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THE VOICE NEWSLETTER

'WORKING TOGETHER TO INSPIRE, SUPPORT, CELEBRATE AND EQUIP AUTISTIC AND NEURODIVERGENT PEOPLE TO FULFIL THEIR POTENTIAL IN LIFE'

READY FOR SUMMER!



MAIN NEWS

DAYS OUT AT SCHOOL

PUZZLES AND JOKES

JULY 2026



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Main News

Head Teacher Letter



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of another busy and rewarding academic year, I would like to take moment to reflect on what has been a truly special time in our school community.

This term, our pupils have once again shown exceptional resilience, determination, and individuality. Every achievement—whether big or small—represents progress that deserves to be celebrated. From developing communication skills and building independence, to forming friendships and engaging in new learning experiences, our children and young people continue to inspire us each and every day.

It has also been a particularly busy term in welcoming visitors to our school. We were pleased to host OFSTED inspectors, who spent time with our pupils. I am incredibly proud of the feedback received, which reflected so positively on our young people and all they embody as members of our school community. We have also marked a significant period of change within the wider organisation, as we welcomed our new Chief Executive Officer, Paul McGinnety, and said a fond farewell to John Phillipson, who led the society with dedication and commitment over many years.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our dedicated staff team, who work tirelessly to ensure that every child feels supported, encouraged, and valued. Their care, expertise, and unwavering commitment make a real difference to the lives of our pupils and their families.

To you, our parents and carers, thank you for your continued support, partnership, and trust. Working together is at the heart of what makes our school so successful, and we are truly grateful for the vital role you play in your child's journey.

This term has provided many memorable moments—through school events, visits, creative projects, and the everyday joy of learning together. These experiences build confidence, develop skills, and create lasting memories for our pupils.

I hope you enjoy reading our final newsletter of the academic year and seeing for yourselves the incredible work our pupils engage in each day.

As we move into the holiday period, I hope you have the opportunity to rest, recharge, and enjoy quality time with your families. We look forward to welcoming everyone back next term, ready for new opportunities, continued progress, and further success.

Thank you once again for being such an important part of our school community.

With warmest wishes,
Helen Mitchell
Principal

Vice Principal Letter

Dear Parents and Careers,

It is a pleasure to introduce myself as the new Vice Principal at Thornhill Park School. I am delighted to be joining such a warm, welcoming and ambitious school community.

I am looking forward to working alongside our dedicated staff, supportive families and, most importantly, our fantastic learners. Together, we will continue to build on the excellent work already taking place and ensure that every child is encouraged to achieve their very best.

I believe strongly in the value of high expectations, kindness and partnership, and I am excited to play my part in supporting our school's continued success. I look forward to meeting many of you over the coming weeks and months.

With warmest wishes,
Matthew Hughes
Vice Principal



CEO



Dear Parents and Carers,

My name is Paul McGinnety, and I am delighted to introduce myself as the new Chief Executive Officer of the Northeast Autism Society.

Over recent weeks, I have had the pleasure of visiting Thornhill Park School, where I have spent time meeting both students and staff. I was truly impressed by the warm, welcoming atmosphere, the dedication of the team, and the enthusiasm and positivity shown by the young people. It is clear that Thornhill Park is a very special place where pupils are supported to thrive.

As I begin my role, I am very much looking forward to working closely with the whole school community. Parents and carers play such a vital part in the success of every child, and I am keen to build strong, positive relationships with you moving forward.

Thank you for your continued support of the school. I look forward to meeting many of you in the future and working together to ensure the very best outcomes for all our pupils.

Warm regards,
Paul McGinnety
Chief Executive Officer

Event News

Celebrating Together at Our School Summer Fete

Learners, families and staff came together for a fantastic fundraising event, raising an impressive £105.50 while enjoying a fun-filled day of activities and stalls.





Each class contributed by creating and selling a variety of items. Class 3 sold positive quote cookies and keyrings, which proved popular with visitors. Class 2 designed and sold calendars, while Class 1 offered bags of sweets and organised a “Name the Teddy Bear” competition, generating lots of excitement throughout the day.

There was plenty of entertainment on offer, with a range of outdoor games available for everyone to enjoy, including Jenga, Connect 4 and Dominoes. One of the highlights of the event was a fun water gun challenge between two learners from Class 2, which brought lots of laughter and smiles from spectators.



Visitors were also treated to a delicious selection of refreshments at the cake stand, which featured a variety of cheesecakes and tray bakes. The tasty treats were a big hit with parents, carers and learners alike.

The event was a wonderful opportunity for families to come together, support the learners and enjoy time as a school community. Everyone had a lovely day, and the success of the fundraiser was a reflection of the hard work and enthusiasm shown by learners, staff, parents and carers.

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed, attended and supported the event. Your generosity helped make the day a great success.

Event News

Thornhill Park School Celebrates a Memorable Prom

On Friday, 17th July, Thornhill Park School at our Emsworth site came alive with music, laughter and celebration as learners and staff gathered for this year's whole-school Prom. Held during the afternoon, the event provided a wonderful opportunity for everyone to come together and celebrate the end of another successful school year.

The school was filled with excitement as learners arrived ready for a special afternoon of fun. Dressed for the occasion and surrounded by a festive atmosphere, learners enjoyed spending time with their friends and staff while creating lasting memories.

Music played throughout the afternoon, with the hall quickly becoming the heart of the celebration. Learners enjoyed dancing, singing along to their favourite songs and sharing the occasion with peers from across the school. The event showcased the strong sense of community that makes Thornhill Park School such a special place.





One of the most rewarding aspects of the afternoon was seeing learners from different classes come together to celebrate in a way that was inclusive, enjoyable and meaningful for everyone. The smiles, laughter and enthusiasm on display reflected the positive relationships that have been built throughout the year.

The Prom provided a fitting opportunity to recognise the achievements, progress and personal successes of all learners. It was a chance to celebrate friendships, build confidence and mark the end of the academic year in style.

A huge thank you goes to the staff who organised the event and helped make the afternoon so special. Thanks also to our learners, whose energy and excitement made the Prom a memorable occasion for all. The Prom was a fantastic celebration and a wonderful way to end the school year together.

Event News

Celebrating Success at the Emsworth Awards Assembly

Our Emsworth Awards Assembly was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the achievements, progress and dedication of our learners. The event highlighted the many ways our students have grown throughout the year, both academically and personally.

The Personal Development Award was presented to Millie for her remarkable growth in confidence, resilience and independence. Josh received the Academic Progress Award in recognition of the significant progress he has made through hard work and determination.

The Communication Award was awarded to Aaron, who has shown excellent development in expressing himself and building positive relationships. Ben received the Preparation for Adulthood Award for demonstrating independence, responsibility and valuable life skills.









The prestigious Learner of the Year Award was presented to Zak, whose commitment, positive attitude and dedication to learning have made him an outstanding role model throughout the year.

