



WOODTHORPE NEWSLETTER

Friday 16th
October
2026

We have had another busy couple of weeks in school, with classrooms full of hard work and enthusiasm. This week, there has been a real buzz throughout the school as the children's efforts and participation have brought music to life. While some children have been copying rhythms, others have been composing their own masterpieces. It has been wonderful to see their creative contributions valued and celebrated.

Year 2 had a fantastic trip to the Castle Museum, where the children travelled back in time to a Victorian schoolroom. It was a pleasure to talk with them about their favourite parts of the day, and from these conversations it was clear how much they enjoyed their trip.

Can we remind you to inform the school immediately if your child's medical needs change? It is vital that we are aware of any changes so that we can support your child when necessary. Please speak to a member of the admin team or email the school using whichever method is most convenient, so that the school is informed without delay.

As we approach the end of the half-term, we are reflecting on how well the children have immersed themselves in their learning. Their determination and engagement has been wonderful. We are also celebrating the new friendships the children have developed and the ways in which they have supported one another.

We would like to thank all parents and carers for their support throughout the half-term. Listening to your child read, helping with homework and making sure that they arrive at school on time are all things that make a big difference. We are really grateful for this support and for the community we have. We hope everyone has a lovely weekend.

Class attendance this fortnight			
Cygnets	95.61%	Goslings	95.61%
Hummingbirds	98.6%	Kingfishers	95.26%
Finch	93.96%	Robins	95.14%
Magpie	94.06%	Woodpeckers	96.49%
Owl	92.63%	Osprey	94.39%
Kite	95.26%	Falcon	95.49%
Hawk	97.37%	Eagle	97.47%
School Average for the Year: 95.52%			

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.

Dates for your diary....

DATE	EVENT
Tuesday 20th October	Woodthorpe Community Group - Halloween Sale on the gate 3:15pm
Wednesday 21st October	Last day of term
Thursday 22nd - Friday 23 rd October	Training days
Monday 26th - Friday 30 th October	Half Term
Monday 2 nd November	Back to School
Thursday 5 th November	Library - opening ceremony

Something else...

World Mental Health Day 2026

On Friday 9th October our school shone in yellow! Thank you for all of those who wished to take part by wearing something yellow last week. During the day we explored 'Everyone has feelings, everyone belongs'. The children were amazing talking about what feelings we may have, how they may present and what we can do to help ourselves and each other with a range of feelings. We also talked about 'What helps us feel like we belong?'

Please find below some websites you may wish to visit to continue to explore Mental Health further or look for support and advice.

- [Parents Mental Health Support | Advice for Your Child | Young Minds](#)
- [Advice for parents and guardians - Mental Health UK](#)
- [Children and young people aged 5 to 19 - Raise York](#)



Random Acts of Kindness

We are thrilled to share another wonderful act of kindness this week. Albie in Hummingbirds has raised £300 for Alzheimer's UK last weekend by taking part in the Memory Walk where he walked 4 miles! He did the walk to raise money for a charity who supports his Great-Grandma who has Alzheimer's and Dementia, he said he wanted to help people like his Great-Grandma. We were very proud to hear that Albie raised such an incredible amount of money whilst also walking a great distance. Well done Albie, you really are a shining example of our Woodthorpe Character!



We wanted to say a HUGE thank you to a group of Year 6 children who give up some of their time at break and lunch to help with the Hungry Minds breakfast items.

Lacie, Agatha and Robyn do an incredible job organising, tidying and replenishing the items. Mrs Godfrey would be lost without your support and you play a big part in making Hungry Minds such a success. Thank you girls!



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, 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.

Nursery



In Nursery, the children have been developing their gross and fine motor skills to help them get ready for writing. They have been enjoying whisking water to create lots of bubbles, strengthening the muscles in their hands and arms as they mix and stir. The children have also been practising their scissor skills, learning how to hold scissors correctly with their thumb at the top and carefully cut along a straight line.



A special mention...

A big well done to Finley this week for his very thoughtful answers during our circle times. You always think carefully about what to say and often come up with really unique answers. Well done Finley!

Ask us about....

This week we have been learning about our five senses. Ask about our favourite things to taste and smell!

Reception



This week, Reception have been learning all about how they have changed since being a baby. We have been looking at some of our baby photos as well as talking about and drawing our families too. Outside, we made our own families using natural materials and pretended to be different members of our family by doing lots of jobs.



A special mention...

Tommy - A big well done to you for working so hard on your listening skills. You have been trying so hard to listen and follow instructions, especially in phonics too. We are so proud of you - keep up the super work!

Marlie - A huge thank you for being such a super helper in our class. You are always looking to help others, care for your friends or spotting areas of our class that need tidying. We are lucky to have you in Goslings class!

Chester - For just being you! You have tried exceptionally hard this week in phonics and with your reading. I am so proud of you - keep shining superstar!

Vickie - For your wonderful blending this week. Vickie, you sounded out each word accurately and to see the delight on your face when you blended the words correctly was just magical. Well done you!

Ask us about....

This week, we have learnt two tricky words in our phonics. Ask us what they are! Can you spot them in our reading books?

