

# Monthly Newsletter

## November 2025



Dear Parents and Carers, welcome to the November 2025 newsletter. I hope you and your children had a thoroughly enjoyable, 'spooktacular' half-term. This newsletter not only contains important information about what happened last month, it also contains important information about our upcoming events such as our festive Christmas celebrations!

During half-term, we were busy in school, with asbestos removal in our school boiler-room, air-conditioning servicing, the installation of new fire doors in Key Stage 2 and the upgrade of our PC operating system and implementation of Microsoft Intune.

### WELCOME NEW THROSTIES

A very warm welcome to all our new children who have joined us last month. We hope they are enjoying school, adapting to routines and making lots of new friends.

- Our newest Nursery Throsties: Indiah Mincher, Freddie Mitchell, Jacob Parsons and Jack Wood.
- Our newest Reception to Year 6 Throsties: Axl Reynard (Class 1), Zachary Reynard (Class 4) and Leighton-Daniel Reynard (Class 10).

### GOODBYE

Last month we said goodbye to Imogen Dunn. We hope she is enjoying her new school. On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2025, we said a very special thank you to our cleaning supervisor Mrs. Alma Johnstone. Alma has retired after 42 years of work for the council. At 78 she deserves to put her feet up!



### AUTUMN 2025 PARENTAL CONSULTATIONS

Thank you to everyone that attended an in-person or face-to-face consultation last month. Below are listed our attendance figures. Please contact your child's teacher if you were unable to have an appointment but still wish to see how your child settled into their new class. Mrs. Davies in Nursery only met with parents and carers of Nursery children who joined before this term (13/24 - 54%). She will meet with parents and carers of children new to Nursery later this half-term. The school average representation was 84.1%

Autumn Term Class and Percentage Representation (%)	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Class 5	Class 6
	28/28	28/28	20/29	23/27	26/30	25/30
	100%	100%	69%	85%	87%	83%
	Class 7	Class 8	Class 9	Class 10	Class 11	Class 12
	21/26	20/28	23/30	26/29	25/30	26/30
	81%	71%	77%	90%	83%	87%
	Class 13	Class 14	2025 %	2024 %		
	24/29	25/31	84.1%	84.5%		
	83%	81%				

## WHAT HAPPENED LAST MONTH?

**Thursday 2 October 2025:** On this day we marked the second anniversary since our beloved pupil Lucas Tarran sadly passed away. To remember him, his friends from Year 6 released two balloons, with special messages attached. On the day his sister Laura, also reached the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro, where she read his favourite book ('Green Eggs and Ham' by Dr. Seuss) and left a stone with his name. Laura has stated this is the closest to heaven she can get. Lucas - forever in our hearts ❤️

**Thursday 2 October 2025:** On this day some of our children from Year 3 and Year 4 had the opportunity to develop their orienteering and den/chair building skills at Summerhill. They were a credit to the school. The picture to the far right, shows our new Pupil Leadership Team. Whilst the images underneath show our new house captains as mentioned in the October 2025 newsletter.



**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2025:** Well done to our Throstonesses who played in the Year 6 Girls Football League Competition in very wet and muddy conditions at Greyfields. The results were as follows: Throston (0) vs. Barnard Grove (0), Throston (2) vs. Fens (0), Throston (2) vs. Kingsley (0) and Throston (0) vs. Sacred Heart (6).

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2025:** Year 6 participated in Crucial Crew, a multi-agency event designed to teach children important life skills.

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2025:** Some of our children, participated in a T1 Rugby session. All the children were a credit to the school and adapted well to the new rules. T1 Rugby is a non-contact, inclusive adaptation of rugby union designed to be simple to play and suitable for all ages, genders, and abilities.





**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2025:** During this week many of our Year 6 children participated in Bikeability training. We have received lots of positive comments from the instructors. 'Wheel' Done everyone.

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2025:** On this day, our cross-country superstars represented Hartlepool in the Tees Valley Finals at Stewart Park. All of our children gave 100% as they were cheered on by the Hartlepool supporters. Emma Gough was our top placed runner, finishing 8<sup>th</sup>. Well done everyone. Throston and Hartlepool are very proud of you!

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2025:** Year 4 participated in a nurse led workshop on body changes and personal hygiene.

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2025:** Year 5 participated in a nurse led workshop on body changes and personal hygiene.



