



Newsletter

Friday 28th February 2025

Hello,

We hope you had a fantastic half term holiday. It has been a busy start to the half term. The children have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in British Science Week and have had an amazing time learning and exploring. All year groups have learnt about a key scientist and have taken part in a range of experiments. You will be able to see what they have been up to within the class pages.

A quick reminder that World Book Day is coming up on Thursday, 6th March. Please refer to the letter that was previously sent out for more information.

We are all excited to see the signs of spring starting to show around the school grounds, bringing a sense of new beginnings and growth.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend ahead.

Mrs Winston

Class attendance this fortnight

Cygnets	82.81%	Goslings	99.18%
Hummingbirds	90.51%	Kingfishers	96.32%
Finch	93.28%	Robins	99.18%
Magpie	90.80%	Woodpeckers	95.00%
Owl	97.78%	Osprey	97.78%
Kite	96.31%	Falcon	95.47%
Hawk	98.41%	Eagle	97.71%
School Average for this fortnight		94.75%	

Thank you to all families who manage to get their child to school on time every day – it makes such a difference. As a reminder, if your child is absent from school, please call 01904 806464 followed by option 1 to leave a voicemail, report the absence on parent mail or email admin@woodthorpe.elc.org.uk before 9am.



100% attendance parent winners

Last week's winner was the parent of a child in Year 4
This week's winner was the parent of a child in Year 2
Congratulations on winning a £10 Amazon voucher!



Random Acts of Kindness - Random Acts of Kindness Day Challenge!

We have been blown away by our amazing children at Woodthorpe who did some wonderful random acts of kindness to mark this year's Random Acts of Kindness Day in the half term holidays! We have been overwhelmed by the amount of families who have kindly taken the time to email in lots of photos and descriptions to explain what their child/children did. A huge thank you to everyone in our truly fantastic Woodthorpe Community. Please enjoy looking below at just some of the things our children got up to!



Orla and Carys did litter picking whilst on a visit to Dalby Forest.



Mason went on a litter pick to keep the footpath clean around Skiddaw.



Ewan and Eve gave flowers and positive postcards to their neighbours.



Nairah helped clearing up a mess when taking part in arts and crafts.



Beth helped get the house tidy for relatives visiting and made a tasty buffet!



Chiesika and Kachisicho helped to clean up the Church hall after tea and coffee.



Jack has baked cakes for a neighbour and also enjoyed taking them out for lunch too!



Kelia was a super helper tidying up when visiting William's Den, she even got a sticker!



Lily independently made a cake for her Mum and Dad for their wedding anniversary.



Layla has been super busy helping with lots of jobs in the house whilst dancing to music.



Freddie collected litter on Saltburn beach.



FRIDAY 21 MARCH

Comic Relief 2025!

For this year's Red Nose Day, we will be selling Red Noses at our School Book Fair on Wednesday 12th March, Thursday 13th March, Friday 14th March and Monday 17th March in the KS1 hall before school (8:25-8:40am) and after school (3:20-3:45pm) should you wish to purchase one. Red noses are £2 each and will be cash payments only.

On Red Nose Day, Friday 21st March, children are welcome to wear their red nose in school with their school uniform.

Random Acts of Kindness

We are delighted to share in our newsletter so many random acts of kindness that took place over half term on Random Acts of Kindness Day. Not only that, but before we broke up for our holiday it was wonderful to hear from a child in school about another child in their class who had been exceptionally kind.

Charlie in Year 5 has been very kind recently. On his class swimming day, he noticed another child had forgotten their coat, and without any hesitation, Charlie offered his second coat for the child to borrow. It was super to hear of this act of kindness. Well done Charlie! In addition to this, it was fantastic to see children nominating their peers too!

Despite Random Acts of Kindness Day now being complete this year, we still want to hear from our Woodthorpe community about how kind children at Woodthorpe are! We really enjoy celebrating this in our fortnightly newsletter.

We want to hear from families, from school staff and from children about how exceptionally kind we can be. 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.

We are looking forward to seeing which random act of kindness will feature in our next newsletter!

NURSERY

New busy fingers resources

Ducklings have loved exploring some new resources in nursery - large pegs and pegboards! We have been busy using our fingers to make lots of different pegboard patterns. Some of us have enjoyed copying patterns, whilst others have even enjoyed making up our own! We have got our fingers busy by pushing the pegs in and pulling them out!



