

Monthly Newsletter

April 2026



Dear Parents and Carers, a very warm welcome to the fourth newsletter of 2026. This newsletter contains news relating to our recent Ofsted Inspection, a recap on last month and plans for the weeks ahead!

OFSTED INSPECTION 2026

We are delighted to share the outcome of our recent Ofsted inspection and to celebrate the many successes highlighted in the report. Never have we had so many positive statements! The inspection recognised the strong quality of education, the positive attitudes of our pupils, and the dedication of our staff team. We are incredibly proud of how well the school performed and the many strengths that were acknowledged.



We would like to give special recognition to our children (our Throstities), who played a huge part in the success of the inspection. Inspectors commented on their excellent behaviour, enthusiasm for learning, and the way they spoke confidently and respectfully about their experiences in school. Our children were wonderful ambassadors for the school, demonstrating the values we are so proud of every day.

Thank you for your continued support, which plays an important role in helping our school community thrive. You can read highlights from the report below and access the full report via: <https://www.throston.school.org.uk/page/?title=Ofsted+Reports&pid=22>.

Please note the school report will not be published on the official Ofsted website until April 2026. Ofsted always likes parents and carers to read the report first. Once published you will be able to use a QR Code to access the report.



Read our report ↗

What Ofsted says about our grades: "The 'expected standard' is just that - it means the school is doing everything that it should be doing. **It's a high standard**, to make sure your children are receiving everything they need and deserve".



Some of our wonderful Ofsted Quotes:

Pupils

- Being a pupil at this school means learning in a safe, caring, and ambitious community.
- Pupils achieve well and make valuable memories for their future.
- Pupils enjoy rewards and leadership roles.
- Pupils enjoy their lessons and take pride in doing well.
- Pupils help the community in many ways.
- Pupils comfort their friends if they have any worries.

Families & Attendance

- The school works well with families.
- Families value the school's open and practical support.
- Attendance is above national figures and has remained high over time.
- Visitors to the school experience this warm and welcoming ethos.

Behaviour

- Behaviour across the school is calm and respectful.
- Bullying is rare, and teachers address it when it occurs.
- Pupils behave well and concentrate in lessons.

Early Years

- Children in the early years feel safe, settled and ready to learn.
- Staff build warm relationships and support children's emotional and social development well.
- The early years team creates an organised and inviting learning environment.

Staff and Inclusion

- Staff build warm, trusting relationships and listen with attention to pupils.
- Teachers provide consistent support to pupils with additional needs.
- Staff know pupils well. They use information from lessons to check who needs extra help.
- Staff apply rules fairly and give effective support to pupils with SEND.
- The school is well respected for its caring and skilled support for pupils with additional needs.
- The 'Phoenix Room' is a quiet, welcoming space where bespoke support and intervention sessions take place.

Curriculum and Leaders

- Clear teaching and careful curriculum design have a positive impact on how well pupils learn.
- Leaders have planned a clear and deliberate curriculum that helps pupils learn step by step from Nursery Year to Year 6.
- Leaders continue to focus on improving progress and outcomes for all pupils.
- Leaders place inclusion at the heart of the school's work. All pupils are welcome.
- Leaders have built effective systems to support pupils in their 'Throston journey'. Pupils are known and cared for.
- Leaders show thoughtful care for pupils and put them first in their work.
- Leaders model care, compassion, and respect.
- Leaders put pupils' personal growth and wellbeing at the centre of school life.
- Leaders and governors act in pupils' best interests.
- Governors have a skill set that matches the school's needs.

NEW FACES

A very warm welcome to Elizabeth Allison, Bobby Appleby and Alice Whittingham who have recently joined our Nursery. We hope they are enjoying school and adapting to daily life as Throsties.

GOODBYE

Last month we said goodbye to Leo Hayes (Class 9, Year 4), as he joined another school in the town. 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?

Friday 20th February 2026: On behalf of the school I just wanted to say a HUGE thank you for the MOUNTAIN of chocolate donations we received on our first P.T.A inspired 'Feel Good Friday'. Our children loved participating in a multitude of fun activities across the school.



Tuesday 3rd March 2026: Year 6 participated in a school nurse-led workshop on emotional wellbeing and transition. Ideally timetabled after the secondary school national offer day. 59 of our children will be going to High Tunstall, whilst one child will go to Dyke House in September 2026.

Thursday 5th March 2026: Thank you to everyone for supporting our annual celebration of books. We had an amazing World Book Day. Even the school kitchen dressed up, as they served Ratburgers, Spaghetti Worms and WBD linked Desserts!



The costumes and 'Story in a Box' creations were outstanding. You can see even more pictures on ClassDojo.

Another BIG thank you to everyone who supported our book fayre and to Mrs. Feroz for organising it. You helped us raise: **£76.00**.

