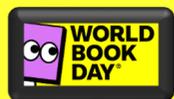


# Monthly Newsletter



## March 2026



Dear Parents and Carers, a very warm welcome to the third newsletter of 2026. I would like to start this newsletter by thanking all our parents and carers who supported our school during our recent Ofsted Inspection (Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2026 to Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2026). We will share the report very soon. The inspectors mentioned the many wonderful things you said about our school.



### SO MUCH IS HAPPENING!

This newsletter contains lots of information about the very exciting events we have next half-term.

### FAREWELL TO OUR WONDERFUL DEPUTY HEAD

This term, we say a heartfelt goodbye to our Deputy Head, Mrs. Kashouris, who will be leaving us to begin an exciting new chapter.

Mrs. Kashouris has always been hardworking and utterly dedicated, she has always gone above and beyond for our children, families and staff. Whether arriving early, staying late, or quietly working behind the scenes, her commitment to our school community has never wavered.

As our Safeguarding Lead, she has carried one of the most important responsibilities in school with unwavering professionalism and compassion. She has always ensured that children are safe, listened to and cared for. Her knowledge, vigilance and integrity have made a profound difference to countless families, often in ways that will never be fully seen but will always be deeply valued.

She is known by pupils for her patience and understanding. She takes the time to listen, to reassure and to guide. She leads not only with expertise, but with heart.

While we are incredibly sad to see her go, we are also so grateful for everything she has given to our school.

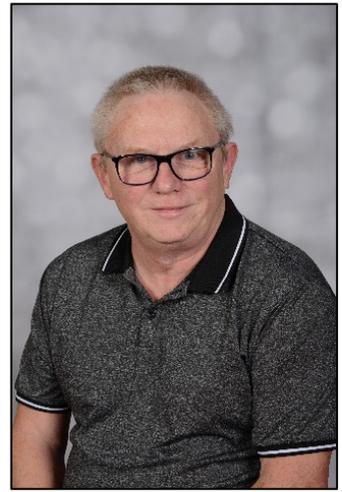
On behalf of the entire school community, we thank her for her dedication, her care and her friendship. We wish her every happiness and success in the future - she will always be part of our school family and a Throstie.



## CELEBRATING 22 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE

This term, we say a very special - and very emotional - farewell to our wonderful Caretaker and Site Supervisor as he retires after an incredible 22 years of service to our school.

For more than two decades, he has been the steady, reliable presence behind the scenes, ensuring our school is safe, secure and maintained. From fixing leaking taps, repairing furniture to responding to the inevitable "emergencies" that come with busy school life, there is seemingly nothing he couldn't calmly deal with.



His commitment has gone far beyond the school day. As our residential caretaker for many years, living in the school bungalow, he was never truly "off duty." Whether it was locking up late after an event, responding to alarms, or checking the site during the holidays, he has always put the school first.

His dedication during school holidays - when many of the biggest jobs take place - has ensured that staff and pupils return each term to a safe and welcoming environment.

Over the years, he has overseen projects that have transformed our school site. From the development of our school hall corridor, to the creation of the outdoor multi-games area, and early years refurbishment, his practical knowledge and careful supervision have been invaluable.

But beyond the tools, projects and repairs, it is his character that we will miss most. He is hugely popular with staff and pupils alike - always ready with a joke or a funny comment.

His retirement marks a great loss for our school community. It is hard to imagine the school without him, but we know he leaves with the gratitude and appreciation of us all.

On behalf of the entire school community, we thank him for 22 years of tireless dedication, loyalty and care. We wish him a long, happy and well-earned retirement - though we suspect he won't be able to resist fixing things at home! Thank you Mr. Sowerby 😊

After Mr. Sowerby's retirement, we will be employing caretakers from High Tunstall via a Service Level Agreement.

## NEW FACE

A very warm welcome to Alena Dickinson who has recently joined our Nursery. We hope she is enjoying school and adapting to daily life as a Throstie.