Special Recognition Certificates were also awarded to several learners. Jacob was recognised for his achievements in Communication, while Kelvin, Ciaran and Ocean received recognition for their excellent Personal Development.

Finally, Haydn, Jordan and Aaron were awarded Learner of the Year Special Recognition Certificates for their consistent effort, positive contributions and commitment to their learning. Congratulations to all of our award winners and nominees on their fantastic achievements.

Time to Celebrate

Celebration At Love Amelia





On Friday 5th June, Class 3 learner, Zac attended a celebration at Love Amelia. Love Amelia is a Hendon based charity that provides toys, clothing, toiletries and baby items for people in need. The event was a thank you for the volunteers, who are essential to the charity, and each was presented with a certificate thanking them for their work.

Zak has been undertaking work experience at Love Amelia for 18 months and is very committed to helping that he also attends during the summer holidays. Zak has previously previously received a commendation letter from the Major of Sunderland, recognising his hard work and commitment to the charity.

The staff at Love Amelia have given Zak the nickname “The Toy Master” as his main focus is to sort through the toy donations, ensuring items are in working order and they are suitable to be passed on to children in need.

Zak had a great time at the presentation and felt honoured to be recognised as a hard working team member.

End of Term Treat For Cloud Class







Cloud Class have been having a wonderful time learning all about holidays and the seaside. Through engaging sensory stories, the class have explored exciting holiday adventures while developing their imagination and communication skills. They have also loved getting hands-on with beach-themed sensory play, exploring sand and water through a range of fun and interactive activities that encouraged curiosity, creativity, and exploration.

Cloud Class enjoyed a very special end-of-year treat with an exciting trip to McDonald's, where everyone tucked into a delicious Happy Meal together. The adventure continued with a peaceful walk around the lake, where the children had great fun feeding the ducks and exploring the beautiful surroundings. The nature walk provided lots of opportunities to observe wildlife, enjoy the fresh air, and experience the sights and sounds of the outdoors.

It has been a fantastic end to the year, filled with laughter, learning, and memorable experiences. We are so proud of everything Cloud Class has achieved and wish everyone a happy, fun-filled summer!

Portland News

Rainbow Visit the Land Sea and Air Museum

This week for their community visit, learners in Rainbow class visited the Northeast Land Sea and Air Museum linked to Armed Forces Day. The learners explored the Museum as well as a variety of airplanes and military vehicles.









Portland News

Star Class First Week Back











Brilliant first week back in Star class, we have explored the letter Y in phonics, made fruit kebabs in cookery and in PHSE used paint splat to discover how everyone is different. Maths this week has been all about big and small.

Well done, everyone, fantastic work!

African Music Comes Alive in Comet Class

This week in Topic, Comet Class have been exploring the continent of Africa through music and cultural learning. To begin the lesson, the children watched an informative slideshow which introduced them to Africa as a diverse continent made up of many different countries, each with its own unique cultures, traditions, languages and ways of life. The slideshow helped the pupils develop their understanding of Africa's rich heritage and geographical features.





Following this, the class watched a video showcasing musicians playing a variety of traditional African instruments, with a particular focus on different types of African drums. The children listened carefully to the rhythms and beats being created and discussed how music plays an important role in many African communities and celebrations.



After watching the video, the pupils took part in a hands-on practical activity where they were given the opportunity to explore and play a range of African-inspired musical instruments. These included drums, tambourines and shakers. The children spent time examining the instruments, discussing their appearance, how they produced sound and the different ways they could be played. They then experimented with creating their own rhythms and sounds, working both independently and alongside their peers.





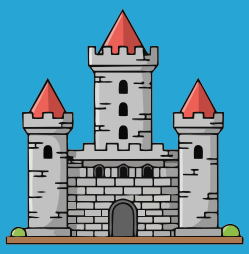
Throughout the lesson, the children showed great enthusiasm and curiosity, engaging well with the activities and demonstrating respect for the instruments. The session provided a valuable opportunity for pupils to develop their cultural awareness, listening skills and creativity while gaining a deeper appreciation of African music and traditions.

Portland News

Comet Class Build a Castle

This week in topic lesson comet class have been researching the structure of castles and why there are built the way they are. The class watched a video on castle structures in England and then were tasked with using magnetic tiles to create their own castle tower both in groups and as a solo activity.









Portland News

Star Class



This week Star class have completed their phonics lessons and workbooks, engaged in outdoor play exploring Barnes Park as part of our Science lessons all about habitats.

In Maths we have learned all about fractions - quarters and groups of 4 completing fantastic work.

To finish off the week we have had art lesson which included making rainforest frog masks and PHSE all about healthy eating.

Cats, Caterpillars and Porridge!







This week in Phonics, Rainbow class learners have focused on the phonics sound “c” and the CVC word “cat.” Staff introduced the sound by exploring a range of toys and objects that begin with “c,” including a caterpillar. The learners enjoyed listening to and repeating the sound, as well as identifying other words that start with the same initial letter. They showed great engagement throughout the sessions and were keen to join in with the activities.

To further develop their understanding, the learners took part in a vet role-play activity where they cared for a toy cat. They enjoyed using the vet resources to check on the cat, make it comfortable, and help it feel better. This activity encouraged imaginative play, communication, and social interaction, while also reinforcing the focus word “cat.” The learners particularly enjoyed exploring the role-play area and demonstrated excellent engagement as they took on the role of vets.

Rainbow class have also been reading Goldilocks and the Three Bears every day before home time and have become increasingly familiar with the story, characters, and repeated phrases. The learners have enjoyed listening to the story and looking at the illustrations, with some learners beginning to anticipate what happens next.

To link with the story, on Friday during Life Skills the learners made their own porridge. They helped to prepare the ingredients and enjoyed exploring the texture, smell, and taste of the porridge once it was ready. This provided a valuable sensory experience and encouraged participation and independence. The learners were excited to try the porridge and made meaningful connections between the story and the activity, making it a fun and engaging end to the week.

Teen Drive Visit Inspires Future Drivers

When Teen Drive Sunderland visited our Emsworth site, learners had the opportunity to take part in an engaging and informative session led by Dan, who spoke about the journey into driving and what to expect as new drivers.







Dan delivered the session in a clear and approachable way, focusing on the key steps involved in learning to drive and building confidence behind the wheel. He spoke about the importance of developing good habits early, understanding the rules of the road, and taking the learning process seriously from the very beginning. His practical advice helped learners to see that driving is a skill that develops over time with patience and consistent effort.



A real highlight of the session was the enthusiasm shown by the learners, who asked a range of thoughtful questions throughout. They were keen to find out more about how driving lessons work, how long it can take to pass a test, and what they can do now to prepare. Dan answered each question in detail, offering realistic and encouraging guidance that helped to build learners' confidence and understanding.