I must also thank Miss. Hatfield and Mrs. Hall who had the difficult task of judging the 'Story in a Box' winners. The winners all received a £10 book voucher. The judges were so impressed they even distributed additional chocolate and book prizes to some of our entries! The costume winners were decided by class teachers. Costume winners received a book from our vending machine.

Thank you Mrs. Hall, our reading champion, for masterminding an amazing day.



World Book Day Costume Winners 2026

Year Group	Book Character
Nursery (am and FNB)*	Poppy Barron as an Alien from 'Aliens Love Underpants'
Nursery (pm and FNE)**	Maddie Stephenson as a Pirate from 'Pirates in Pyjamas'
Class 1	Oscar Hegarty as 'Steve Irwin'
Class 2	Marc Hope as an Explorer from 'Noisy Dinosaurs'
Class 3	Sophie Bennett as Arietty from 'The Borrowers'
Class 4	Joey Ansell as Harry O'Hay from 'The Scarecrow's Wedding'
Class 5	Annie Hudson as Annie from 'Annie'
Class 6	Mason Bell as 'Astro Chimp.'
Phoenix Room	Henry Winwood as Nemo from 'Finding Nemo'
Class 7	Perry Wager as Puss in Boots from 'Shrek'
Class 8	Jacob Warnes as Bear Grylls from the 'Volcano Challenge'
Class 9	Hallie Lloyd as 'Little Miss Hug'
Class 10	Henry Wilkin as 'Mr. Potato Head'
Class 11	Bea Robinson as an astronaut from 'The Infinity Gardens'
Class 12	Isla Cook as a key character from 'October, October'
Class 13	Miley Wager as the cat from 'The Cat in the Hat'
Class 14	Abella Whittingham as Bambi from 'Bambi'

*am and FNB: Morning and Flexible Beginning of the Week.

**pm and FNE: Afternoon and Flexible End of the Week.







'Story in a Box' Winners 2026	
Year Group	Book and Winner
Nursery*	'Stick Man' by Jack Wood
Nursery**	'The Tiger Who Came to Tea' by Orla McIver
Class 1	'The Snail and the Whale' by Oscar Hegarty
Class 2	'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' by Bradley Wright
Class 3	'Noah's Ark' by Halle Phelan
Class 4	'Stick Man' by Riley Gunn-Ord
Class 5	'The Wizard of Oz' by Jesse Rowbotham
Class 6	'Matilda' by Lydia Gallagher
Class 7	'Capybara's Adventures' by Jamie Hunt
Class 8	'Dogman' by Alec Linighan
Class 9	'The Snail and the Whale' by Agnes Aveyard
Class 10	'Beauty and the Beast' by Ella Cammell
Class 11	'Dr. Seuss' by Georgia Hilder
Class 12	'Anne Frank' by Connie Young
Class 13	'The Last Bear' by Nina Jordan
Class 14	'The Mega Complicated Crushes of Lottie Brooks' by Abella Whittingham

*am and FNB: Morning and Flexible Beginning of the Week.

**pm and FNE: Afternoon and Flexible End of the Week.



Friday 13th March 2026: On this day Year 6 were visited by P.C. Coggin, this followed a visit by the police to Year 6 earlier in the year. P.C. Coggin was in school to voice his disappointment that despite previous police warnings and workshops, some children in Year 6 have continued to post very unkind and abusive messages on platforms they are not old enough to use. This has in some instances led to other children not wanting to attend school. The message from P.C. Coggin was clear, online bullying will not be tolerated and will lead to police visits to home addresses and the confiscation of phones. As a school we have made it no secret that our children should not be using social media platforms as shown on this page. They risk exposure to inappropriate content and bullying. This can then lead to mental health issues such as anxiety and depression. We are investing a lot of time dealing with incidents outside of school, due to the misuse of social media. We really need parent/carer support to help with this serious problem. Please check your child's phone regularly and ensure they do not access social media sites designed for older children. Thank you in advance of your support.

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



Friday 13th March 2026: A HUGE thank you to our friends the 'Saltburn Smugglers' for a fun day of dancing and singing. As a town on the coast we need to know our sea shanties!

Tuesday 17th March 2026: Well done to Year 1 for doing their 'Snappy Spring Singing' with Tees Valley Music Service. They were all amazing.



Thursday 19th March 2026: Well done to all the children who took part in a 'Macbeth Playmaking Festival', they were fantastic! So much so we received this message from Katherine Fletcher from the Royal Shakespeare Company for our Class 12 cast: "*You were amazing! You showed so much courage, creativity, and teamwork on stage. It was wonderful to see how you helped each other, believed in each other, and performed with such confidence and pride. You should all feel very proud of what you achieved- well done! It was a privilege to witness such a feat of collaboration, creativity, and excellence. Please pass on my congratulations and thanks to everyone involved - you should all be incredibly proud!*".