STEM week

Nursery have loved taking part in the whole school STEM week! We have been thinking about what science is and loved talking about what scientists do. As part of our learning we have learnt about the famous scientist/inventor Alexander Graham Bell, this inspire us to make our own string telephones! We have also had so much fun making our own giant bubble mixture!



Shout outs - Ducklings

A big shout out to Oisin. Oisin is a fantastic role model in Ducklings. During our carpet sessions, he listens carefully and shares many of his super ideas. Not only that, but in play Oisin is fantastic at getting busy in the areas and is amazing at tidying up! Well done Oisin!

Ask us about...

Alexander Graham Bell
Who was he? What did he do?

RECEPTION

STEM Week

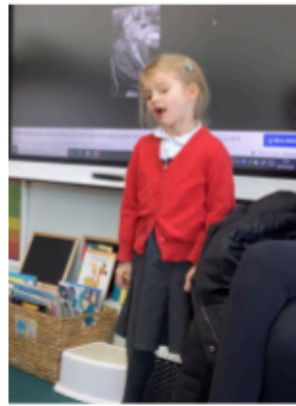
As part of our STEM week, we have been taking part in different experiments with the focus of 'change and adapt'.

We started our week by making our own slime using cornflour and water before moving onto our final two experiments: 'fizzy colours' and 'rainbow paper'. The children had lots of fun doing the different experiments and seeing how things changed!



Oracy - Speaking like a Scientist

As part of our oracy work this week we have been learning how to 'Speak like a Scientist'. The children carried out an experiment and then presented what they did and what they found out. They were brilliant at using scientific words and explaining what they did in order.



Painting Spring Flowers

This week, we have been looking at the different seasons and how the weather might change between the various seasons. In our painting area, we explored painting different spring flowers using watercolour paints.



Shout outs - Gosling

Violet - For your fantastic writing this week. I loved the fabulous book that you made about animals which included some lovely pictures! Well done Violet!

Alexander - For making super progress with your reading! You are reading really fluently now and you know lots of tricky words. Well done Alexander!

Shout outs - Cygnets

Jemima- For your wonderful writing this week. Jemima you remembered all your phonic sounds, finger spaces and full stops and I am so proud of you.

Stanley- For being the most enthusiastic scientist during our Science week. We have loved your ideas during our class discussions and you even made your own crystals at home during half term.

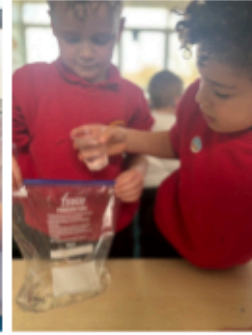
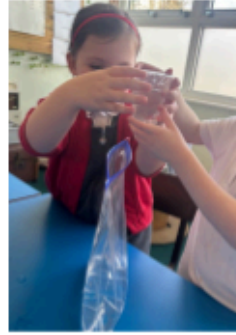
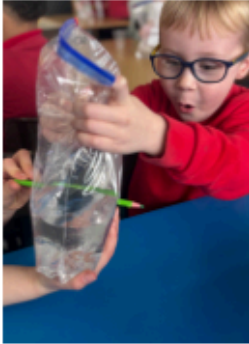
Ask us about...

This week, we have been learning about the different seasons. What season is now and what will it be next?

Year 1

Science - Experiments

As part of British Science Week, we conducted the "Magic Pencil" experiment which proves polymers in a ziplock bag can seal a hole when a pencil is pushed through! The polymers instantly close around the hole, preventing water from leaking. ✨



Science - Chimpanzee habitats

This week, we extended our learning on Jane Goodall by exploring chimpanzee habitats! The children recreated their own chimp habitats, making sure to match them to the correct environment. We are so proud of their creativity and understanding!



Science - Experiments

Another experiment that we conducted this week was 'Rainbow Skittles'. We loved watching the skittles change as the sugar dissolved and the colours diffused to make some beautiful rainbow patterns!



Shout outs - Hummingbird

Finley - For your fantastic independent write in English. You blew us away with your super sentences, wonderful spelling and beautiful handwriting. Keep up the amazing work - well done!

Ezmae - Thank you for being such a model pupil all the time. Your behaviour and attitude to learning is impeccable and you are so kind, caring and polite. You are such an asset to Hummingbird class, well done!

Shout outs - Kingfisher

Ariana - Wow! I'm absolutely blown away by your dedication and love for reading over the holidays! Your commitment to exploring new books is truly inspiring. Keep up the fantastic work! 📚

Myla - You have such beautiful manners and always offer kind comments to others! You're an excellent role model showing kindness and respect every day. Keep shining and setting such a wonderful example! ✨

Ask us about...

