WOODTHORPE NEWSLETTER

Friday 27th November 2026

It was wonderful to see so many parents and carers attend Parents' Evening last week. We really enjoyed speaking with many of you in the hall, and I know our teachers greatly valued the discussions they had with families about their children's progress. Thank you for your continued support and engagement.

A gentle reminder that we are a nut-aware school. Please ensure that no nut-based snacks or products are included in packed lunches or break-time snacks. We have a number of children in school with severe nut allergies, and it is important that we work together to keep all members of our school community safe.

If you have any pre-loved PE kit items, such as white T-shirts, navy or black shorts, or joggers, that your child has outgrown, we would greatly appreciate any donations. These items help us when spare kit is needed in school.

We are now approaching one of the busiest and most exciting times of the year in school as Christmas draws nearer. Our festive countdown has begun, with a range of activities planned for the children over the coming weeks. We will be in touch again soon with details of our 'Festive Five', which we are sure will be popular with the children.

A BIG thank you for all the donations last week on non-uniform day. We can't wait to see many of you next week at our Christmas Fair and look forward to celebrating the season together. Have a lovely weekend.

Class attendance this fortnight			
Cygnets	93.86%	Goslings	92.11%
Hummingbirds	96.32%	Kingfishers	94.74%
Finch	98.64%	Robins	92.71%
Magpie	96.73%	Woodpeckers	94.74%
Owl	93.86%	Osprey	92.63%
Kite	93.86%	Falcon	91.23%
Hawk	94.94%	Eagle	93.18%
School Average for the year 94.74%			

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.elt.org.uk , thank you.

Dates for your diary....

WOODTHORPE NEWSLETTER

DATE	EVENT
Monday 30th November	Y3 - A Magma-nificent Day
Wednesday 2nd - Friday 4th December	Book Fair
Thursday 4th December	School Christmas Fair - 3:30 - 4:30pm
Monday 7th December	Year 1 Christmas Performance - 9:15am Reception Christmas Performance - 2:15pm
Tuesday 8th December	Reception Christmas Performance - 9:15am Nursery Christmas Performance - 2:15pm
Wednesday 9th December	Nursery Christmas Performance - 9:15am Year 1 Christmas Performance - 2:15pm
Thursday 10th December	Christmas Jumpers and Christmas Dinner
Friday 18th December	Break up for Christmas

Something else...

Last week marked Road Safety Week 2026.

Below is some key information taken from 'Brake - the road safety charity' to support our community with how we can be safe around roads (https://www.brake.org.uk).

Here are some simple ways you can help your child to make safe and healthy journeys, every day:

- **Help them walk and ride more on safe paths away from traffic**
- **Always hold their hand when you are walking near roads**
- **Always cross roads at safe places**
- **Always drive at a safe speed and never use a phone while driving.**

For further infromation please see the following links for parents and families: https://www.brake.org.uk/get-involved/take-action/mybrake/knowledge-centre/advice-for-parents-and-families and https://www.think.gov.uk/education-resources/.









Y6 Public Speaking

Two of our Year 6 pupils recently represented our school at a primary public speaking competition held at the beautiful Merchant Adventurers' Hall, where they competed against eight other schools. They delivered a convincing and thought-provoking speech on why 11-year-olds should not have smartphones, demonstrating fantastic confidence, maturity and composure throughout.

The standard of competition was incredibly high and, although they did not secure a place in the top three, we are immensely proud of both pupils for rising to the challenge and speaking in front of such a large audience. They were outstanding ambassadors for our school and should be extremely proud of their achievement. Well done to both of them!



Family Learning

This half term, York Family Learning has been delivering some fantastic workshops in school focusing on Phonics. After Christmas we are offering families the opportunity to take part in a 'Supporting Children with SEND' course. The sessions provide key information to families and are full of practical advice and resources to take away.
If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to speak to Mrs Elsworth.



Nursery

WOODTHORPE NEWSLETTER

In Nursery, the children enjoyed learning about the Hindu festival of Diwali, also known as the Festival of Lights. The children discovered how Diwali is celebrated and explored some of the wonderful traditions associated with this special festival. They enjoyed creating their own colourful rangoli patterns, making diya lamps, drawing mehndi patterns and listening to the story of Rama and Sita.











A special mention...