The session also explored what learners can expect when starting lessons, including the importance of listening carefully to instructors, practising regularly, and staying focused during each session. Dan emphasised that everyone learns at a different pace, reassuring learners that progress is individual and that confidence will grow with experience.

Overall, the visit was a valuable experience that gave learners a clearer picture of the process of learning to drive. We would like to thank Dan and Teen Drive Sunderland for taking the time to speak with our learners and for delivering such a positive and informative session.





Emsworth News

Jordan and Aaron Connect Through Conversation

Jordan and Aaron from class 1 met up with each other and travelled to school on the public bus.

Jordan and Aaron enjoyed chatting about their hobbies and interests and even discussed future career interests.



Emsworth News

Golf



Three learners from Class 3 have been playing golf to improve their health and wellbeing. Walking to the course helps them stay active in a gentle and enjoyable way, without the pressure of intense exercise.

They have also found that golf helps reduce stress. Being outdoors and focusing on each shot gives them time to relax and clear their minds, improving their overall mood.

Playing as a group has strengthened their friendships, as they support and encourage one another. Overall, golf has become a positive routine that supports both their physical health and emotional wellbeing.

Emsworth News

Mini Sports Day a Success!

Learners from Class 2 enjoyed an exciting Mini Sports Day, taking part in a range of fun and engaging activities designed to develop their coordination, balance and teamwork skills. Two learners from Class 1 also joined in, making it a fantastic shared experience for everyone involved.



The event featured a variety of challenges, with learners moving through an action-packed obstacle course. Participants began by tackling the hurdles before carefully balancing a ball on a bat in a variation of the traditional egg-and-spoon race. They then demonstrated their ball skills by dribbling a football through a series of cones before aiming a kick into the goal.



The activities continued with learners skipping and hopping through a floor ladder, testing their agility and coordination. To finish, they put their throwing skills to the test by aiming beanbags into a target box.





Throughout the session, learners showed great enthusiasm, determination and sportsmanship. They encouraged one another, celebrated successes and worked hard to complete each challenge. It was wonderful to see everyone actively engaged, building confidence and enjoying being physically active.

The Mini Sports Day was a great success, providing learners with an opportunity to develop a range of physical skills while having lots of fun in a supportive and positive environment. Well done to all who took part!

Emsworth News

A Trip to Thompson Park

Throughout the school year some of the pupils from class 1 have accessed our local park.

They have enjoyed using the different equipment and trying out the big slide.

They have gone out as group to take part in group activities. The students have also done some litter picking to help keep the local community clean.





Emsworth News

Steps to Independent Living





Joseph has been continuing to work on his Independent Living skills while out accessing the community.
He finds what he is looking for in the shop, checks the price and takes it to the till to pay for his shopping.

Within this, he is also strengthening his maths skills and building his independence.

Exploring, Discovering and Meeting Owls!







Kelvin has been enjoying exploring new places recently. After visiting The Rising Sun Country Park for the first time, Kelvin was excited to go back for another adventure. Whilst there, Kelvin enjoyed walking around the park and spotting lots of different animals along the way. One animal that Kelvin showed a particular interest in was the owls. Staff held the owl, allowing Kelvin the opportunity to get a closer look, which he absolutely loved. Kelvin spent time carefully watching the owl and was fascinated by its appearance and movements.

Afterwards, Kelvin enjoyed playing in the park, taking part in games near the café area before continuing his walk to see what else he could discover. He remained engaged throughout the visit and clearly enjoyed spending time outdoors exploring his surroundings. It was wonderful to see Kelvin so enthusiastic and interested in everything the park had to offer. Well done, Kelvin!

A Wonderful Day at the Beach for Class 2 Learners

Class 2 learners recently enjoyed an exciting day at the beach filled with fun, laughter, and learning. The children were delighted to spend time outdoors, exploring the sandy shore and the sparkling sea with their friends.

One of the favourite activities of the day was building sandcastles. Working together in small groups, the children used buckets and spades to create impressive castles, towers, and moats. They showed great teamwork, sharing equipment and helping one another bring their creative ideas to life. Some learners decorated their sandcastles with shells, pebbles, and seaweed they found along the beach.

The children also enjoyed walking in the shallow water. As the gentle waves rolled over their feet, they laughed and talked excitedly about how the water felt. They observed sea birds flying overhead and looked carefully for interesting treasures washed up on the shore. This activity helped the learners appreciate the natural beauty of the seaside while developing their observation skills.





Throughout the day, the learners demonstrated positive behaviour, enthusiasm, and cooperation. They followed safety instructions carefully and showed respect for the environment by keeping the beach clean and tidy.

The beach trip was a memorable experience that gave the children an opportunity to learn outside the classroom. It encouraged creativity, teamwork, and a sense of adventure while allowing them to enjoy the fresh air and sunshine. The Class 2 learners returned to school with happy memories and wonderful stories to share with their families and friends.

Culture Capital

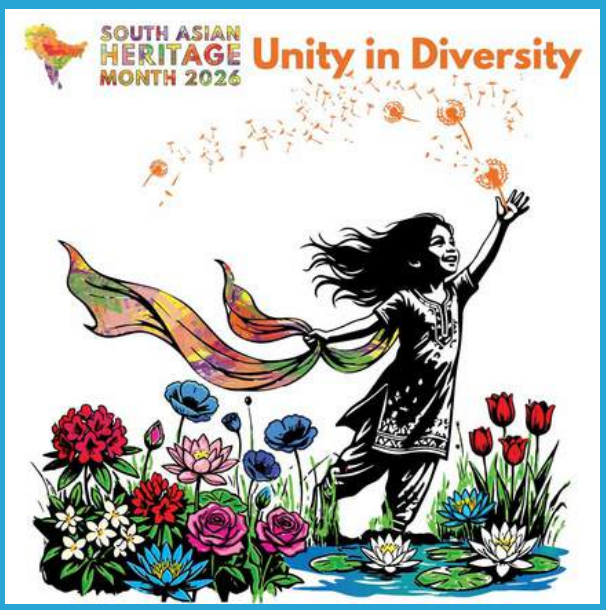
South Asian Heritage Month 2026 (18 July – 17 August)

This year's South Asian Heritage Month theme is "Unity in Diversity", reminding us that people can have different experiences of culture, language, religion, and tradition while still sharing communities, friendships and common values.

South Asia includes countries such as India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, the Maldives and Afghanistan. Millions of people with South Asian heritage live across the UK, helping shape our schools, workplaces, neighbourhoods and culture.
Although these countries are often grouped together, they are incredibly diverse. More than 2,000 languages are spoken across South Asia. People follow many different religions, including Hinduism, Islam, Sikhism, Buddhism, Christianity, Jainism and others. Traditions, clothing, music, food and festivals can vary greatly, even between neighbouring towns!