As part of British Science Week, we have been learning all about Jane Goodall! Ask us what inspired her to become a scientist and what her favourite teddy was?

Year 2

STEM Week - Walking Water

We were so lucky in Year 2 to have a whole afternoon to complete different scientific experiments! One of these fun experiments was called 'Walking Water.' We set up the experiment with different cups, water, kitchen roll, and food colouring! It was amazing to see the water travel! The water moves up the paper towels through a process called capillary action. The paper towel is made from fibers and the water is able to travel through the gaps in the fibers. The gaps in the paper towel act like capillary tubes and pull the water upward. This is what helps water climb from a plant's roots to the leaves at the top of the plant or tree.



Forest School - Finding minibeasts

This half term, Year 2 has the wonderful opportunity to explore our forest school with Mrs. Banham and enhance our knowledge of the outdoor world. This week, we applied our science knowledge of minibeasts and ventured into the forest to search for them as well as make them using our bodies. We discovered slugs, woodlice, millipedes, and more!



STEM Week - Alan Turing Research!

We started our science STEM week by completing a profile on our Chromebook on Alan Turing. After learning all about Alan, we worked in teams to complete a slideshow including important details about his early life, education, and discoveries. We were fascinated to learn how Alan cracked the Enigma code! He invented an incredible new machine called the Bombe. In total, 211 of these machines were made, and they were vital in helping codebreakers crack the Enigma code. It's estimated that the codebreakers' efforts saved many thousands of lives!



Shout outs - Robin

Noah - A big shout out to Noah and his wonderful writing he has been producing over the last few weeks! It is always such a delight to read your books as you include brilliant punctuation and imaginative ideas! Well done Noah!

Shout outs - Finch

Raeya - A huge well done to Raeya, who has already completed gold on our reading chart! A huge thank you for all the incredible reading you complete at home! It is evident how much you adore reading, and it is a delight for you to share your passion for reading with the rest of the class.

Ask us about...

As part of our science STEM week, we have learned all about Alan Turing! Alan was a British mathematician. He made major contributions to the fields of mathematics, computer science, and artificial intelligence. Ask us how Alan cracked the Enigma code...

Year 3

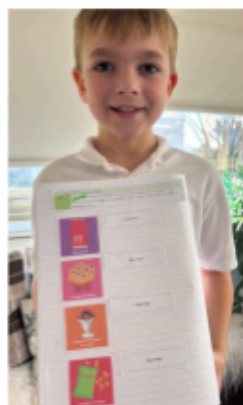
Science Week

This week, as part of science week, we conducted different experiments in a carousel across year 3 and 4. We loved all the different tests we completed, especially making and eating yummy ice cream! We have also been researching and presenting our chosen scientist: Mary Anning.



PSHE - Sugar challenge!

Magpie class have enjoyed learning about healthy eating in PSHE this week. In this lesson, we had to match different foods to the amount of sugar they contain. We couldn't believe how much sugar some of our favourite treats have!



Shout outs - Magpie

Ina - Well done for your amazing maths work this week! It has been lovely to see your confidence grow and you have been doing amazing in maths group! Keep up the great work!

Amelia - Well done for challenging yourself in guided reading this week! You thought carefully about your answers and you completed our go for gold challenge! We are so proud of you!

PSHE - Being fit and healthy

In PSHE this week, we have started our new topic 'Healthy Me'. We have learnt about 'Our body in balance' We have learnt that our bodies need energy to work, grow and exercise; and that energy comes from food and drink.



Shout outs - Woodpecker

Reuben - for your amazing work in Science Week. You have blown us away with your confidence when visiting other classrooms for our carousel of activities! Well done - we were so proud of you!

Oceanna - for always being so kind and caring and being such a wonderful friend. You are an absolute pleasure to have in the classroom and we always love to hear what you have to say. Thank you for your constant hard work, well done!

Ask us about...

We have been learning all about adapt and change for Science Week. We have done lots of research on Mary Anning - why don't you ask us all about her?

Year 4

PSHE - Silly potato competition

In PSHE, we worked in groups to create the funniest potato! There were some incredible entries into the competition and it was very tricky to pick a winner! We needed to use our teamwork and communication skills.



Science - experiment carousel

As part of STEM week, we took part in a range of science experiments.