Layla - For making the most amazing Mr and Mrs Forky in the creative area! You used the scissors really well to cut out their clothes and faces and you were so proud of how they turned out. Well done!

Seren - For working so hard in phonics. You are making super progress Seren and becoming more and more confident with blending sounds together. Well done!

Ask us about....

Nursery have been learning to subitise to 3, developing their ability to recognise small quantities instantly without needing to count each object individually.

Reception

WOODTHORPE NEWSLETTER

This week, Reception have been learning all about the different seasons. We started our week focusing on the season of autumn. We have made our own autumn leaf hedgehogs, completed some leaf printing and made autumn animals out of the loose parts.











A special mention...

Freddie - For your amazing autumn owl using the loose parts. Freddie you thought for a long time about how to make your owl and used additional resources from the shelf to support you. Well done.

Poppy - For your incredible reading this week. Poppy it is always a pleasure listening to you read and you are beginning to read short sentences back to yourself. Keep up this super reading.

Hana - For your super progress in writing. You are so keen to work on your writing and you have been learning how to write new words each day, using your phonics skills to accurately segment the sounds in words.

Cameron - For your wonderful attitude to learning. You are such an enthusiastic learner and really throw yourself into every activity in our classroom which is such a pleasure to see. You are also such a kind and caring member of our class and always want to celebrate your peers achievements too, this is such a lovely quality. Thank you!

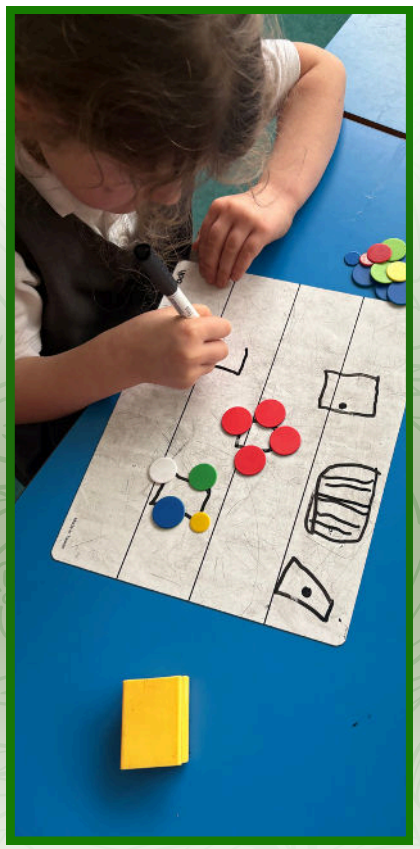
Ask us about....

This week, we have been busy learning all about different shapes especially triangles and squares. Help us spot these shapes in our environment!

Year One

WOODTHORPE NEWSLETTER

This week in Year 1, we have been looking at fact families in maths. We have used whole-part models to create a range of eight different addition and subtraction number sentences. It has been challenging, but we have worked incredibly hard!
In geography, we have been learning all about maps and how they are created from an aerial view. We practised creating a 'messy map' of our classroom, thinking about what we could see and where everything was located in the room as if we were birds creating a map. We also looked at using directional language to explain where our class teddy was located in the playground!







A special mention...

Ethan J - Ethan, I want to give you a HUGE shout-out this week, especially for your maths! The confidence, determination and hard work you have shown, both during carpet sessions and in your table book work, have been incredible. I am so proud of how much of an independent learner you are becoming. Keep up the fantastic work, Ethan!

Well done to Pippa! Pippa, you have used outstanding handwriting in your English book! You have produced some fantastic sentences using the correct-sized letters with brilliant ascenders and descenders. Keep it up, Pippa!

Ask us about....

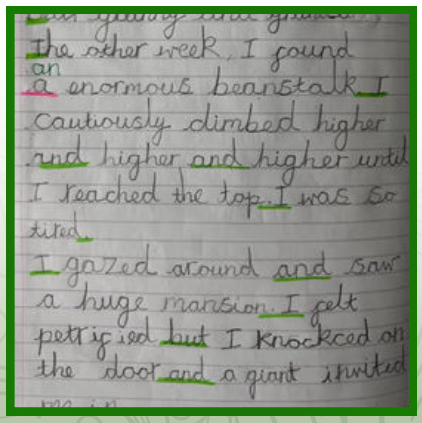
This week, we have used directional language in geography to explain the different locations of key features. Ask us about the different vocabulary we have been using!

