



WOODTHORPE NEWSLETTER

Friday 18th
September
2026

We have had an incredible start to the new academic year. Welcoming our new families to school and getting to know your children has been a real joy. It has also been lovely to see the children returning to school, reconnect with friends and becoming familiar with their new classes, teachers and routines. School has been full of enthusiasm, conversation and excitement as the children have settled into the term and begun their learning.

During the last two weeks, we have enjoyed spending time in classrooms and seeing the children engage with their lessons. In English, the children have been learning about their class birds and have been keen to share some fascinating facts. It has been encouraging to see their curiosity, thoughtful questions and growing confidence as they communicate their ideas. We have also enjoyed seeing the range of art skills being developed across the school. The children's work has included self-portraits, Stone Age drawings, sculptures made with real-life objects and the use of photoshop to edit photographs. Each topic has given the children opportunities to explore different materials, techniques and ways of presenting their ideas. Seeing the care they have taken with their work, as well as the wide range of individual responses and creative choices has been a privilege.

You may have seen the portakabin has arrived in the KS2 playground, which is our Eco Library. We cannot wait for it to open and will share more information with you at a later date.

Finally, thank you to all the parents who made it to the drop-in session tonight. It was lovely to welcome you into the classrooms. We hope you enjoyed seeing some of the work your child has completed over the last couple of weeks and appreciated having the opportunity to speak with their teacher. We hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Class attendance this fortnight			
Cygnets	97.27%	Goslings	98.48%
Hummingbirds	99.78%	Kingfishers	98.49%
Finch	99.49%	Robins	94.32%
Magpie	95.78%	Woodpeckers	92.22%
Owl	96%	Osprey	91.56%
Kite	96.67%	Falcon	95.48%
Hawk	96.67%	Eagle	91.85%
School average for this year: 95.95%			

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

After the continued success of our 'Random Acts of Kindness', we are excited to launch this again! We are blown away each day by the kindness our children at Woodthorpe show - whether it is holding a door, looking after our school environment or giving a cheery smile to our friends. In addition to this, we know that out of school our children do so much too from litter picks in the park to taking part in charity races. We show kindness in many ways!

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). Please can you also express your permission for information and photos to be shared on the newsletter. Should you be unable to email a nomination in, please contact the school office and request to speak to Miss Britland.



Dates for your diary....

DATE	EVENT
Thursday 24 th September	Athletics event at Millthorpe School
Wednesday 14 th October	Year 2 trip to York Castle Museum
Wednesday 21 st October	Last day of term
Thursday 22 nd - Friday 23 rd October	Training days
Monday 26 th - Friday 30 th October	Half Term
Monday 2 nd November	Back to School

Nursery



The last two weeks, we have welcomed back the children returning to Nursery and we have also welcomed our new starters. The children have had lots of fun exploring their new environment, in all of the different areas both inside and out. They've enjoyed getting to know each other and have also enjoyed catching up with friends that they haven't seen for a while.



A special mention...

A big shout out to all of the children in Nursery. We are so proud of how well our new starters have settled and how well they have learnt the new routines. Also our returning children have been amazing at remembering everything! Well done Ducklings!

Ask us about....

This week we have been learning about our families and how they are all different. 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 at Woodthorpe!

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 filled with smiles and laughter!



A special mention...

Henry- For settling well into school this week. Your confidence and determination to play in different areas has grown over the course of the week and we are so proud of you.

Ocean-Faith - For being kind to your friends during choosing time. You always listen to others ideas during play and they love spending time with you especially in the role play area. Well done Ocean.

Shiloh - For coming in for your first weeks of school so well. It has been lovely to watch you smiling and playing so happily with your new friends as well as hearing your lovely ideas on the carpet too - well done!

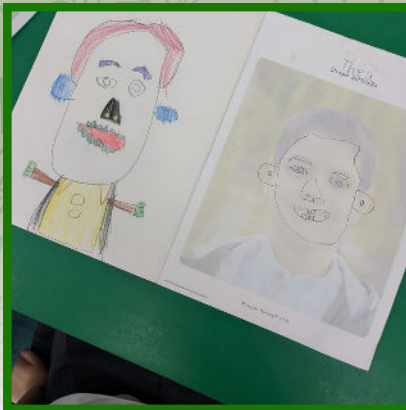
Caleb - For making everyone you meet smile, your cheeky grin and personality has brightened everyone's day. You are also such a kind and helpful member of our class - thank you Caleb!

Ask us about....