Art - Still life composition

In Art, we have been using tints and shades to create light and dark effects in our still life compositions.



Shout outs - Owl

Matthew - I have been really proud of how much you have grown in independence since returning from half term. You are beginning to show more resilience and your desire to challenge yourself is progressing. Keep up the hard work!

Shout outs - Osprey

Joel - You have really impressed me this week with your kindness and enthusiasm in lessons. You showed great tennis knowledge in PE by always getting back into a 'ready position' after each catch.

Ask us about...

It's STEM week! We have been involved in lots of different science experiments based on the theme 'change and adapt' and learnt about the scientist Mae Jemison. Ask us about her.

Year 5

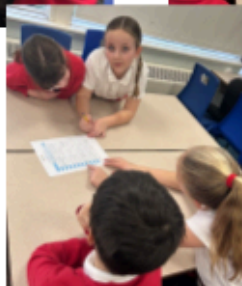
STEM Science week- change and adapt

Year 5 have thoroughly enjoyed learning about different changes in our world through a range of different science activities: we have learnt about the physician Brian Cox, designed and created parachutes for eggs, made volcanoes erupt and discovered the results of different chemical reactions!



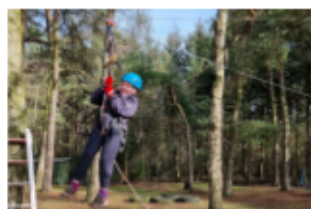
PSHE- Healthy Me

To begin our new PSHE topic, year have been testing their knowledge about smoking statistics in the UK. We were shocked at what we discovered.



Peat Rigg - An outdoor adventure!

A selection of our year 5 pupils had a wonderful time pushing themselves to their limits and participating in a range of adrenaline-fueled activities at Peat Rigg! Their independence, resilience and sense of adventure was incredible - we were so proud of you all!



Shout outs - Kites

Sofia- it has been great to see you sharing your brilliant ideas in class this week, you have really shone. Thank you also for always been a wonderful role model to others in our school- keep it up!

Shout outs - Falcons

Lilly - For your outstanding dedication to the half term reading challenge! Your recent efforts have seen your reading age improve by over a year this term! Super job Lilly - keep it up! ★

Ask us about...

- How might samsara be defined?
- In Dharmic religions, how is karma believed to affect a person's next life?
 - How might a person gain positive karma?

Year 6

Peat Rigg

Before half term, some of Year 6 embarked on a 3-day residential to Peat Rigg. Whilst there, we took on some epic challenges: canoeing, orienteering, archery and caving (to name a few)! Each and every one of us achieved many goals and showed some outstanding teamwork and perseverance along the way- here are some of our highlights.



STEM Week- Alexander Fleming

This week, Year 6 explored 'change and adapt' in STEM week by researching an influential scientist and investigating antibiotics. Using bread, we observed how mould develops over time, deepening our understanding of microorganisms.



STEM Week- Carousel Investigations:

As part of STEM week, we also carouselled between four different classrooms, taking part in hands-on investigations. From erupting baking soda volcanoes and experimenting with oobleck to making plastic from milk and testing egg parachutes, it was a week full of discovery, curiosity and fun.



Shout outs - Eagle

A huge shout out to Harry! You made me so incredibly proud with how much you challenged yourself on our residential. It was really clear that you were pushing yourself outside of your comfort zone and you truly gave everything a go! Well done, Harry!

Shout outs - Hawk

A huge shout out to Alfie this week - you have been so motivated during lessons and demonstrated excellent oracy when sharing your ideas in science lessons. Well done to you!

Ask us about...

This week, we have been taking part in a variety of different investigations as part of STEM week. We've been learning about World War II. Did you know that Alexander Fleming accidentally discovered the world's first antibiotic when he noticed that a mould (*Penicillium Notatum*) was killing bacteria in one of his petri dishes? Ask us about it!

Diary Dates

Mon 3rd March	Chicks in School
Wed 5th March	Year 4 Pedestrian Training
Tue 11th March	Whole class school photos
Wed 12th - 17th March	Book Fair in the KS1 Hall
Thurs 20th March	Year 4 Trip to Howsham Mill
Fri 21st March	Comic Relief Day
Thurs 27th March	Year 2 Trip to Yorkshire Air Museum

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) **£4.20/session £3.15/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) **£9.00/session £7.50/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 pop into the office and ask for our wraparound care administrator, Caroline Young.