Friday 20th March 2026: Thank you to everyone who supported Red Nose Day in our school, it was fantastic to see everyone in red. As a school we managed to raise **£524.59** for Comic Relief, well done Throsties. A BIG thank you to all our judges (Agnes Aveyard, Ava Cook, Nina Jordan, Samuel Kidd, Miss. Currell and Mrs. Malone) for deciding the winners of our annual joke competition. Mrs. Malone (head judge), joined us for the last time as governor. Thank you so much for bringing challenge and support to our governing body and helping all our Throsties. Mrs. Malone's daughter Amber took the stage to present thank you flowers and even told her own joke!



The Joke Winners:

Our 2026 Joke Winners were Hollie Dougherty and Willow Jobling with their 'Knock Knock' joke.

Our 2026 runner-up was Harry Piggford, with his joke: What do pirates say when they are hungry? I'm staaarvin!

The overall Early Years winner was Henry Kidson, with his joke about what fruit likes to go on the slide? - a kiweeee!



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'.

***NEW: 2026 Early Years Winner:** Henry Kidson: "What fruit likes to go on the slide?" - 'A kiweeee!'.

***NEW: 2026:** Hollie Dougherty and Willow Jobling with their 'Knock Knock' joke.



Monday 23rd March 2026: On this day we welcomed Antonia Fawcett from Cleveland Fire Brigade to the school. Antonia spoke about deliberate fires and anti-social behaviour. Antonia wanted our children's help in keeping our community safe and reporting any concerns to an appropriate adult.



Wednesday 25th March 2026: Well done to our Y5/6 boys' football team that represented the school and Hartlepool at Middlesbrough Football Club, Rockcliffe Park in the 'Y5/6 Boys' Football Tees Valley County Finals'. We came a very impressive 2nd. Over 300 schools initially took part in the competition.

The results were as follows:

Throston (0) vs. St. Paul's (0)

Throston (2) vs. St. Augustine's (0)

Throston (2) vs. Kader (0)

Throston (1) vs. St. Patrick (1)

Throston (1) vs. Wheatland (1)

Throston (2) vs. St. Patrick Thornaby (0)



We remained unbeaten and just missed out on top spot. Every player was a credit to the town and our school. We are very proud of you.

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!

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)
16/02/2026	Dragon (585)
02/03/2026	Sphinx (499)
09/03/2026	Sphinx (506)
16/03/2026	Sphinx (640)
23/03/2026	TBC
30/03/2026	TBC

UPCOMING KEY EVENTS

Monday 30th March 2026: Special 'Open the Book' Easter Assembly (9.45am, new time).

Wednesday 1st 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 ClassDojo. For children who prefer not to bring in a scarecrow or bonnet, they can decorate a boiled egg for our annual competition. Please ensure entries are labelled with names and the class number. Children can place their creations in the school corridor from Monday 30th March 2026. Judging will take place at 8.00am on Wednesday 1st April 2026. PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CHILD'S ENTRY IS IN THE SCHOOL CORRIDOR BEFORE THE JUDGING TAKES PLACE. Children are of course able to do a bonnet/scarecrow and decorate an egg.



Thursday 2nd April 2026: The school closes for the Easter holidays.

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

Thursday 16th April 2026: National Primary Offer Day 2026. On this day Nursery parents and carers will find out which school their child has been allocated for when their child joins Reception in September 2026. After Easter we will write to all the families who have a child coming to Throston, to share transition arrangements. If you need any support on this day please contact: Janet Dennis at the School Admissions Team, 01429 523765.

<https://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/school-admissions-appeals>

SUMMER TERM

Monday 20th April 2026: School reopens after the Easter holidays.

Tuesday 21st April 2026: School Chess Team Tournament at Hardwick Green Primary Academy in Stockton-in-Tees (morning).

Tuesday 21st April 2026: Lower Key Stage 2 Golf Festival at Hartlepool Golf Club (afternoon).

Tuesday 21st April 2026: 'Multiplication Check' meeting for all Year 4 parents and carers (3.15pm).

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

Tuesday 28th April 2026: Lower Key Stage 2 Athletics Festival (morning).

Thursday 30th April 2026: Year 4 Skipping Festival at Brierton Sports Centre (morning).

Wednesday 6th May 2026: Year 1 at Preston Park.

Monday 11th May 2026 to Thursday 14th May 2026: Year 6 SATs Week.

Date	Activity
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

Tuesday 12th May 2026: Year 1 School Nurse Led Workshop on Keeping Safe (morning).

Monday 18th May 2026 to Wednesday 20th May 2026: Year 6 Residential to Newby Wiske.

