to no more than one hour a day. Avoid at mealtimes and in the hour before bed.
- Content: Choosing slow-paced, age-appropriate content. Fast-paced, social media-style videos and AI toys or tools should be avoided for young children.
- Co-viewing: Watching or using screens together - talking, asking questions and engaging with the content - is better for children's development than solo screen use.
- This also forms part of wider action to support all children's wellbeing in the digital world – running alongside the government's consultation on further measures to keep children safe online.

(Information taken from <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-screen-time-guidance-for-parents-of-under-5s>)

For more information about this please visit - <https://beststartinlife.gov.uk/screen-time-under-5s/>

The Childcare Choices website is now the Best Start in Life parent hub.

    

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Screen time guidance for under 5s

Juggling family life and raising children in a digital world can be challenging. Find out more about how to support healthy screen habits for children under 5.

Last updated: 27 March, 2025



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about DIGITAL DEVICES & WELLBEING

Children aged 7 to 14 now spend roughly 3 to 5 hours a day on phones, tablets, consoles, and computers. That much screen time has parents and educators worried – not just about the hours logged, but about online safety and the knock-on effects on mental health. This guide brings together practical, expert-backed strategies so adults can nurture healthier digital habits and help young people thrive both on and offline.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SLEEP DISRUPTION

Excessive screen time, especially before bed, can interfere with melatonin production and delay sleep onset. Children may struggle to concentrate or regulate emotions due to poor sleep hygiene linked to late-night device use.

ONLINE PEER PRESSURE

Social media platforms expose children to unrealistic standards and peer validation loops. Likes, comments, and follower counts can influence self-worth and lead to anxiety or risky behaviour to gain approval.

CYBERBULLYING EXPOSURE

Children may encounter bullying through messaging apps, games, or social media. This can be persistent and anonymous, making it harder to detect. Victims often feel isolated and reluctant to report incidents.

REDUCED PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Time spent on screens often replaces outdoor play and physical activity. This sedentary lifestyle can contribute to obesity, poor posture, and reduced cardiovascular health.

EMOTIONAL DYSREGULATION

Fast-paced digital content can overstimulate young brains. Children may become irritable, impatient, or struggle with boredom and emotional control when not engaged with screens.

PRIVACY AND SAFETY RISKS

Children may unknowingly share personal information or interact with strangers online. Without guidance, they may not understand the long-term consequences of digital footprints or unsafe online behaviour.

Advice for Parents & Educators

SET CLEAR BOUNDARIES

Establish screen-time limits and device-free zones, e.g. classrooms and dinner tables. Use parental controls and co-create a digital use agreement with children to encourage accountability. Trying a visual schedule or timer app can help children understand and stick to limits.

MODEL HEALTHY HABITS

Children mirror adult behaviour. Demonstrate balanced device use, take regular screen breaks, and prioritise face-to-face interactions to reinforce positive behaviours. Making a habit of putting your phone away during meals and conversations can show that real-life interactions come first.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DIALOGUE

Create a safe space for children to talk about their online experiences. Ask open-ended questions like, "What did you enjoy online today?" to build trust and awareness. Try setting aside 10 minutes each day for a digital check-in where children can share what they've seen or done online.

PROMOTE DIGITAL LITERACY

Teach children how to evaluate online content, recognise misinformation, and understand privacy settings. Empower them to think critically and act responsibly in digital spaces. You could use real-life examples from the news or social media to help children practise spotting fake information.

Meet Our Expert

Adam Gillett is Associate Vice Principal for Personal Development at Penistone Grammar School and works on secondment one day a week for Minds Ahead, which works with schools on improving their mental health provision.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

School Information

Coming soon...

Thursday 23 rd April	Year 3 trip to The Yorkshire Arboretum
Wednesday 22 nd April	PCSO visit
Thursday 21 st May	'Read with YSJ' trip to York St John University
Friday 22 nd May	Last day of term
25 th May- 29 th May	Half term
Monday 1 st June	Back to 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.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