## GOODBYE

Last month we said goodbye to Georgie Malton (Class 2, Reception), as he joined a school nearer to home. Please keep in touch. We miss you!

## DATES

You can now access our 2025 to 2026 and 2026 to 2027 annual school calendars via this link: <https://www.throston.school.org.uk/page/?title=Annual+School+Calendar&pid=187&action=saved>

## WHAT HAPPENED LAST MONTH?

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2026:** In assembly we talked about Online Safety ahead of Internet Safety Day (Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026). We reminded children to BLOCK, ZIP and FLAG as shown by our bespoke Throstie. We also talked about the benefits and dangers of A.I. Please remember parents and carers can help too, by ensuring children **DO NOT** have access to any social media sites designed for teenagers and above.

AGE RESTRICTIONS ON MAIN UK SOCIAL MEDIA SITES	
 Facebook	13+
 Instagram	13+
 Snapchat	13+
 TikTok	13+
 YouTube	13+
 WhatsApp	16+

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026:** Well done to our basketball team, that represented the school so well in a local festival at Hartlepool 6<sup>th</sup> Form College. You were all a credit to the school.

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026:** Well done to our children, who made everyone so proud during a mock invacuation. All the children were very sensible, orderly and quiet during the test lockdown.



**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026:** In assembly, we talked about belonging (<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>). We mentioned how children can help other children feel they belong. Throston's Top Tips:

- 'If we see someone left out we can ask them to play.'
- 'We can be kind.'
- 'We can ask children how they are and if they are okay.'
- 'We can make sure everyone has friends and feels included.'

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026:** Year 5 participated in a coding workshop at Cummins Darlington. Learning skills for our digital age.

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026:** The Northeast Ambulance Service provided a crucial workshop on CPR for Year 6. The children learned crucial new skills in an enjoyable way. Thank you to Mr. McMorris for organising.

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026:** The school kitchen got into the Valentine's Day mood!



**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026:** Times Tables Rocks Superstars. The top four children in each year group (Year 2 to Year 6) received a book and sweets for their amazing times-tables skills during the NSPCC Rocks competition on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026. Well done! Thank you to Mrs. Ord for co-ordinating.

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026:** Our JAPP children enjoyed fitness opportunities at Hartlepool 6<sup>th</sup> Form College

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026:** Thank you to everyone who attended our Year 6 SAT's and Residential meeting. Related documents were uploaded to ClassDojo.



Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2026: Year 5 rehearsed for their forthcoming drama show based on the Shakespearean classic - Macbeth.



Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026: Thank you to everyone who brought chocolate donations, on our 'Free Choice Friday'. The chocolate will be used to support our P.T.A Easter activities and Easter raffle.

## GREAT NEWS

We are delighted to let you know that following the 'Tesco Stronger Starts Vote' we came second and will receive a grant award of £1,000.00 towards our After School Club. Voting was held at Tesco stores between 1<sup>st</sup> October 2025 and the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026. Thank you to everyone who dropped a blue token!

## CHRISTMAS SHOWS

You can now view the Christmas Shows from last term via this link: <https://throston-primary-school.primarysite.media/playlist/christmas-shows-2025>

## EASTER REQUEST

Once again the Winwood Family are collecting Easter Eggs for the R.V.I Children's Cancer Ward in Newcastle. If you have any donations please pass them to the school office. Thank you!

## BADGES

Below is a quick reminder as to how we award handwriting badges in school.

# HANDWRITING TARGETS

**Green** I can form letters in my first name correctly.

**Copper** I can form all letters in the correct direction.

**Bronze** I can form all lower case letters correctly in relation to the line. I can use spacing between words consistently.

**Silver** I can form all lower case, capital letters and digits of the correct size, orientation and relationship to one another. I can use spacing between words that reflects the size of the letters.

**Gold** I can use diagonal and horizontal strokes to join most letters.

**Handwriting Champion** I use diagonal and horizontal strokes to join consistently.

**Ultimate Handwriting Champion** All previous targets plus I write with a consistent slant/slope, I can write an appropriate speed, maintaining legibility, consistency and fluency.