**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2025:** On this day we started 'Balance Bike' training with Reception, the children loved the experience and developed new skills.

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2025:** Look who joined us on this day, our new tortoise! We will reveal the selected name later this month!



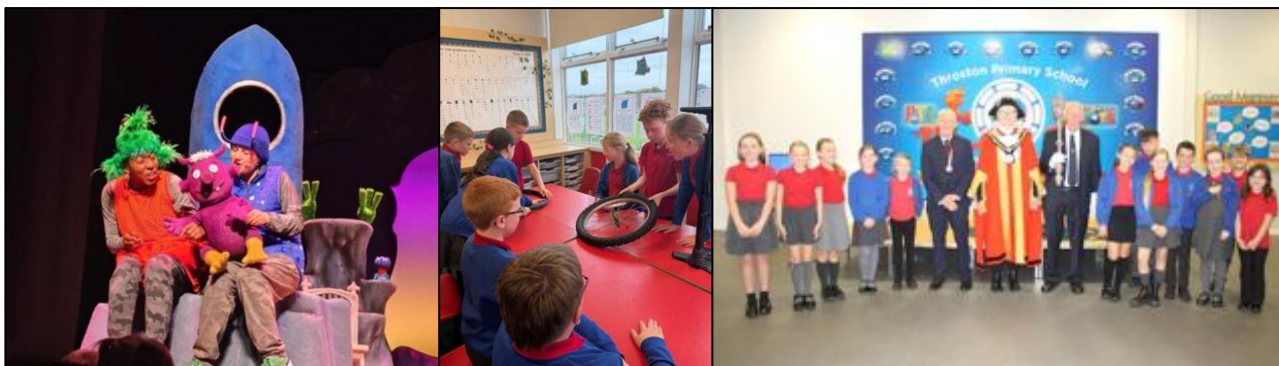
**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2025:** Thank you to everyone that brought donations for St. Aidan's Foodbank and Kitchen. We were amazed at how generous our families have been once again. The stage was 'jam' packed with food. Our special harvest assembly was led by Reverend Claire and our friends from 'Open the Book'. The assembly was interactive and based on the 'Parable of the Sower.'



**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2025:** Well done to Reception for a fabulous visit to the Forum Theatre Billingham to see 'The Smeds and the Smoos'. Members of the public commented on how well behaved the children were.

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2025:** Year 5 were taught new bike repair skills, such as repairing a puncture. They were 'wheely' good!

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025:** We were visited by the Ceremonial Mayor, Councillor Carole Thompson. She visited with her consort and attendant. The mayor spoke about her role and her traditional civic regalia. She answered many of the children's questions. She commented on how polite and respectful our children were.



**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025:** Year 2 held their own Diwali Day, to further understand the Hindu Festival of Lights.

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025 and Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2025:** Year 4, visited the Tees Barrage as part of their geography work on rivers.

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025:** Our Upper Key Stage 2 football team represented Throston and Hartlepool in the FA Pokémon Primary Schools Cup. I am delighted to say we came 3<sup>rd</sup>. The team had 4 wins, 4 draws and only one loss. The team even beat the overall winners by two goals to one. It was a great team performance by all the boys at Middlesbrough Sports Village.



**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025:** Year 1 visited St. Luke's Church, to find out about the special features and furniture inside.

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2025:** Some of our children in Key Stage 2, participated in 'Active 60 Champions Training' at Brierton. The aim is for the children to cascade their new skills to our Playleaders.

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2025:** Well done to all our Year 4 cyclists who passed their Level 1 Bikeability.

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2025:** Children in Reception dressed in Halloween outfits, to link with their 'SPOOKtacular' activities.





### **NEW CLUBS**

We are delighted to announce that we have a new 'French' club starting on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2025 (12.30pm to 1.00pm). Our MFL lead (Ms. Neal) will soon share more details. Mrs. Sharp will also be leading an after school 'Coding Club' from Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2025. This will be for Years 4 to 6.

### **DEVICES**

If you are struggling to obtain a device that will allow your child to complete homework, please contact our new Computer Lead, Mrs. Amanda Sharp via ClassDojo. Mrs. Sharp will make every attempt to source a device that you can use.