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

Year One

This week in Art, we discovered the work of artist Paul Klee and used his colourful, expressive style as inspiration to create our own portraits. We explored how pressing harder or softer with our pencils can make colours appear lighter or darker, and experimented with using similar colours to those found in Klee's artwork. We had a fantastic time getting creative and creating our own funny faces! We are so proud of our colourful and unique portraits!



A special mention...

A huge well done to Thea who has received her first silver in Year 1. Thea did some absolutely incredible reading, using her phonics knowledge to sound unfamiliar words out. Well done, Thea!

A big shout out to Fenrir, he has settled into Year 1 amazingly and has already reached silver on our classroom behaviour chart. This is due to his wonderful attitude towards his learning and being a superb friend to others. Well done you, Fenrir!

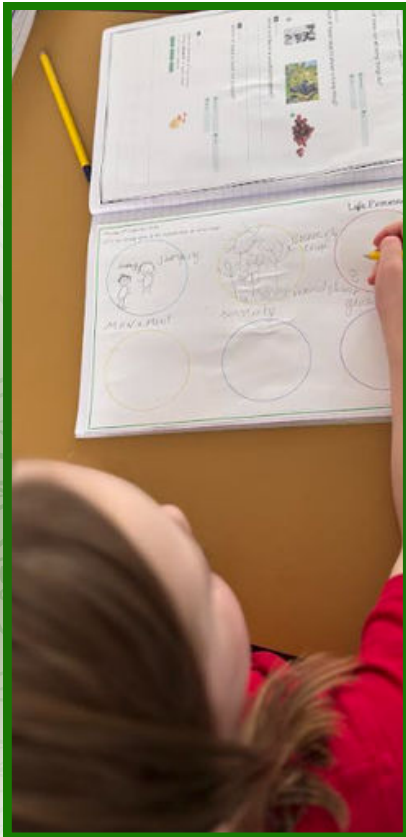
Ask us about....

This week in Science, we have started learning all about the four different seasons and the types of weather we might experience during each one. We will also be discovering how trees change throughout the seasons and what happens to their leaves.

Can you name one of the four seasons?

Year Two

We have had a fantastic start to Year 2! We started off the term by completing our first art unit. In this topic, we learnt all about tone and texture. In week 2, in science, we have been learning about living things and their habitats. We have identified some of the characteristics of living things and recognised the difference between things that are alive, once alive or have never been alive.



A special mention...

A huge well done to Sienna in Finch class for your hard work and determination in our English lessons! You have worked super hard on your handwriting and you have made sure you have all your capital letters and full stops - well done!

A massive well done to Denny in Finch class for always showing excellent behaviour. In all of our lessons, you are always ready to learn and you always try your best. Keep up the excellent work!

A big well done to Finley in Robin class this week. You have been working incredibly hard on every task and have shown confidence when sharing your ideas. What a fantastic week you've had Finley, well done!

Ask us about....

This week, in science, we have been learning about habitats. Why don't you ask us about living things life processes or different plants and animals habitats! We have also continued writing all about our class birds and we have learnt all sorts of interesting facts about robins and finches.

Year Three

During our first week of Year 3, we have been learning all about prehistoric art. We have explored how early humans used natural materials to create artwork, including drawing a range of prehistoric animals using charcoal. We also went outside onto the school field to collect natural materials. We created our own cave walls using couscous, rice and lentils. To finish our work, we made our own natural paint using glue, flour and spices, creating different colours and textures. The children have really enjoyed experimenting with these materials and have shown fantastic creativity, enthusiasm and effort throughout our prehistoric art activities.



A special mention...

Woodpecker: Layla has had a fantastic start to Year 3 and has shown amazing effort in Art. She approaches each activity with enthusiasm and creativity, taking pride in her work and trying her best to develop new skills.

Magpie: Bobby has made a wonderful start to Year 3! He has worked incredibly hard and independently in maths, showing a great understanding of place value up to 1,000. His determination when faced with a challenge has been fantastic to see. We are so proud of him!

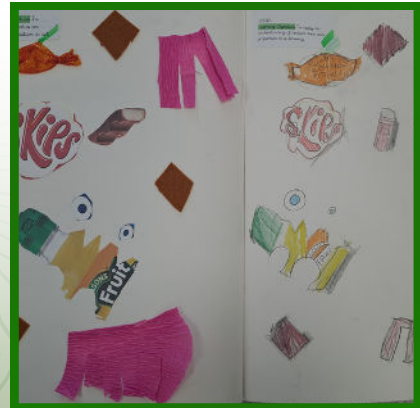
Ask us about....