Monday 1st June 2026: Year 5 Canoeing Day (1 of 5).

Tuesday 2nd June 2026: Year 5 Canoeing Day (2 of 5).

Wednesday 3rd June 2026: Year 4 Camping Preparation Day (Class 9 or Class 10).

Thursday 4th June 2026: Year 4 Camping Day (Class 9 or Class 10).

Thursday 4th June 2026: Year 5 and Year 6 Girls Cricket Festival at Seaton (morning).

Friday 5th June 2026: Year 4 Camping Day (Class 9 or Class 10).

Monday 8th June 2026: Year 5 Canoeing Day (3 of 5).

Tuesday 9th June 2026: Year 5 Canoeing Day (4 of 5).

Wednesday 10th June 2026: Year 3 Healthy Eating and Exercise Workshop (morning).

Wednesday 10th June 2026: Year 5 and Year 6 Boys Cricket Festival at Seaton.

Wednesday 10th June 2026: Year 4 Camping Preparation Day (Class 9 or Class 10).

Thursday 11th June 2026: Year 4 Camping Day (Class 9 or Class 10).

Thursday 11th June 2026: Year 2 planned visit to Souter Lighthouse.

Friday 12th June 2026: Year 4 Camping Day (Class 9 or Class 10).

Monday 15th June 2026: Year 5 Canoeing Day (5 of 5).

Wednesday 24th June 2026: Year 6 Puberty Refresher (afternoon).

Friday 26th June 2026: Year 2 Skipping Festival at Brierton.

Monday 29th June 2026: Year 1 to Year 6 Sports Day. Year 1 to Year 3 (9.15am to 10.15am) and Year 4 to Year 6 (10.30am to 11.30am).

Tuesday 30th June 2026: Year 4 Emotions, Coping Strategies and Mindfulness (morning).

Wednesday 1st July 2026: Early Years Sports Day. The first session will be 9.15am to 10.15am for morning and beginning of week Nursery. Between 10.30am and 11.30am it will be the turn of the two Reception classes. Then at 1.15pm to 2.15pm it will be the turn of afternoon and end of the week Nursery children.

Monday 6th July 2026 to Thursday 9th July 2026: Summer Shows (Nursery to Year 5, times to be shared after Easter)

Tuesday 7th July 2026: Key Stage 2 SATs Results.

Friday 10th July 2026: Year 6 Leavers Assembly (1.30pm).

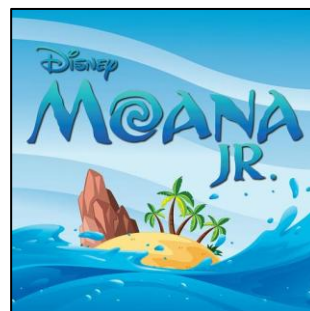
Monday 13th July 2026 to Thursday 16th July 2026: Year 6 Secondary School Transition.

Friday 17th July 2026: Last day of school for the 2025/2026 academic year, Year 6 children to return.

MOANA

Dear Drama Group Parents and Carers, please use the link below to help your children rehearse their songs and lines for our forthcoming production of Moana. Simply look for the song number in the script then play that track for example #2 Tulou Tagaloa:

<https://www.throston.school.org.uk/page/?title=Moana+Tracks&pid=554>



MOANA DATES

Saturday 20th June 2026: Moana Dress Rehearsal (time to be arranged).

Monday 22nd June 2026 to Thursday 25th June 2026: Moana Shows (6.00pm) at High Tunstall. The first night will be a rehearsal.

Saturday 4th July 2026 to Sunday 5th July 2026: Drama Visit to London.

MOBILE PHONES

Just a polite reminder to all parents and carers that if your child is bringing a phone to school they must turn off their phone before they enter school and hand it into the class teacher on a morning straight away. It will then be returned on the door at the end of the school day. Many thanks for your support.



WELL DONE

Well done to Rona Pout for delivering an inspirational and thought-provoking speech on Friday 6th March 2026 at the Hartlepool Education Inclusion Summit. Rona shared her personal experiences and reflections of her life with her beautiful boys Hugo and Rory. Hugo is at Springwell (and an ex-Throstitie) and Rory is a Throstitie in Year 5. We are so proud of you!



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.

Community Connect @ Throston School



Monday 9th March
Wednesday 1st April
Monday 18th May
Monday 8th June
Monday 13th July

2.30-3.30pm

- ▶ No need to book
- ▶ Come along to Community Connect, a friendly session for all parents and carers
- ▶ Suitable for anyone wanting to know more about community support

Meet other parents and families

Find out what support and activities are available locally

Learn more about unpaid carers and how Hartlepool Carers can help

Ask questions and access advice in a relaxed setting



Free Refreshments Included