Year One

This week in Music, we have started our new topic, 'Keeping the Pulse'. We have been learning to clap the rhythm of our names in time with the pulse, sway or tap along to a steady beat, and sing rhythms while keeping in time with the music. We have enjoyed exploring rhythm and developing our sense of pulse through these fun, practical activities!



A special mention...

Logan W – for your amazing enthusiasm in reading! During our class reading sessions, you always show great excitement when exploring different texts. You also enjoy discussing your favourite books from home and can recall key facts and information from what you have read. Well done, Logan! Keep up the fantastic reading!

Lukah H - Your improvement in reading is fantastic! You have moved up a book band which is incredible and it is down to your hard work and dedication during our phonics and reading sessions. Keep up the hard work!

Ask us about....

In music, we have also explored different musical instruments and discovered the different sounds they can make.

Ask us if we can name at least three different musical instruments!

Year Two

We have had a very busy couple of weeks in Year 2! In history, we continued learning about what school was like in the past. We explored how schools have changed over time and the similarities and differences between schools in different time periods, deciding if we would rather go to school in the past or now. We finished the topic by going on a fantastic trip to York Castle Museum! In music, we have created short sounds with varied dynamics that represent an animal.



A special mention...

★Haya - A huge well done for your hard work with your handwriting! You have challenged yourself to join up your letters and now you are writing in a neat, cursive script. Keep up the great work!

★Maeve - A massive well done Maeve for the kindness you have shown. You are always so keen to help others around you and you are always a supportive friend. Well done!

★Dahlia - You have had such a wonderful week, well done! You always impress us with your dedication to your work and how hard you try across all subjects. We are super proud of you!

★Freddy - A huge well done to you this week for your writing, you have been working incredibly hard on working independently and reading your writing has been a joy, well done!

Ask us about....

This week, in music, we have been developing rhythm and pulse through chanting call-and-response sound patterns and performing with untuned percussion instruments. Ask us about it!

Year Three

In Year 3, we have been learning about the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. We did a trading activity in small groups to help us understand how trading used to work and what materials were traded. We learnt how to trade fairly and make reasonable negotiations for different items. We discussed how trade and 'bartering' can be really difficult and we learnt about the introduction of coins in Bronze Age Britain. It turns out it is much easier to buy what we need with money instead of swapping animals, materials or crops!



A special mention...

★ Kale and Kobi - you have shown amazing resilience in maths when tackling column addition with carrying, approaching challenges with determination and a positive attitude. You should be incredibly proud of how you keep pushing yourselves, persevering when things get tricky and striving to improve your skills.

★ Matilda - you always set an amazing example to everyone in Magpies! Thank you for being a fantastic role model by taking responsibility for your work, your table team and your learning. What a super star!

Ask us about....

This week we have started our music topic 'Reading Rhythms: patterns and layers.' We will be learning different musical notes. These include a crotchet, minim and paired quavers. Ask us about it!

Year Four



We have had busy couple of weeks in year 4: our history lessons have seen us compare the lives of children in different periods with our modern day childhood; we were amazed that children as young as 5 were working 12 hour days in dangerous conditions, without being paid! We have continued to enjoy our guided reading book, The Demon Headmaster, and can't wait to hear how it ends. Forest school has been a highlight of our week this half term. We have loved doing so much!



A special mention...

- ★ Evie L - it has been so lovely to see your beaming face everyday over the past few weeks. You brighten up our mornings - thank you Evie!
- ★ Elijah T - we love listening to you read during our Guided Reading sessions Eli. Your fluency and expression are brilliant and make the story come to life. Keep it up!
- ★ Tommy A - you have shone with your amazing maths work. You have blown me away with your ability to apply your maths knowledge to a variety of written methods. Well done!
- ★ Luna - it has been wonderful to see your enthusiasm for learning and taking part this week. I have been particularly impressed with your writing. Great job Luna!

Ask us about....

This week we have been starting to learn about musical motifs. We are learning how to recognise and read notes on a stave, understand how pitch is used for effect and notate pitch on a stave. Ask us about any of these and we can tell you more!



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Our writing this week has been centred around building up powerful character descriptions based on our key text, 'Kensuke's Kingdom'. The children have generated their own imaginative figurative language, expanded noun phrases and using embedded clauses to add further detail. We are building up to writing our own independent character description about Kensuke. How would you describe Kensuke (an old, skeletal hermit alone on a desert island)?

Year Six

In music this half term we have been exploring four chord pop, working together to play as a class band. We have worked on singing in unison and harmony, practised notes for our song 'Wave your Flag' on our glockenspiel, before adding in a range of chords. We worked hard to make sure we were keeping in time with each other and improved our performances using non verbal cues. It has been fantastic to apply our knowledge of music to one of our favourite songs, working as a team to perform as a band.



A special mention...

A special mention to Teddy and Charlie from Eagles class this week. As part of our music lessons, you have both shown incredible levels of engagement: you have participated well and have answered questions insightfully. You have both applied knowledge and understanding from your ukelele lessons last year too. Well done!

A special shout out to Dylan and April in Hawk class this week. You are both excellent Year 6 role models, always setting a brilliant example to others. You put so much thought, care and effort into everything that you do - thank you for all of your hard work!

Ask us about....

This week, we have been learning about how to play as a band in our music lessons. We started by considering how to sing in unison but we have also begun to consider harmonies too. Ask us about it!



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