Year Two

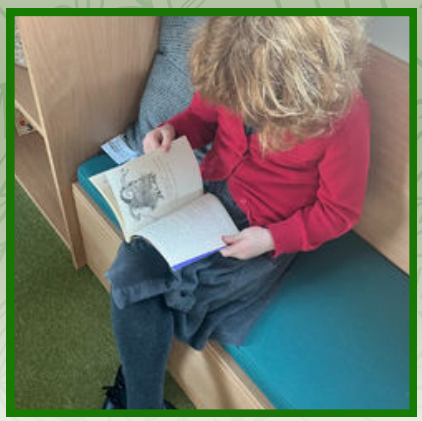
WOODTHORPE NEWSLETTER

We have had another busy couple of weeks in Year 2! In English, we have used the book 'Jim and the Beanstalk' to inspire our writing. We have produced a letter to a loved one explaining how we helped the giant.
In geography, we have enjoyed naming and locating the seven continents and identifying which continent we live in and which are the hottest and coldest continents.
We also loved visiting our new library; exploring the space and reading some of the lovely new books!











A special mention...

⭐Winston - A huge well done for your growing confidence and independence in our English lessons! You are working hard on your handwriting and you are including lots of lovely ideas in your pieces of writing. Keep up the great work!

⭐ Albie - A massive well done Albie for putting your hand up lots in our maths lessons this week! It has been great to see your confidence grow and you have shown you can use lots of different methods with addition and subtraction to reach your answer. Well done!

⭐ Violet - A special mention for your fantastic introduction on your report about endangered animals. You have used some brilliant adjectives and used beautiful handwriting - Well done 🙂

⭐ Eliza - For your super work in geography. You worked really hard comparing the UK and Kenya and looking for the similarities and differences between the two countries. Great work!

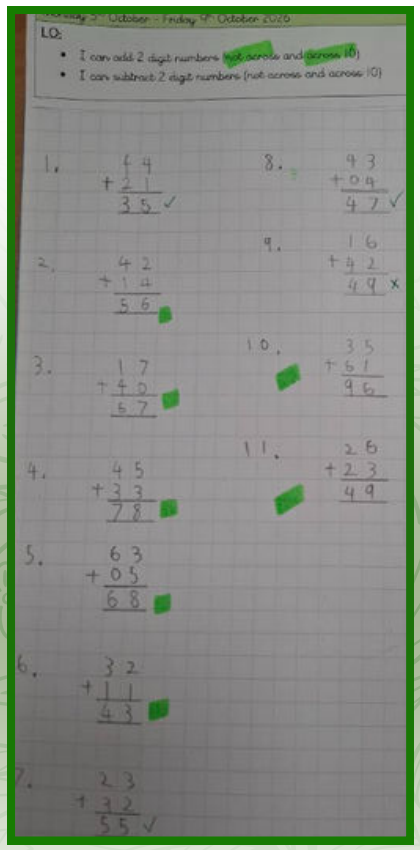
Ask us about....

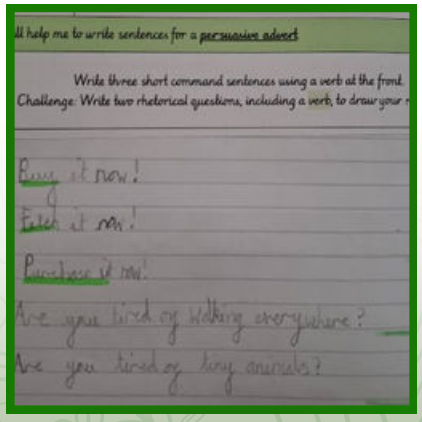
This week, in geography, we have been exploring the question 'Would you prefer to live in a hot or cold place? We have learnt about the seven continents, the North and South Poles and the equator. We have then compared the UK to Kenya to see what life is like in a hot place! Ask us about it!