Ask us about our English learning! We have been busy becoming bird experts by researching magpies and woodpeckers. We have discovered lots of interesting facts about their appearance, habitats, diets and behaviours. We have loved finding out new facts and sharing our knowledge with others. We have also been developing our note-taking skills and learning how to pick out the most important information. We can't wait to use our knowledge to write our own non-chronological reports!

Year Four



What a wonderful start to Year 4! We have loved welcoming the children back to start the new academic year in Owls and Ospreys. We have launched the year with a fantastic art unit where we have enjoyed exploring tone, texture and proportion. Our lessons have come alive by drawing real objects, using our pencils to sketch, highlight and shadow as well as making the most incredible collages using a range of materials! It has been wonderful to see our creativity!



A special mention...

- ★ Joshua C- for an outstanding attitude towards your learning; you are a true role model and we are so proud of your start to Year 4!
- ★ Mollie- for your insightful contributions to our discussions, it has been wonderful to see your confidence already blossom; keep it up!
- ★ George B- for your amazing ideas and contributions, you know so much about our class bird and have shared this knowledge so confidently!
- ★ Lua- for your fantastic behaviour, effort and attitude to your learning. You continue to impress our class each day, well done Lua!

Ask us about....

This week we have learnt about the human digestive system, did you know there are 5 parts to it? Ask us to name them! We have also learnt about human teeth; each type has a different function- ask us about them!

Year Five

What a fantastic start to the year, Year 5! During our first week, we enjoyed an exciting art unit which focused upon the unique work of Cai Guo-Qiang - a Chinese artist who uses gunpowder and fireworks in his large-scale installations. Over the course of the week, we created our own scaled-down pieces, using stencils and explosive paint throwing techniques. We also produced our own interactive installations in our classrooms, using everyday objects. Take a look below.



A special mention...

A special mention to Ava in Falcons who is this week's superhero due to her incredible efforts, kindness and contributions within lessons! An amazing start to Y5 Ava - keep it up! ★

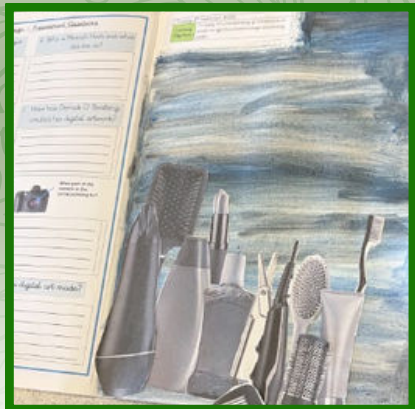
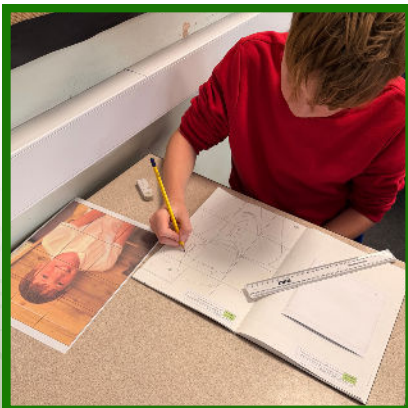
Another special mention to George who has taken it upon himself to ensure our school environment is looked after by tidying up after others and litter picking on the playground! We are proud to have you as a caring member of our school community! ★

Ask us about....

This week, we have been learning about what makes a mixture and investigating different methods of separation. Did you know that it requires two or more substances to create a mixture? Ask us about it!

Year Six

Year 6 have loved diving into a vibrant art unit inspired by photography. We began by taking close-up photos of fruit, experimenting with a range of creative editing techniques to transform each image into something bold and eye-catching. Building on these digital skills, we then designed imaginative album artwork for our school, combining colour, composition and creativity. To complete the unit, we moved from cameras to pencils, producing detailed photorealistic self-portraits using the grid method to ensure accuracy and proportion. A fantastic mix of digital art and careful drawing!



A special mention...

A special mention to Teddi and Scarlett in Eagles! You have truly shone this week by creating some incredible self-portraits in art. 🌟 You have also been wonderful team players, generously supporting your classmates too!

A special mention to Maci-Leigh and Lily in Hawks for your brilliant team work, collaboration and resilience. You have worked so hard to make sure you understand our new learning, asking lots of questions and getting stuck in - well done!

Ask us about....

This week we have been learning about census information. Did you know that the census information from 1931 was destroyed in a fire and there was no census in 1941 due to the war? Please ask us about it!



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