

THORNGUMBALD NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2026

HEADTEACHER MESSAGE

Welcome back and happy new year to all our families! We hope you had a relaxing and joyful Christmas break and enjoyed some special time together. It has been wonderful to see the children back at school, smiling, settled, and ready to learn. The classrooms are buzzing again, and we've been so impressed by the enthusiasm, effort, and kindness the children are showing every day.

This term has started with lots of fantastic learning. We launched our whole-school handwriting focus, and the progress so far has been brilliant – some truly beautiful work has already been produced, and we are excited to continue developing this throughout the year.

We were also proud to welcome a visit from the Local Authority and the Regional Director from the DfE, who came to see our school in action. They were particularly impressed with how we provide an inclusive education for all children. While our enhanced resource provision supports children with additional needs, the feedback made it clear that our approach benefits every child and reflects our commitment to forward-thinking, high-quality teaching. Simply put, our school is a place where every child can thrive, feel valued, and reach their potential.

Looking ahead, we are excited to celebrate Number Day and Wellbeing Week later this half term – two wonderful opportunities to inspire learning, build confidence, and focus on positive mental health for everyone in our school community.

REQUESTS & REMINDERS

- Please ensure you are bringing reading books back on the required date.
- Year 1 would love to fill their classroom with plants, either real or artificial, and we already have a few. If you have any indoor plants (large, small, or anything in between) that you no longer want, we would be very grateful for any donations.
- We're building a new shed for our Forest School and are looking for donations of pavers to place the shed on. If you have any spare pavers you no longer need, we'd love to give them a new purpose. Any help would be hugely appreciated



FRIENDS OF SCHOOL

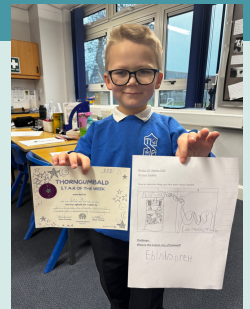
Friends of School had a super busy December with the Christmas fair. Thank you so much to everyone that came and supported, we hope you enjoyed it! We now look forward to 2026. At the start of this year, we have already helped fund lots of Mrs Wilkinson's forest school project which will benefit all children and have now gifted £100 to each classroom to help improve their environment. We're excited to see what the teachers choose to do. If you are wanting to come to our next meeting it's on Thursday 12th March at 6pm at Camerton.

CLASS HIGHLIGHTS FROM DECEMBER/JANUARY



It was lovely to welcome the children back after the Christmas break. In January, we have been learning about the signs of winter and comparing them to autumn. The children have enjoyed exploring in the outdoor area, watching the water turn to ice and watching what happens when you add warm water. On Monday, the children celebrated Australia Day, learning lots of different facts about Australian animals and how Christmas is celebrated in the hotter months!.

Year 1 have been working incredibly hard this month. We have been putting in lots of effort with our new handwriting scheme, and the children are already showing great progress. In geography, we have loved learning all about the United Kingdom and exploring its different features. In maths, the children have been finalising their addition and subtraction unit and are becoming more confident using number lines to support their learning. We have also enjoyed learning about different animals in science and discovering what they eat. Well done, Year 1, for your fantastic enthusiasm and hard work!



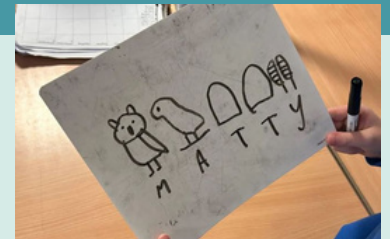
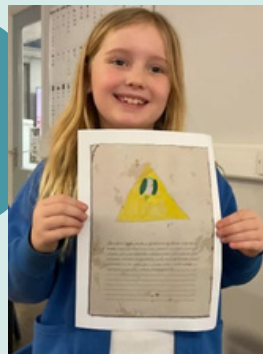
January has been a fantastic start to the new year and term in Year 2. The children have returned to school with positive attitudes and a real enthusiasm for learning, which has been wonderful to see. In maths, we have been focusing on money. Although this can be a tricky concept to grasp, the children have shown great determination and have been trying their very hardest. During reading, we have begun our new class text *Toto the Ninja Cat*, which both the children and I are thoroughly enjoying. We are all excited to find out what happens next! In science, we have started our unit on materials. The children have been exploring different materials and investigating why objects are made from specific materials, showing lots of curiosity and thoughtful discussion. We have also started a new term with golf in PE! The children are really enjoying this and are quickly picking up the skills. This month, the children also took part in Handwriting Day. They all showed exceptional effort and determination in improving their handwriting, and we were very proud of their hard work.

CLASS HIGHLIGHTS FROM DECEMBER/JANUARY



What a fantastic January we have had in Year 3! Having a new teacher partway through the year can sometimes feel unsettling for some children, but they have all settled in so well and have approached this with positivity and resilience. It's been lovely getting to know them and seeing their confidence grow already. In maths, the children have continued to build their understanding of length and perimeter, while in English they have been planning and beginning to write their own clear sets of instructions. In history we have continued to focus on Ancient Egypt, where the children enjoyed exploring hieroglyphics and writing messages using Egyptian symbols. We also celebrated National Handwriting Day with a handwriting competition, showing great care and pride in presentation. Alongside this, Year 3 have been developing their painting skills in art and continuing to practise their multiplication facts daily using their multiplication booklets.

Maisie will be leaving us after half term. She is a lovely member of the class and she will be missed. All of us wish her the best at her new school!