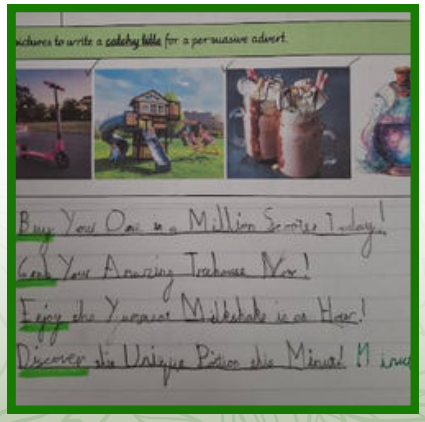
Year Three

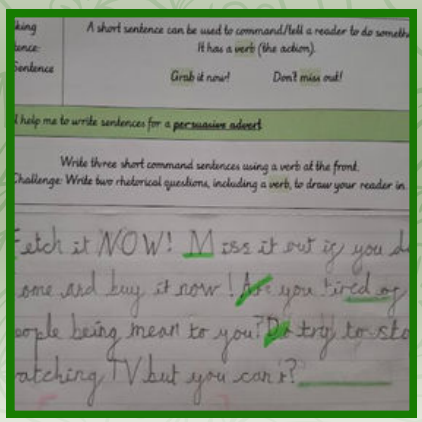
WOODTHORPE NEWSLETTER

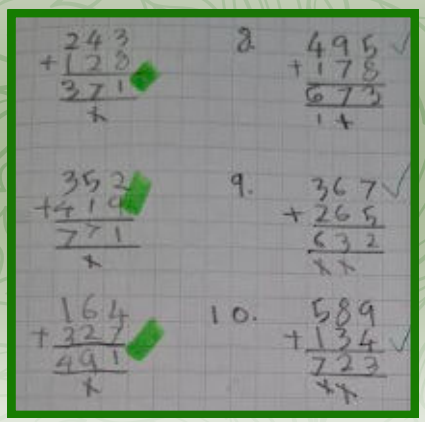
Year 3 have been busy practising their column addition and subtraction, focusing on setting out their calculations correctly and checking their answers. We have also been working hard on the presentation of our work, making sure our books are neat, tidy and carefully presented. In English, we have been exploring complex sentences and exaggeration to make our potion adverts more exciting and persuasive. The children are developing their ideas and using creative language to make their adverts really stand out!











A special mention...

Myla has been an extremely helpful member of Woodpecker Class. She is always willing to lend a hand, show kindness to others and contribute positively to our classroom. Well done, Myla!

Carter has showed fantastic motivation with his work this week. He was a great team player in forest school and has been working hard on his handwriting. Thank you for your hard work and keep it up!

Ask us about....

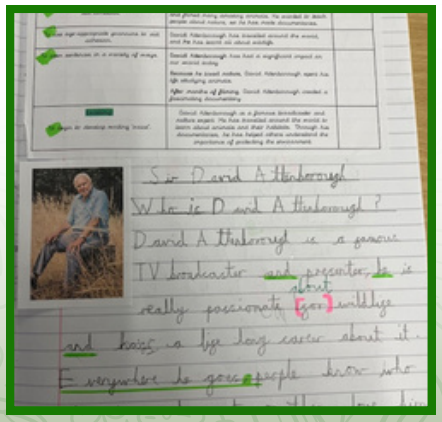
This Monday, we are learning about volcanoes around the world and making our very own volcano! Parents are invited to the eruption at 3:20pm on the school field (in the event of poor weather this will be in the KS2 hall). We look forward to seeing you!