### **PHONICS**

In recent years, we have provided Reception and Year 1 children with Little Wandle at Home Flashcards to support our phonics programme. If families have sets of these cards that are no longer needed at home, we would really appreciate it if they could be donated back to school. Thank you to everyone that has already returned their cards.

### **CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISING**

Thank you to everyone that has supported our Christmas Fundraising by ordering products linked to their children's Christmas card designs (<https://classfundraising.co.uk/>).

### **BOOK ISSUE**

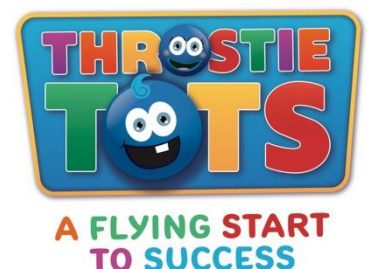
We have been made aware of an issue with some books by Andrew Cope. Please see the message below from the publisher Penguin Random House:

*'In the front and/or back of some editions of the Spy Dog, Spy Cat and Spy Pups series there is a reference to the author, Andrew Cope's, former website for the series which was owned and managed by him. We understand an unconnected third party has recently taken control of the domain name and is using it to display a different website with inappropriate adult content. This website is not associated with Puffin or Andrew Cope. Please do not visit it and ensure that children do not visit it either. We are taking this extremely seriously and are acting on this issue as a matter of urgency through the appropriate channels to get this website removed. This is an in-depth and complex legal process and will take time. We have immediately paused on the sale and distribution of the books whilst we deal with this matter. We ask that you please check your editions and temporarily remove affected copies from children's collections.'*

Teachers have been made aware and will remove any copies they find. We have removed them from our vending machine, too. If your child currently has a school copy please return it to the teacher.

### **REQUEST**

As Christmas is approaching and everyone tends to have a clear out, if anyone is wanting to re-home any baby equipment for example baby gyms or baby mats, Throstie Tots would love to make use of them. Please drop any items at the school office. Thank you to everyone who has already made a donation.



## POPPY APPEAL 2025

As a school we have raised more money for the 'Poppy Appeal' in Hartlepool than other schools on eleven separate occasions (see below). This is testament to how our families and community, want to support The Royal British Legion. We are currently selling poppy related merchandise once again, thank you in advance of your support.



The Ian Cameron (Poppy Appeal) Trophy - Years when Throston Primary has raised the most money for the 'Hartlepool Poppy Appeal': 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024. In 2023 we raised £1,107.98 and in 2024 we raised £983.48.

*\*2020 - No Sales due to the Pandemic*

### **Items for Sale (from the school office and via our RotaKids visiting classrooms):**

- Poppies: Suggested Donation 50p
- Pencils: Suggested Donation 50p
- Silicon Wristband: Suggested Donation £1
- Cloth/Festival Wristband: Suggested Donation £2
- Reflectors: Suggested Donation £1
- Snap Bands: Suggested Donation £2



## ROTAKIDS

Our RotaKids are not only selling poppy related items, they are also selling Rotary Club 'Community Draw' raffle tickets. There are 30 prizes including cash prizes of £250 and £150. The draw takes place on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025. 90% of the money collected goes back to our school! You can obtain the community draw raffle tickets from our school office.

## COMPETITION WINNERS

Well done to Arabella Royal-Blackett (winner) and Harper-Jo Winchurch (Runner-up) who were selected in the 'Crucial Crew' postcard competition. Arabella's postcard will now progress to the town-wide competition which will be judged by a representative from EDF.

## NEW PARENT GOVERNOR

Please remember the deadline to return your ballot paper is **12.00pm on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2025**. Here is a quick reminder of our candidates:

Hi my name is **Laura Collings**. I am an ex-Throstie and attended the school in the early 1990's. I have three daughters, two of which attend Throston and most of you will know them, Isla (Year 6) and Martha (Year 3). I have no prior experience as a Parent Governor. I do however have experience of being not just a mam but a mam to a daughter with SEN and medical needs. I feel bringing my own parental experiences as well as skills from my job as an Operations Administrator to this important role will have a positive impact on the school's future.

Hi my name is **Amy Kelsey**. I think I would be a good candidate because my daughter attends the school, she is in Year 3. I also volunteer for Throstie Tots, where I work with a lovely bunch of people as a team. I have experience in childcare and health and social care. I also have personal experience in SEN. I'm always eager to learn new skills. I do charity events with my daughter once a year and always include the school. I'm constantly looking for ways to help others and doing online courses to better my knowledge of things.