The theme "Unity in Diversity" encourages us to avoid making assumptions about people based on where they or their family come from. Two people with South Asian heritage may have completely different backgrounds, beliefs or life experiences. The best way to learn about someone is to listen to their story rather than relying on stereotypes.





South Asian communities have made a lasting contribution to life in Britain. They have helped shape the NHS, education, science, engineering, business, sport, literature, politics and the arts. These achievements continue today, with people from South Asian backgrounds making a positive difference in every part of society.
Remember that there is no "typical" South Asian culture. Just as every person is unique, every person's identity is shaped by many different parts of who they are, including their family, interests, language, beliefs and experiences.
You can celebrate South Asian Heritage Month by:

- Learning about a South Asian country you know little about.
- Trying a new food or listening to music from a different culture.
- Reading a book or watching a film created by South Asian writers or filmmakers.
- Talking respectfully with others about their traditions and experiences.
- Challenging stereotypes when you hear them.

By celebrating our differences with curiosity and respect, we build stronger communities where everyone feels valued. That is what Unity in Diversity is all about.

Culture Capital

International Youth Day (12 August)



Every year on 12th August, people around the world mark International Youth Day, a United Nations awareness day that celebrates young people and highlights the issues that matter to them.

We always say the children are the future of tomorrow, but they are also making differences today! Across the world, millions of young people volunteer in their communities, campaign for positive change, create new ideas, support others and speak up about issues that affect their lives.

International Youth Day is also a chance to recognise that many young people face challenges. These can include difficulties accessing education, finding employment, looking after their mental health, experiencing discrimination or having their voices overlooked when decisions are made. The day encourages governments, schools and communities to listen to young people and involve them in shaping the future.

Being heard is important because everyone has different experiences and perspectives. Whether someone is outgoing or quiet, confident or anxious, disabled or non-disabled, every young person deserves the opportunity to share their ideas in a way that works for them. There is no single "right" way to express yourself. What matters is that your views are respected and taken seriously.

International Youth Day reminds us that our differences can make communities stronger. When schools, workplaces and local communities include young people with different backgrounds, cultures, abilities and experiences, they benefit from a wider range of ideas and creative solutions.

You can get involved by:

- Sharing an idea to improve your school or local community.
- Volunteering or supporting a local charity.
- Learning about a global issue that affects young people.
- Listening respectfully to someone whose experiences are different from your own.
- Encouraging others to have their voices heard in a way that suits them.

Every positive change starts with someone who believes their voice matters. International Youth Day celebrates the ideas, talents and potential of young people everywhere and reminds us that everyone has something valuable to contribute.



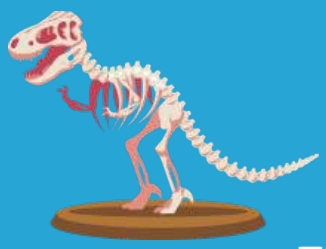
Days Out At School

Class 2 Visit the Great North Museum: Hancock

Class 2 enjoyed an exciting and educational visit to the Great North Museum: Hancock in Newcastle this term. The trip provided learners with a fantastic opportunity to explore a variety of exhibits and bring their classroom learning to life.







Throughout the day, learners discovered fascinating artefacts from Ancient Egypt, explored the museum's galleries, and learned about animals and habitats from around the world. A particular highlight for many learners was the Ancient Egyptian Afterlife Tunnel, where they were able to experience what Ancient Egyptians believed happened after death. The immersive tunnel captured learners' imaginations and was a favourite part of the visit.





The visit encouraged curiosity, discussion, and exploration, with learners demonstrating excellent listening skills and enthusiasm as they engaged with the exhibits. They also represented the school exceptionally well, showing positive behaviour and a keen interest in learning.

It was a memorable day filled with discovery, learning, and fun. Class 2 returned to school with new knowledge, exciting memories, and plenty of stories to share. We are incredibly proud of how the learners embraced every opportunity and made the most of this valuable experience

Days Out At School

Class 2 Enjoy Memorable Trip to South Shields

Pupils from Class 2 recently enjoyed an exciting day out in South Shields, taking part in a variety of activities that combined learning and fun.

The visit began with a walk along the high street, where the children explored a range of local shops and learned more about the different services businesses provide within the community. The outing offered a valuable opportunity for pupils to experience a busy town environment and observe how shops operate.









At lunchtime, the class enjoyed a traditional seaside meal of fish and chips, which proved to be a highlight of the day. Afterward, the children spent time playing together in a nearby park, where they were able to relax, socialise, and make the most of the outdoor space.

A special treat during the trip was a visit to the well-known sweet shop, Mr Swainstons, where pupils explored a wide variety of traditional and modern sweets. The visit sparked excitement and curiosity, adding a memorable ending to the day.

The trip provided Class 2 with a valuable chance to develop social skills, build confidence, and engage with the local community in a meaningful and enjoyable way.

Days Out At School

Class 2 Enjoy an Exciting Trip to the Life Science Centre

On Tuesday 19th May, learners from Class 2 enjoyed a fantastic end-of-term trip to the Life Science Centre, funded by the money they raised during the Easter Fete. The trip was a well-deserved reward for their hard work, and there was a real sense of excitement from the moment they arrived at school, ready for a day full of discovery and fun.

A major highlight of the visit was exploring The Great Dinosaur Escape exhibition. Learners were fascinated by the interactive displays, which brought dinosaurs to life and helped them learn about different species, their habitats, and how fossils are discovered. The hands-on activities allowed learners to fully engage with the experience, ask questions, and deepen their understanding of topics they had already explored in the classroom.

The learners also thoroughly enjoyed the popular Lightbox exhibit, where they created colourful patterns and experimented with how light works. This creative activity encouraged them to think imaginatively while exploring science in a fun and engaging way. Another memorable part of the trip was the unusual toilet-shaped drinking fountain, which caused lots of laughter and quickly became one of the most talked-about moments of the day.





At lunchtime, some learners had the opportunity to visit McDonald's, which added an extra layer of excitement and made the day feel even more special. It was a great chance for learners to relax, socialise, and enjoy their time together outside of the classroom.

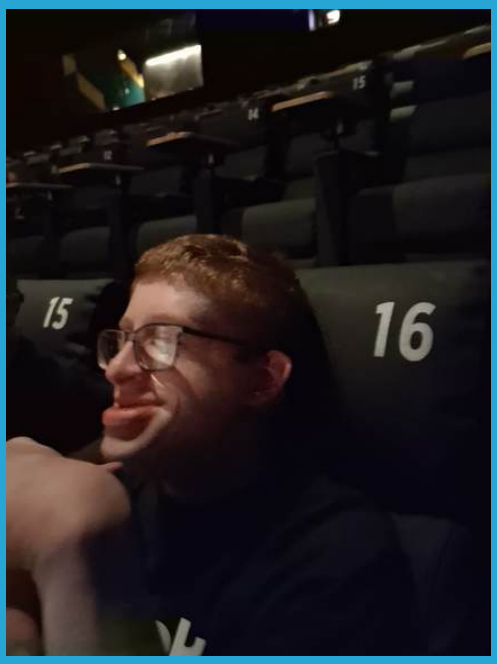
Throughout the visit, the learners demonstrated excellent behaviour, enthusiasm, and curiosity. They listened carefully, participated actively, and represented the school in a very positive way. Staff at the Life Science Centre were impressed with their engagement and attitude.