Year Four

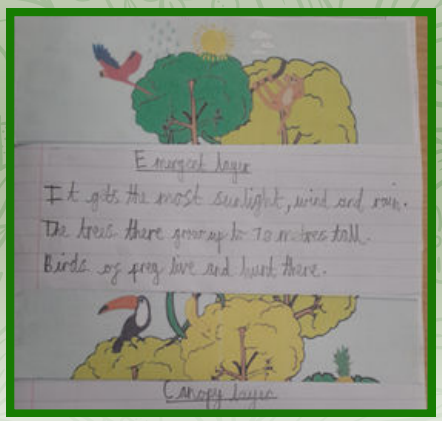
WOODTHORPE NEWSLETTER

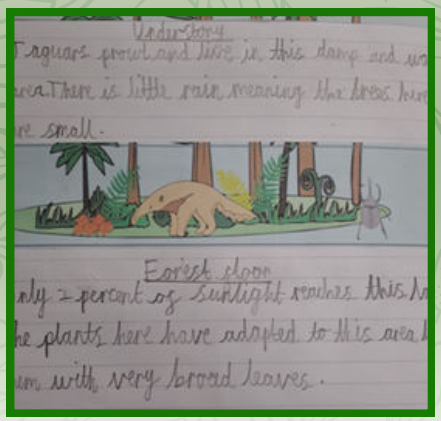
What a busy couple of weeks we have had in Year 4! We have certainly enjoyed our Rainforests topic in geography which began with a fantastic trip to the cinema, everyone had a great time and represented our school brilliantly. We also completed our biographies on David Attenborough which have been a pleasure to read! In addition, Osprey class were lucky enough to have a maths lesson from the student leaders at Millthorpe school, where we investigated probability - we really enjoyed the session! Finally, we have been incredibly enthused in computing, where we have experimented with variables and 'if statements' on Scratch.











A special mention...

⭐ Arlo R - you have produced a brilliant biography about David Attenborough. We were so impressed with your use of fronted adverbials and conjunctions in your writing. Keep it up!

⭐Reuben - your dance moves in PE are amazing! You work really well as a group and it is lovely to watch you share your brilliant ideas. Thank you Reuben!

⭐Albie - you have shown such enthusiasm on our topic about Rainforests. You have loved learning new facts and sharing your own ideas as well. This has been amazing to see!

⭐Tommy J - you have blown me away with your maths work recently. I am incredibly proud of the independent skills you have shown both in maths lessons and morning work too. Well done Tommy!

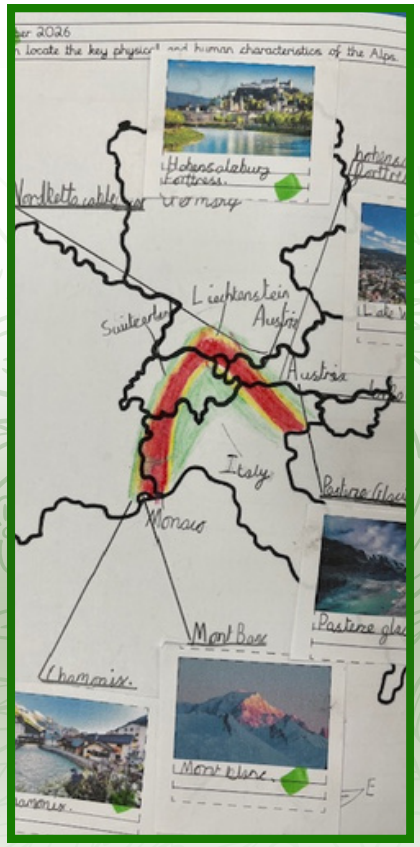
Ask us about....

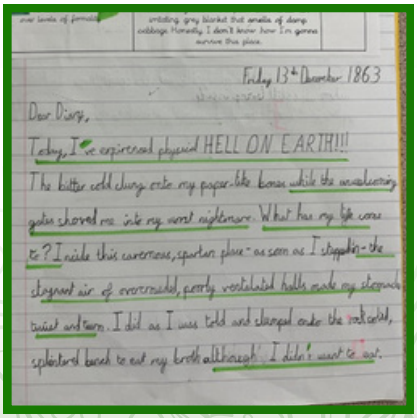
Our geography topic this half term is Rainforests. We have been learning about the Amazon including the features and characteristics of each layer and who lives there. Ask us about indigenous people - we can tell you about the lives of these people who live in the Amazon.