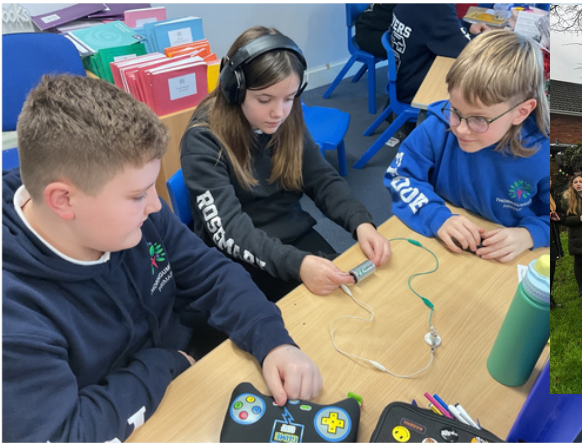
Year 4 have had an incredibly busy and exciting few months! The children have been working extremely hard in Maths, focusing on multiplying and dividing larger numbers. In English, we've been diving into the world of Robin Hood as part of our narrative unit, exploring rich vocabulary and storytelling techniques. The class have really immersed themselves in the tale and shown great interest in traditional stories and characters. In Science, we carried out a range of experiments within our electricity topic, and in Art we explored the vibrant landscape work of David Hockney. Across every subject, the children have shown wonderful enthusiasm and made fantastic progress. Keep up the brilliant work, Year 4!



CLASS HIGHLIGHTS FROM DECEMBER/JANUARY



Year 5 had a truly wonderful December and January and we couldn't be prouder of them. Before Christmas, the children worked incredibly hard on their DT sewing project, creating some fantastic wall hangings and showing real perseverance and creativity. We also had lots of fun celebrating the festive period, especially on the last day when the classroom was filled with games, laughter and some very convincing toilet roll snowmen! 🧑‍🌾 The children returned after the Christmas break in January feeling rested, refreshed and ready to learn, which has been lovely to see. We have been so impressed with their efforts in learning the ukulele with Mrs McKee, as well as the skills they are developing in PE through the rugby sessions with Hull FC and the golf skills taught by Ivan. In class, we are thoroughly enjoying our new Space topic, particularly our class reading book Cosmic, which has sparked some great discussions. In maths, the children have been working hard to conquer long multiplication and are showing real determination and progress. The children have really been trying hard with our handwriting too – last week they all created a beautiful piece of work showcasing our new handwriting style. Keep up the fantastic hard work, Year 5 – we're very proud of you!



Year 6 have had a very busy and successful few months. Before Christmas, the children worked hard to complete a range of learning units and enjoyed plenty of festive fun along the way. They returned in January with a fantastic attitude, ready to make the most of the final few months of their primary school journey. We have since started our new class text Holes, which has already sparked lots of thoughtful discussion, alongside an exciting new topic on crime and punishment that the children are thoroughly enjoying. With SATs now on the horizon, Year 6 are continuing to show great focus, resilience and determination and I am very proud of their positive approach to learning!

DECEMBER & JANUARY STARS OF THE WEEK

Each week, children who demonstrate one of our STAR values—
Safety, Teamwork, Aspiration, or Resilience—receive a special
certificate from their teacher to celebrate their achievement.



EYFS – Seth, Evelyn, Finley, Bonnie & Ezra

Year 1 – Lincoln Archie Ronnie & Leo B

Year 2 – Poppy, Daisy B, Chester, Polly, William, Mia & Ava

Year 3 – Daniel P, Victor B, Fergus, the whole class & Dylan

Year 4 – The whole class, Harry C, Daniel, Jacob & Esmae

Year 5 – Max, Edie, Freya, Freddie, Poppy & Eddie P

Year 6 – Whole Class, Rosemary, Charleen, Reggie, Emily P & Emily S

Stars of the Autumn term



UPCOMING EVENTS IN FEBRUARY

- 6** Number day - celebrating maths & launching arithmagicians
- 9** Mental Health Week
Mindful Maisie Yoga - 13th
- 10** Year 4/5/6 Swimming Gala
- 12** Friends of School Valentines Disco
Letter & Poster coming next week
- 13** Valentines Candy Grams (Year 6 fundraising project - more details TBC)
Final day of half term
- 23** Back to school
- 25** Year 5/6 STEM workshop
- 27** Year 5 Space Workshop

UPCOMING EVENTS IN MARCH

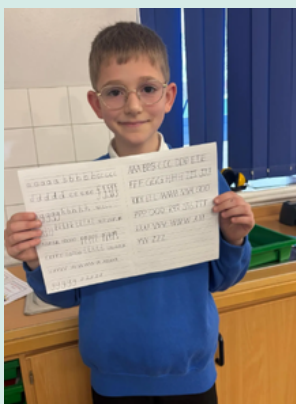
- 2** Year 1 & 2 trip to Acorn Hollow
- 5** World Book Day - details TBC
- 9** Science Week
- 12** Year 5 trip to Humberside Airport
PTA Meeting - 6pm
- 13** Class Photos
- 18**
- 19** Parent's Evening
- 23** Rocksteady concert
Football week
- 26** Year 6 cinema trip
Whole school easter bonnet parade - TBC
- 27** Final day of term

Well done to our trophy winners last term for their hard work in reading, maths, phonics, writing, spelling & sport



AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Tuesday - Golf
Friday - Dodgeball
Sign up on arbor :)



Year 5 designed some incredible wall hangings and Year 6 drew some amazing Pacita Abad inspired masks and also made their own gothic themed houses in DT.

We had such a brilliant day celebrating Handwriting on Friday 23rd. All classes did some excellent work and activities and we look forward to really celebrating it all year.