Overall, the trip was both enjoyable and educational, giving learners the opportunity to experience science in a hands-on and memorable way. It was a perfect way to celebrate the end of term, and Class 2 should be very proud of themselves for making it such a successful and enjoyable day.

Days Out At School

Class 1 End of Term Trip





As the school year came to an end, our Class 1 learners enjoyed a range of end of year treats chosen by themselves. Each learner selected a different activity that reflected their own interests and preferences, making the experiences personal and meaningful. This week, we are highlighting Joshua's special trip.

Joshua chose to visit the cinema to watch the new Toy Story movie. Travelling to the local town centre with staff, he put many of the skills he has developed throughout the year into practice, demonstrating growing confidence and independence.

During the visit, Joshua selected his own snacks using the self-service machine and enjoyed being involved in every step of the experience. Once the film began, Joshua became very animated and excited, clearly enjoying the movie from start to finish.

Afterwards, Joshua said he "enjoyed the cinema and wanted to do it all over again!" It was fantastic to see him having such a positive experience and celebrating the end of a successful year.

Well done, Joshua, on a brilliant year. We are all very proud of everything you have achieved and look forward to seeing what you accomplish next year.

Days Out At School

Class 2 End of term trip - Lazer Quest

To celebrate the end of a successful school year, Class Two enjoyed a fantastic trip to South Shields. The day began with a visit to the Marine Park, where the learners had the opportunity to explore the area, spend time with their friends, and enjoy the lovely surroundings. There were plenty of smiles and laughter as everyone relaxed and enjoyed the start of what was sure to be an exciting day.

After working up an appetite, the class headed to The Blue Marlin for lunch. The learners enjoyed delicious fish and chips together and were a credit to the school with their excellent behaviour and manners. It was a great opportunity for everyone to sit together, chat with their friends, and recharge before the afternoon's activities.

The highlight of the day was a visit to Laser Quest. After listening carefully to the safety briefing and getting fitted with their laser packs, the learners were ready for action. In the first game, everyone competed against each other in an exciting free-for-all battle. The arena was filled with excitement as the learners raced around corners, searched for hiding places, and tried to score as many points as possible.







For the second game, the learners were divided into two teams, with one team made up of four players and the other consisting of six players. The teams worked together brilliantly, using communication, teamwork, and strategy to try and secure victory. To make the experience even more exciting, some members of staff joined in and took part in the laser battles too, much to the learners' delight!

Throughout the day, Class Two represented the school exceptionally well and should be very proud of themselves. The trip was a wonderful way to celebrate all of their hard work and achievements this year, and everyone returned home with lots of happy memories to share. We hope Class Two have a fantastic summer break and look forward to hearing all about their adventures when they return in September.

Days Out At School

Class 3 End of Term trip - The Beach

To celebrate the end of a fantastic year, Class Three enjoyed an exciting trip to South Shields. The learners were full of enthusiasm as they set off for a day of fun with their friends and staff. It was a wonderful opportunity to relax, make memories, and celebrate all of their hard work throughout the year.

One of the highlights of the day was a visit to the fairground, where the learners enjoyed a variety of rides and attractions. There were plenty of smiles and laughter as they experienced the thrill of the rides and spent time together enjoying the seaside atmosphere.

After all the excitement, the class headed to a local chip shop for lunch. The learners enjoyed their meals and had the chance to sit together, chat with their friends, and recharge before continuing their day.







The final stop of the trip was the arcade, where the learners had lots of fun playing games and trying their luck on a variety of machines. Whether they were aiming for high scores or collecting tickets, everyone enjoyed the friendly competition and excitement.

Throughout the day, Class Three were a credit to the school, demonstrating excellent behaviour and showing kindness and respect towards one another. The trip was a fantastic way to end the school year, and everyone returned home with lots of happy memories from their special day in South Shields.

School Is Out Stories

Aaron Blakeway - Class 1













Aaron came to Thornhill Park School in 2020 and has made a huge impression on everybody he meets. Aaron has achieved an incredible amount during his time with us and made many friends. Aaron is kind, caring, thoughtful, funny and occasionally cheeky in a good way.

Everyone knows Aaron for his love of Take That and SAFC, Aaron likes to participate in group events and has entertained with his singing. It has been a pleasure seeing Aaron progress over the years and he will be a huge miss.

School Is Out Stories

Ben Spurgatis - Class 3







After spending 9 years at Thornhill Park School, it is now time for Ben to leave us.

Ben will move onto college to further his education and gain qualifications and skills to take him into employment.

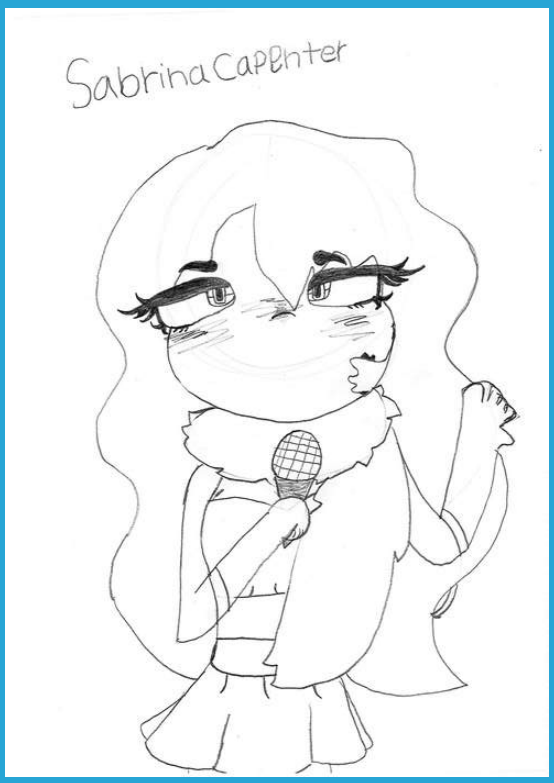
Ben is a charismatic young man who is well liked by both his peers and staff, he will be a huge miss around school.

We wish Ben all the luck in the world as he moves into the next chapter of his life.

Ben you will be amazing in whatever you choose to do, go out and smash it!

Class 2 Learner









Ana Wysokinska-Lakomska
Moon Class — Portland











Learner Work

A Term of Fantastic Literacy Learning

This term, Class One has enjoyed exploring a range of exciting and engaging stories during our literacy lessons, with each book carefully linked to the topic we were studying each week. The learners have shown great enthusiasm while listening to, reading, and discussing the different stories, and have developed their understanding of characters, settings, and key events.