I'm **Natasha Paul**, I have a son in Year 3. I'm a senior leader in technology with expertise in software delivery, project management, finance, contract negotiations, and learning & development. I'm deeply committed to supporting the school with my strategic mindset and parental perspective - bringing energy, collaboration, and a focus on long-term success. I care passionately about the wellbeing of our children and helping create an inclusive, forward-thinking environment where every child can feel safe, have fun and thrive.

Hi, my name is Amy Warnes, my son Jacob is in Year 3 at Throston. As a working parent, I'm passionate about every child feeling happy and confident! I am an Organisational Development & HR Manager on a Chemical Site. Focusing on people and their wellbeing whilst also looking at strategic growth and business development. I have experience as a youth worker and in my current role I actively promote STEM within school(s). I believe that my experience will add value to this role and can support promoting wellbeing and inclusion. I am excited for this opportunity. I will be an advocate for parents' voices. I believe my energetic, friendly and empathetic attitude, along with communication skills and strategic thinking could support and add value to the school governing body.

#### **R.H.E UPDATE FROM MRS. SAMUEL**

Many thanks to all of you who responded to our recent consultation on Relationships and Health Education in school.

Parents' views were very evenly split as to whether to include sexual intercourse in our Year 6 curriculum. Last half-term Governors made the decision not to expand our curriculum beyond the statutory curriculum.

To safeguard our children and to be in line with statutory guidance, we ensure that both boys and girls are prepared for the changes that adolescence brings. The statutory national curriculum for science includes naming the main external body parts, understanding the human body as it grows from birth to old age (including puberty) and reproduction in some plants and animals. In line with guidance from the NHS that a number of girls begin to menstruate at the age of 8, we use the expertise of the school nursing service to begin to teach about puberty in Year 4. This is re-visited in Year 6, where children's questions are typically more in depth.

Naming parts of the body, including genitalia, also comes under statutory Relationships Education which states that children should know 'how to report concerns or abuse, and the vocabulary and confidence to do so'. In addition, we teach extensively about safe, respectful relationships, and all children are taught the NSPCC PANTS rules: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/advice-for-families/pants-underwear-rule>.

After careful consideration, we have decided not to teach about sexual intercourse, but if a child asked a question about this, we would answer them in an age - and stage - appropriate way, outside of the whole-class lesson, with an emphasis on supporting the child. This may include asking a pupil to speak to their parents or carer, signposting to support services if needed, and recognising that children whose questions go unanswered might instead turn to inappropriate sources of information, including online.

We have been supported in our considerations by John Leary, our Vice-Chair of Governors and Assistant Headteacher (Personal Development) at High Tunstall as we are committed to ensuring that the transition phase before moving to secondary school supports pupils' ongoing emotional and physical development effectively. High Tunstall are aware of our curriculum and are able to build on it in Year 7 and beyond, in the context of a more detailed secondary curriculum which covers intimate and sexual relationships.

You asked us to provide information on books and film clips you could use to support conversations at home. You will find lists here: <https://www.coramlifeeducation.org.uk/family-scarf>. This information is from Coram Life Education, the leading charity provider of relationships, health, wellbeing, and drugs education to children across the UK.

More details of our Relationships and Health Education policy and curriculum can be found on the school website, and we are always more than willing to share the materials we use in lessons with parents and carers who want to find out more.



#### **UPCOMING KEY EVENTS**

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2025:** Road to Wembley - Football Competition at High Tunstall (afternoon).

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2025:** Lower Key Stage 2 Fun Festival at Brierton (for selected participants, morning).

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2025:** PTA Meeting for New and Existing Members (2.45pm).



**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2025:** Deadline for Parent Governor Elections (12.00pm).

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2025:** Start of Nursery Rhyme Week (<https://www.worldnurseryrhymeweek.com/>).

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2025:** 'Dr. Bike' Part II.

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025:** Lower Key Stage 2 Sports Hall Athletics (morning).

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025:** High Tunstall Annual Lecture (45 'Throston Scientists' to visit the College, 11.00am to 12.00pm). Streamed lecture at 1.45pm. Special Guest: Georgie Barrat. Georgie Barrat is a presenter of 'The Gadget Show.'