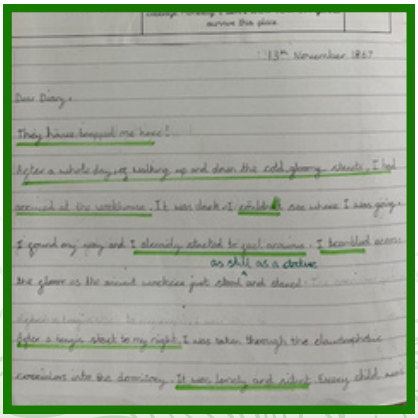
Year Five

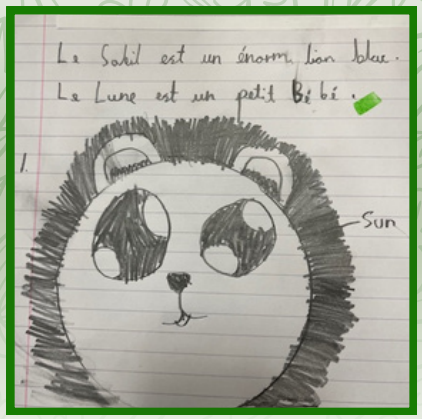
WOODTHORPE NEWSLETTER

What a busy and exciting few weeks we have had in Year 5! In geography, we have been researching The Alps, exploring the countries they pass through and comparing the similarities and differences between Innsbruck and York. In English, we have completed our diary entries as Jim from Street Child, and the children did a fantastic job of capturing the thoughts and feelings of a Victorian child. In French, we have been learning about space and creating metaphors about the Sun and Moon whilst exploring adjective placement. Falcons also enjoyed a PE lesson led by student leaders from Millthorpe School, where the children thrived.
We are very proud of the enthusiasm and effort shown across all areas of learning.




Friday 13th December 1863
Dear Diary,
Today, I've experienced playing HELL ON EARTH!!!


13th November 1867
Dear Diary,


Le Soleil est un énorme lion blanc.
Le Lune est un petit Bébé.
Sun



A special mention...

A special mention to Nancy and Kimberly in Kites who have managed an amazing 76 and 67 reads respectively in this half term alone. A fantastic effort with home reads so far this half term and Mr Wilkinson is seeing more reading records more frequently. Keep them coming in!

A special mention to Levi Simpson for his outstanding athletic performance during our extended PE session run by students from Millthorpe. Whilst he excelled in many of the activities, Levi's long jump was particularly impressive!

Ask us about....

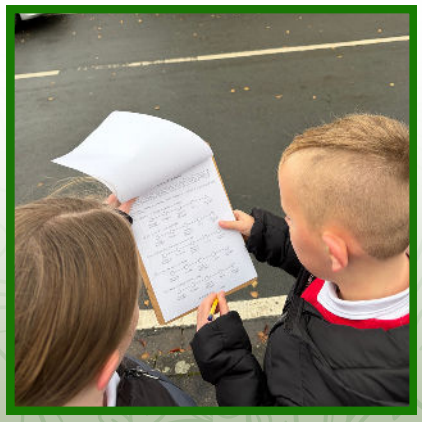
We have delved deep into our research about Innbruck and York. We have researched each place individually then cross checked our research to make comparisons between each location. Ask us about the similarities and dfferences between the areas including modes of transport, vegetation and lesiure activites!

Year Six

WOODTHORPE NEWSLETTER

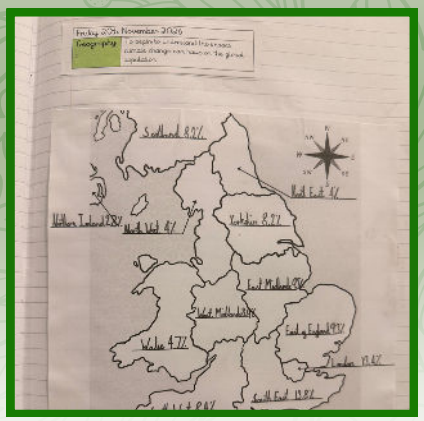
As part of our geography unit this half term, we have completed a field work study within our local area. By gathering evidence using tally charts and likert scales for two different areas, we have studied how population can impact an environment. Interestingly, we concluded that our sparsely populated area was busier, with higher levels of pollution because it was a larger road, with links to the A64 and the city centre. On the other hand, our more densely populated area was actually quieter and less busy due to it being a residential area and most residents being at work.











A special mention...

A special mention to Leo! I have been blown away with the positive mindset and the resilience that you have shown in every single lesson this week. You have continually been seeking out ways to challenge yourself and you have completed some excellent work! Well done, Leo! We are so proud of you!

A special mention to Samuel. I have been really impressed with how you have approached all of your learning with a brilliant can do attitude, really challenging yourself to extend your thinking. You have also been a fantastic role model in your role as Ambassador. Well done Samuel keep it up!

Ask us about....

This week, we have been learning about factors that impact the world's population. We have been able to identify sparsely and densely populated areas, explain changes to populations around the world and we have even completed a fieldwork study relating to the population in our local area. Ask us about it!



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