Throughout the term, the learners have completed a variety of activities based on the stories we have read. They have practised retelling stories, sequencing events, describing characters, making predictions, and sharing their own ideas and opinions about what they have read. The learners have also used the stories as inspiration for their own writing, producing some fantastic sentences, descriptions, and creative pieces of work.

Class One has impressed us with their hard work, imagination, and growing confidence in literacy. They have enjoyed taking part in group discussions, answering comprehension questions, and exploring new vocabulary from each story. It has been wonderful to see the learners becoming more engaged with books and developing a love of reading.

We are incredibly proud of all the effort Class One has put into their literacy work this term. Their positive attitudes, creativity, and determination have helped them make excellent progress, and we look forward to sharing many more exciting stories together in the future.

















CEIAG - Life After School

Apprenticeship and Education Event



Work Experience

Stepping into the Industry: Ocean Blakey at MawsonKerr

On the 12th -13th May 2026, Ocean Blakey visited Mawsonkerr Architects in Charlotte Square, Newcastle, as part of his work experience. Ocean is very interested in architecture and was given the excellent opportunity to visit the beautiful studio and experience working alongside a small team of designers.

Ocean took a tour around the studios which he found really inspiring. The studios are situated just off Westgate Road in the town centre. Ocean was fascinated to learn about the history and span of the company. He was excited to have sat in a team meeting, who were discussing a live project.

Ocean then was given a brief of designing his own eco-friendly house. He began by sketching out ideas, then bringing them to life using digital software. He also got to try a 3D digital simulator, which allowed him to explore the inner and outer structure of a local college that the company had previously designed.

Ocean came away, completely inspired and he thoroughly enjoyed his 2-day experience.







Work Experience

Eleanor Enjoys Flower Shop Work Experience



Eleanor, a Class 2 learner at Emsworth, has successfully completed her first day at her work experience placement at Door-To-Door flower shop, where she impressed staff with her enthusiasm and willingness to learn.

During her time at the shop, Eleanor helped with a range of simple tasks including sorting flowers, preparing basic arrangements, and organising materials for deliveries. She also observed how orders are processed and taken out to customers across the local area, giving her an insight into how a small business operates.

The placement formed part of a school initiative aimed at introducing young pupils to real-world experiences. Eleanor demonstrated confidence, curiosity, and a positive attitude throughout, quickly adapting to the shop environment and working well alongside staff.

The experience provided Eleanor with an opportunity to develop practical skills, build confidence, and gain a better understanding of teamwork and responsibility, while also contributing positively to the day-to-day running of the shop.



Work Experience

Zak Impresses with New Vinted Listing Challenge







While at Love Amelia, Zak (a learner from Class 3) was a given a new task to complete. He was asked to upload some football related items to Vinted. Zak proved very capable at searching for similar items online to compare with and come to a suitable price. He then took photos of both the front and back of each item, before uploading the images and adding the price, along with the colour and a description of the condition of each piece of clothing.

Zak also parceled up some items that had sold on Vinted, one of which he had uploaded just half an hour previously. He really enjoyed this task and has offered to upload more in his next work experience session.

Job of the Week - 1

Helpline Advisor

JOB OF THE WEEK

HELPLINE ADVISOR



A career as a Helpline Advisor involves providing support, guidance, and information to individuals who contact a service by telephone, email, webchat, or other communication channels. Helpline Advisors are commonly employed in industries such as customer service, healthcare, education, housing, charities, and public services.
While the role can vary depending on the organisation, common responsibilities typically include:

- Providing Advice and Support: Helpline Advisors listen to callers' concerns, answer questions, and provide accurate information, guidance, or signposting to appropriate services.
- Communication and Active Listening: They use strong listening and communication skills to understand individual needs, respond professionally, and build rapport with callers.
- Recording Information: Advisors maintain accurate records of conversations, enquiries, and actions taken, following organisational procedures and data protection guidelines.
- Problem Solving and Signposting: They assess situations, identify appropriate solutions, and direct individuals to specialist services or other sources of support when needed.
- Managing Difficult Situations: Helpline Advisors remain calm and empathetic when dealing with distressed, upset, or vulnerable individuals, ensuring callers feel supported and respected.
- Health, Safety and Confidentiality: Advisors follow safeguarding, confidentiality, and data protection policies, ensuring that sensitive information is handled securely and appropriately at all times.

A career as a Helpline Advisor is well suited to individuals who are patient, compassionate, good communicators, and enjoy helping others solve problems and access support.

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Job of the Week - 2

Puzzle Designer

JOB OF THE WEEK



PUZZLE DESIGNER



A career as a Puzzle Designer involves creating engaging puzzles, brainteasers, games, and challenges that entertain, educate, or test problem-solving skills. Puzzle Designers are commonly employed in industries such as publishing, gaming, education, entertainment, and digital media.

While the role can vary depending on the type of puzzles being created, common responsibilities typically include:

- Designing Puzzles and Challenges: Puzzle Designers create a wide range of puzzles, including crosswords, word searches, logic puzzles, escape room challenges, riddles, and game-based activities.
- Developing Ideas and Concepts: They generate creative themes, rules, and mechanics to ensure puzzles are enjoyable, engaging, and suitable for their target audience.
- Testing and Refining Puzzles: Designers solve and review their own puzzles, as well as gather feedback from others, to ensure challenges are fair, accurate, and appropriately difficult.
- Writing Instructions and Clues: They create clear instructions, hints, and clues that help participants understand and complete the puzzles.
- Using Digital Design Tools: Puzzle Designers may use specialist software and digital platforms to create, edit, and publish puzzles for print, websites, apps, or games.
- Quality Assurance and Accuracy: They check puzzles for errors, ensure solutions are correct, and maintain high standards of quality and consistency.

A career as a Puzzle Designer is well suited to individuals who are creative, detail-oriented, enjoy problem-solving, and have a passion for games, logic, and creating fun challenges for others to enjoy.

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View Video

Making a Splash Safely: Summer Water Safety for Parents

The summer holidays are a wonderful time for families to enjoy days out at the beach, swimming pools, rivers and lakes. Water activities can be great fun and help children stay active, but it is important to remember that water can also present serious risks.

Parents and carers should always supervise children closely when they are near water, even if they are confident swimmers. Drowning can happen quickly and often without obvious signs of distress. Young children should remain within arm's reach of an adult at all times.

When visiting the coast, choose lifeguarded beaches where possible and pay attention to warning flags and safety signs. The sea can be unpredictable, with strong currents and rip tides that can easily catch out even experienced swimmers. Inland waterways such as rivers, canals and lakes can also be dangerous due to hidden obstacles, sudden drops in depth and cold water temperatures.