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025:** Ward Surgery (7.00pm).

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2025:** Hartlepool Mail Reception Special.

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025:** Children in Need 2025 (<https://www.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/>). On this day children can come to school in non-uniform or Children in Need themed merchandise and make a monetary contribution.

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2025:** Deadline to order a Christmas Lunch (9.00am).

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2025:** Deadline to order School Photographs.

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2025:** Deadline for Rotary Club Community Draw Raffle Tickets.

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2025:** Upper Key Stage 2 Swimming Gala (morning).

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2025:** Hartlepool WinterTide 2025 (5.30pm).

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2025:** UK Parliament Week Commences (<https://www.ukparliamentweek.org/en/>).

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2025:** Upper Key Stage 2 Sports Hall Athletics (morning).

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025:** Non-Uniform Day and Assembly for Danny's Legacy #forever31. Children are encouraged to wear black and white, the colour linked to Danny. There will be a special assembly at 9.45am.

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025:** Catch-up for School Photographs (morning). Children should attend in their school uniform and then after their photograph switch to non-uniform. This session is only for children who missed their school photo last half-term.

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025:** 5-Year-Old Dentist Check (afternoon).

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025:** Snappy Christmas @ Mill House.

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025:** Year 4 at St. Luke's Church - Wreath Making (morning).

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025:** 'Annie' at High Tunstall (1.30pm).

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2025:** Christmas Disco.

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2025:** Throstie Tots Christmas Party.

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2025:** Panathlon for Key Stage 2 at Queen's Campus Stockton-on-Tees (morning).





**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2025:** Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day 2025.

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2025:** Year 4 to sing at Merlin Manor Retirement Home (10.00am).

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2025:** Stay and Play in the Phoenix Room (morning).

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025:** Children break-up for the Christmas Holidays.

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026:** Children return to school after the Christmas Holidays.



#### CHRISTMAS SHOWS 2025:

Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2025
<b>Year 5</b> 9.15am and 1.30pm	<b>Year 2</b> 9.15am and 1.30pm	<b>Reception</b> 9.15am and 1.30pm	<b>Year 1</b> 9.15am and 1.30pm
<b>Year 6</b> 10.30am and 2.30pm	<b>Year 4</b> 10.30am and 2.30pm	<b>Nursery</b> 10.30am and 2.30pm	<b>Year 3</b> 10.30am and 2.30pm

#### CHRISTMAS PARTIES 2025:

Date	Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2025
<b>Morning</b>	Nursery (Party 1 of 2)				Reception, Phoenix Room and Year 3
<b>Afternoon</b>	Nursery (Party 2 of 2)	Year 6	Year 1, Year 4 and Year 5	Year 2	

#### COMMUNITY POLICE DROP-IN

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2025:** Police-Drop-in (5.00pm to 6.00pm).

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2025:** Police-Drop-in (5.00pm to 6.00pm).

## School Nurse Drop In

**Your School Nurses are Rebecca Smith and Mardia Ali**

We will be holding drop-in sessions in school on:

<p><b>EXAM WORRIES</b></p> <p><b>MENTAL/EMOTIONAL WELLBEING</b></p> <p><b>HEALTHY LIFESTYLES</b></p> <p><b>SOCIAL MEDIA</b></p>	<p><b>TOILETING</b></p> <p><b>SLEEP</b></p>	<p>Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2025</p> <p>Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2026</p> <p>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026</p> <p>Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2026</p> <p>All 08:45-09:45am Please come and see us.</p>	<p><b>BULLYING</b></p> <p><b>HEADLICE</b></p> <p><b>PUBERTY / BODY CHANGES</b></p> <p><b>DENTAL HYGIENE</b></p> <p><b>LGBTQ</b></p> <p><b>BEHAVIOUR</b></p>
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**HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**1 HART, 1 MIND, 1 FUTURE  
COFFEE MORNING**


**Parent Carer drop-in coffee mornings 10.30am–11.30am**

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> Oct 2025  
Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov 2025  
Monday 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 2025  
Monday 12<sup>th</sup> Jan 2026

Our parent carer forum will be holding drop-in information mornings at  
Throston Primary School.

This is part of the PINs – Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools –  
Project.

**NO DIAGNOSIS IS NEEDED**



### **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.