Handwriting samples include: 'daisy Alq', 'I went swimming and watched the colofatia', '1. First, you need to put your compost into the pot. 2. Next, poke your seed into the compost.', 'Stick insect. The big stick insect is camouflaging into the trees. It has big long legs. The Caterpillar walks past the stick insect and looks at him with his big eyes.', 'Down by the mountains was an island named Danger Drops. Nobody was allowed on the new island because it was a dragon's land only!', 'Dear diary. Today started like any other day. The sun was shining brightly, the birds were singing beautifully like always. However, I felt like something wasn't right.', 'If I get the pig transplant I would live longer and the doctor will have more time to research for a human transplant. I think about all the stuff I could do with the pig heart, I could do the gardening, dive, play football, type rap songs.'

## WELL DONE

Please find below details of how our houses are doing in relation to weekly Dojo points.

Week Commencing	Winners
05/01/2026	Pegasus (640)
12/01/2026	Sphinx (633)
19/01/2026	Dragon (551)
26/01/2026	Dragon (503)
02/02/2026	Dragon (622)
09/02/2026	Sphinx (464)

## UPCOMING KEY EVENTS

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026:** Children break up for spring half-term.

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026:** Children return to school after spring half-term.

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026:** Police Drop-in (5.00pm to 6.00pm) in the school library.  
Opportunity to discuss issues in the community.

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026:** Nurse Led Workshop for Year 6 on Emotional Well-being and Transition (1.30pm to 3.00pm).

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026:** World Book Day 2026 (<https://www.worldbookday.com/>). We are excited to launch our "Story in a Box" competition for World Book Day 2026! We have set the children a challenge to create a miniature scene inside a box that represents a story.

**What Children Need to Do:**

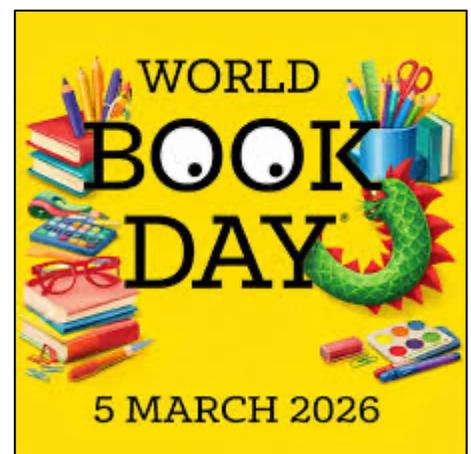
**Step 1:** Choose a favourite book or story.

**Step 2:** Create a scene from the story inside a box (a shoe box or another box of a similar size can be used).

**Step 3:** The children need to decorate the inside to show characters, settings, or important events from the story. Children can draw or paint the background, add small models or toys, use craft materials (paper, fabric, recycled items) and label characters or key parts.

**Step 4:** The children need to include their name, class, and the book title on the bottom of the box.

**Step 5:** Children can bring in their entries from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026 until Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026 (9.00am prompt).



There will be a winner in every class (two for Nursery). The winners will receive a £10 book voucher. We cannot wait to see what the children will create.

On the day, the children can also dress up as their favourite book characters or wear pyjamas. There will be additional 'book related' prizes for the best costumes. Costumes do not need to be expensive or complicated - simple, homemade ideas are absolutely welcome. A favourite book brought in to share alongside the costume would make it even more special.

Throughout the day, children will take part in exciting reading activities, share stories together and celebrate the power of books to inspire, comfort and entertain us. We look forward to seeing our school filled with fantastic characters and celebrating our shared love of reading!

During World Book Day Week, Mrs. Feroz will also be running her popular Scholastic Book Fair. Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026 to Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026 (3.15pm to 4.30pm in the school corridor).

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2026:** Upper Key Stage 2 Boys Football Cup Competition at Grayfields (morning).

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2026:** Deadline for Year 6 Data Forms, and Parent/Pupil Voice (12.00pm).

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026:** Audiology Check for Reception.