Children should be encouraged to wear suitable flotation devices during activities such as boating, kayaking or paddleboarding. However, parents should remember that inflatables are not a substitute for supervision and can quickly drift away in windy conditions.





Teaching children basic water safety skills is one of the best ways to protect them. Swimming lessons can help build confidence and teach children how to stay safe in and around water. It is also important to discuss what to do in an emergency, including calling 999 and asking for the Coastguard at the coast if someone is in trouble.

Finally, don't forget general summer safety. Ensure children stay hydrated, wear sunscreen and take regular breaks from the sun, especially during hot weather.

By staying vigilant, understanding the risks and encouraging safe behaviour, families can enjoy the UK's waterways and coastlines safely throughout the summer holidays. A little preparation and awareness can help ensure that every day out by the water is both enjoyable and safe.


Child Safety Tips
You can't always be near your child.
How do you make sure they are safe?
Teach your children
STRANGER DANGER
01 What do you mean by strangers?
'Pretty' strangers can be as dangerous as scary-looking strangers.
02 Who can they go to when they need help?
Teachers
Policemen
Neighbours
03 Possible dangerous situations, eg:
A stranger claims to be a friend of your parents and offers you a ride home from school.
A nice looking stranger approaches you and asks for help/directions.
Children should not approach or follow strangers
Good grownups don't ask kids for help. They go to other adults for assistance
04 What to teach your child:
Always be accompanied by someone they can trust.
Know the home address and mummy's and daddy's phone numbers.
Scream or shout "NO" when they are in a dangerous situation.
NO!!!
Talk with mummy/daddy about their day and not keep secrets from them.

Review - Movie

Toy Story 5



Toy Story 5 is a heartfelt and entertaining return to Pixar's beloved franchise. Set two years after Toy Story 4, the story follows Jessie, Woody, Buzz, and the gang as they face a new challenge when Bonnie becomes attached to a tablet called Lilypad, causing her to spend less time playing with her toys.

Jessie takes centre stage as the film's main character, and her journey is one of the movie's greatest strengths. Her efforts to help Lilypad understand friendship, along with her adventure with Bullseye, create an emotional and engaging story. Flashbacks to her childhood with Emily add extra depth to her character and make her role even more impactful.

The film handles its themes well, exploring the effects of technology on childhood without simply portraying it as a villain. Woody's return provides wisdom and emotional support, while Buzz's side adventure with the stranded Hi-Tech Edition Buzz Lightyears adds plenty of humour and action.

Another highlight is how the film balances nostalgia with fresh ideas. Long-time fans will enjoy seeing familiar characters reunited, while the introduction of Lilypad helps the story feel relevant to modern audiences. The sleepover scenes are particularly memorable, combining humour, tension, and heartfelt moments as Jessie tries to prove that toys still have an important place in children's lives.

Combined with stunning animation, clever jokes, and several touching moments, Toy Story 5 feels like a worthy addition to the series. While some supporting characters are underused, the strong focus on Jessie and the film's message about friendship and adapting to change make it an enjoyable sequel for audiences of all ages.

Review - TV Show

Horrible Histories

Horrible Histories is said to be one of the best educational TV shows ever made. Based on the popular books by Terry Deary, the series brings history to life through hilarious sketches, catchy songs, and memorable characters.

What makes the show so successful is its ability to make learning fun. From the Rotten Romans and Vile Victorians to the Measly Middle Ages, each episode is packed with interesting facts that are presented in a way that keeps viewers entertained. The comedy appeals to both children and adults, making it enjoyable for the whole family.

One of the highlights of the series is its musical numbers. Songs such as the Monarchs' Song and the many historical parodies are not only funny but also surprisingly educational, helping viewers remember important historical events and figures long after the episode has ended.





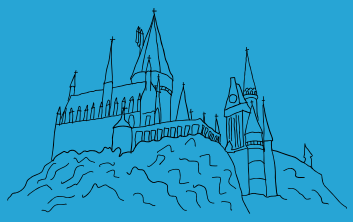
The cast deserves a lot of praise for their energy and versatility, often playing several different roles in a single episode. Their performances, combined with clever writing, impressive costumes, and creative special effects, make every sketch engaging and memorable.

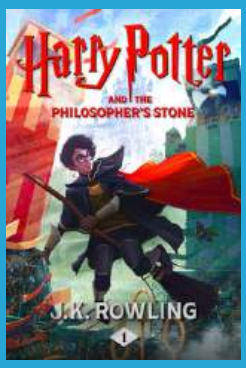
Another reason for the show's popularity is its willingness to explore the less glamorous side of history. Rather than focusing only on kings, queens, and famous battles, Horrible Histories teaches viewers about everyday life, strange traditions, and bizarre facts that are often left out of textbooks. This unique approach makes history feel more real and relatable.

Overall, Horrible Histories is a brilliant mix of comedy and education. It proves that history doesn't have to be boring and remains a favourite among audiences of all ages. Whether you're learning about history for the first time or revisiting it, Horrible Histories is always worth watching.

Review - Book

Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone





Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone is a captivating fantasy novel that tells the story of Harry Potter, an eleven-year-old boy who discovers that he is a wizard. After years of living with his unkind relatives, the Dursleys, Harry learns about his true identity and begins attending Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

One of the most enjoyable aspects of the book is its imaginative setting. Rowling creates a magical world filled with spells, enchanted objects, and fascinating creatures. Hogwarts is especially memorable, with its moving staircases, grand feasts, and mysterious secrets. The detailed descriptions make it easy for readers to picture the world and feel part of the adventure.

The characters are well developed and likeable. Harry is brave and determined, while his friends Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger provide loyalty, humour, and intelligence. Together, they form a strong friendship that helps them overcome challenges throughout the story. The supporting characters, such as Hagrid, Dumbledore, and Snape, add depth and intrigue to the novel.



The plot is exciting and keeps readers engaged from beginning to end. As Harry learns more about the wizarding world, he and his friends become involved in the mystery surrounding the Philosopher's Stone. The story is filled with suspense, adventure, and unexpected twists, making it difficult to put down.

The novel also explores important themes, including friendship, courage, loyalty, and the importance of making the right choices. These messages help give the story meaning beyond its magical setting.

Overall, Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone is an entertaining and imaginative book that appeals to readers of all ages. Its memorable characters, exciting plot, and magical world make it a fantastic introduction to the Harry Potter series. I would highly recommend it to anyone who enjoys fantasy and adventure stories.