Childminders

Within our local area there are 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.

Support Via the Pupil Premium

Given the difficult times and changes to people's circumstances. 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

Digital Parenting

As a school, we are always keen to promote online safety and would like to share [this useful website](#) – where you can access the latest copy of the Digital Parenting magazine and many other additional resources regarding internet safety. For further information support and copies of our own Woodthorpe digital newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact our school office.

Fortnite

As many children enjoy playing Fortnite, it's important to remember that online safety risks are always present. Please encourage your child to be mindful of their interactions and share any concerns with you. Remind them about the importance of respecting others online and keeping personal information private. Together, we can help ensure a safe and positive gaming experience for everyone. Thank you for your continued support!

If you wish to discuss any online safety issues or questions further, please do not hesitate in contacting Miss Bedda via the school office.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about FORTNITE

AGE RESTRICTIONS
PEGI 12

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?
Fortnite was launched back in 2017, but it remains massively popular – with more than 650 million active players. That's partially due to the competitive nature of its player-vs-player combat, its pop culture crossovers and its constantly shifting map. Significant updates are rolled out with each new version of the game – known as 'chapters' – and within these sit shorter 'seasons'.

ALWAYS ONLINE
There's no single-player offline mode in Fortnite. It can only be played online. Internet access can sometimes be an issue when you're out and about (both in terms of connectivity and using up data), so you may find that dedicated young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about trips away – such as days out and holidays – than you might expect.

CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT
Fortnite is popular with many gamers of various ages. 'Crossplay' lets friends play with each other, regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo Switch or PC – while the 'party chat' feature allows them to talk to each other during the game. This can, however, put youngsters at risk of hearing inappropriate language from older players in the heat of virtual combat.

IN-GAME COSTS
Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – cosmetic skins, music tracks and LEGO items – which don't really impact on gameplay but can cost a significant amount. These items are bought with in-game currency, V-Bucks – earned through completing the Battle Pass (which also costs V-Bucks) and can also be purchased from the game's store for real money.

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE
At its core, there's no avoiding that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them from the contest. That said, there's no blood or gore. The violence is rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent comical touches to lighten the mood, such as fishing mini-games and dancing emotes. Machine guns, shotguns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, however, so discretion is advised.

POP CULTURE REFERENCES
Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from movies and TV shows like Family Guy and Avatar: The Last Airbender to comic book characters including Batman to other games such as Street Fighter. This means you could have children asking questions about the monster from Alien or Desert from The Witcher a little sooner than you otherwise might have.

FREQUENT UPDATES
The game's developers release content in 'seasons' that usually run for around ten weeks. Each fresh update sees items added to the in-game store, changes to the environment's map and a different over-arching theme (such as 'medieval', 'pirates' or 'party'). These regular renewals help to hold players' interest – but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep coming back.

Advice for Parents & Educators

MATCH GAMING TIMES
Younger players tend to play Fortnite with their friends. With that in mind, it could be worth speaking to the parents and carers of a child's social group and coordinating their gaming around certain times of day. Safety in numbers is obviously a factor here, but it will also help children feel that they're getting adequate opportunities to socialise with their friends online.

SET SPENDING LIMITS
Fortnite's rotating store is a nifty – subtle mechanism for coaxing players into buying sought-after items before they disappear for weeks or months. This could lead to surprise transactions on bank cards if children are tempted into an impulse purchase. Parents could consider getting a prepaid card for the child or ensuring that purchases require adult authorisation. This can be done through parental settings on a console or account settings in the Epic Games app on PC.

USE UPDATES AS REWARDS
Fortnite's seasonal updates are free, but each also brings the option of a 'battle pass', unlocking exclusive rewards for playing the game and completing set challenges. The passes cost around £8 and are also available as part of larger bundles. The purchase of passes can be an effective reward to young Fortnite fans for good behaviour or academic performance, or as an incentive for completing chores like tidying their room.

BE WARY OF SCAMS
The immense popularity of Fortnite with younger audiences – that are generally more trusting – means there's no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite's loading screens, they never ask for a player's account password outside of the game, make sure any young player knows this.

ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER
Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously on the same console or computer. This can be a good option for siblings or for when a child's friends visit, but it also offers an opportunity for parents and carers to do something fun with their child, while also making sure they're playing the game safely. Who knows? You might even teach them a thing or two!

Meet Our Expert
Lloyd Coombes is editor in chief of gaming and esports site @dilexan and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A long-time gamer, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College