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026:** Ward Surgery (7.00pm).

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2026:** Sea Shanty Day 2026 (this event was originally planned for Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026).

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2026 to Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026:** Neurodiversity Celebration Week.

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2026:** Key Stage 1 Snappy Spring Music Event at Thornaby Pavilion (1.00pm to 2.30pm).

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026:** Class 12, Year 5 Macbeth Festival (3.00pm).

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2026:** Red Nose Day 2026. Children can attend school in non-uniform, wear something red or wear Comic Relief linked clothing and bring a donation for the charity. On this day we will also be having our annual joke competition. Two children from each class (four from Nursery) will tell their jokes to be crowned the funniest in school.



## Previous Joke Competition Winners:

2017: Shay Turnbull: "How does the sea say hello?" - "it waves".

2018: Amy Howlett: "Why do ducks have feathers?" - "To cover their butt-quack".

2019: Phoebe Hilder: "A snowman is asked why he is in the carrot freezer aisle; he replies he is picking his nose".

2020: Just very bad teacher jokes, due to COVID-19: [#Team Throston Bad Jokes April 2020 | Throston Primary School](#)

2021: Abigail Moreton: "So there's this kid named Cal, and he's a bit of a thug. He often breaks into people's homes just for fun. One thing he loves to do in people's homes is to absolutely destroy their washing machines. He will destroy them until they are broken so they are completely beyond use. Recently Cal passed away, which is sad news, but now washing machines live longer with Cal gone!"

2022: Emilia Hamilton-Bowen: "What do you call a cave man's fart?" - "A Blast from the Past".

2023: Albert Draper: "Have you heard the joke about the pizza?" - "It doesn't matter; it is too cheesy".

2024: Ella Wright: "What do you call a man with no knickers?" - Nicholas (knicker less).

2025 Early Years Winner: Kaden Northey. His joke was a variation of the 'why did the chicken cross the road' joke - complete with chicken sounds!

2025: Isaac Lowes: "What do you call a dinosaur who sits in bed and does nothing all day?" - 'A Lazysnorus'.

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026:** Year 5 and Year 6 Boys Football Festival in Darlington.

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2026:** Special 'Open the Book' Easter Assembly (9.15am).

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026:** Our annual Easter Parade (9.30am). For the Easter Parade children are encouraged to make a bonnet or scarecrow at home and bring it into school. There will be chocolate prizes for the best entries. Children in Nursery who do not attend on a Wednesday morning will have their parade recorded and shown on the big screen on this day.

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2026:** The school closes for the Easter holidays.



**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026 to Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2026: Year 6 Easter SATs School (9.00am to 2.00pm).**

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2026: National Primary Offer Day 2026.**

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## **SUMMER TERM**

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026: School reopens after the Easter holidays.**

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2026: Benedetti Foundation Key Stage 2 Assembly Music Workshop (singing and percussion), 1.30pm to 2.30pm.**

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2026: Year 1 at Preston Park.**

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026 to Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2026: Year 6 SATs Week.**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Monday 11 May 2026	English grammar, punctuation and spelling Papers 1 and 2
Tuesday 12 May 2026	English reading
Wednesday 13 May 2026	Mathematics Papers 1 and 2
Thursday 14 May 2026	Mathematics Paper 3

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2026 to Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2026: Year 6 Residential to Newby Wiske.**

## **HARTLEPOOL CARERS**

Key Dates when Hartlepool Carers will be attending the school to host our 'Community Connect' Event (2.30pm to 3.30pm) on: Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026, Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026, Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2026, Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2026 and Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2026.

## **% ATTENDANCE SUMMARY: 01/09/2025 to 13/02/2026**

Well done to Class 6, who currently have the highest attendance in the school since September 2025, namely 97%, closed followed by Class 3, Class 5, Class 7, Class 11 and Class 13 with 96%.



## **YOUR COMMENTS**

If you have any comments on this newsletter or any aspect of school life, please do not hesitate to contact me. Kindest regards, Mr. Atkinson, Head Teacher.