Recipe

Rainbow Fruit Salad Jars

Ingredients

- 350g natural yogurt
- 1 Tbsp honey (optional)
- 100g green grapes
- 2 kiwi fruits
- ½ 400g tin apricot halves in light syrup
- 2 easy peel oranges
- 8 medium sized strawberries
- 100g fresh blueberries





Instructions:

1. Mix the yogurt with the honey, then divide between the 4 jars, carefully spooning into the bottom of each jar and avoiding dripping it down the sides if possible.
2. Prepare the fruit - wash and halve the green grapes, peel and roughly chop the kiwi fruits, roughly chop 4 apricot halves (reserve the syrup), peel and break the oranges into segments, wash, hull and roughly chop the strawberries, wash the blueberries.
3. Carefully divide the fruit between the 4 jars, layering in rainbow order - the order I used was kiwi, green grapes, apricot, orange segments, strawberries and blueberries.
4. Drizzle a spoonful of the reserved syrup from the tinned apricots over the fruit in each jar and serve immediately.

Recipe

Pizza Pockets

Ingredients

- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 large garlic clove, crushed
- 1 tsp dried oregano
- 400g tin chopped tomatoes
- 2 x 400g packs pre-rolled pizza dough, or 2 x 375g packs ready-rolled puff pastry
- 150g/5½oz mix of grated mozzarella and cheddar
- 1 free-range egg, beaten
- For the pepperoni filling
- 16 slices pepperoni, halved (2 slices per pocket)
- For the ham and pineapple filling
- 4 large slices ham, chopped
- 227g tin pineapple slices, drained and chopped
- For the vegetarian filling
- 1 small red pepper, seeded and thinly sliced
- 80g/2¾oz sweetcorn (tinned is fine)





Instructions:

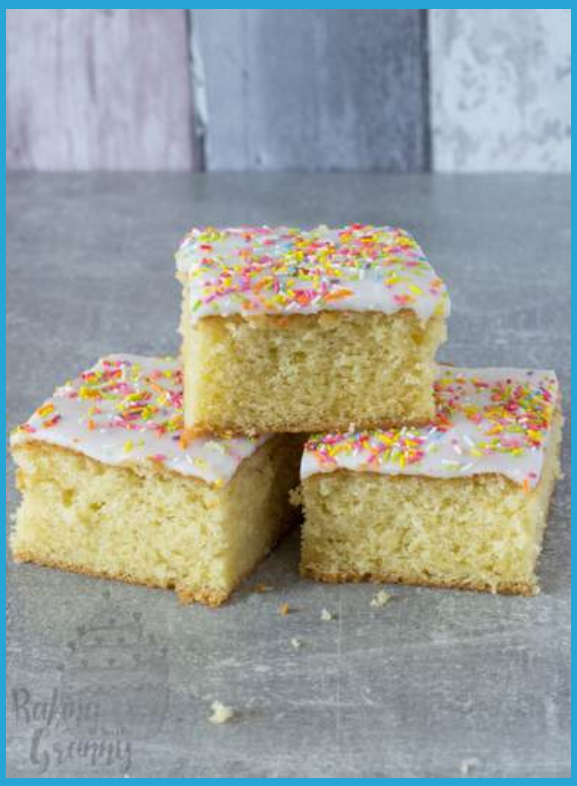
1. Heat the oil in a pan over a medium heat, add the garlic and oregano and cook for 30 seconds, until fragrant. Add the tomatoes and simmer for 10–15 minutes until thickened, stirring from time to time and breaking up the lumps of tomato. Leave to cool.
2. Unroll the pizza dough (or pastry) and divide each piece into four. Put a spoonful of the tomato sauce on one half of each of the eight pieces of dough. Add your chosen filling, then the cheese. Brush the edges of the dough with beaten egg, then fold the uncovered side over the filling. Press the edges together and crimp with a fork to seal.
3. Chill in the fridge for 30 minutes. Preheat the oven to 200C/180C Fan/Gas 6.
4. Bake the pizza pockets for 20 minutes, until golden and puffed. Leave to cool for 5 minutes before tucking in.

Recipe

Lemon School Cake

Ingredients

- 225g/8oz butter, softened, plus extra for greasing
- 225g/8oz caster sugar
- 250g/9oz self-raising flour
- 4 free-range eggs
- 3 tbsp milk
- 2 lemons, finely grated zest and juice
- pinch salt
- 200g/7oz-300g/10½oz icing sugar
- multi-coloured sprinkles, to decorate





Instructions:

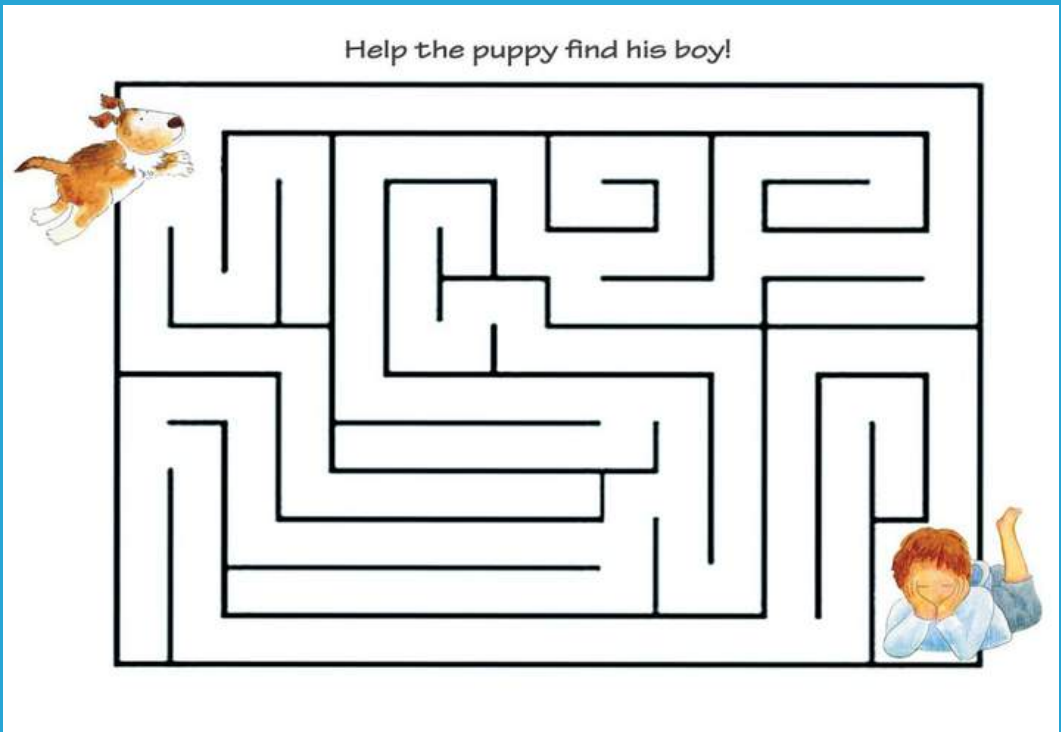
1. Preheat the oven to 180C/160C Fan/Gas 4. Grease and line the bottom of a roughly 26x22cm/10½x8½in baking tin.
2. Using an electric whisk, beat together the butter, caster sugar, flour, eggs, milk, lemon zest and salt in a large bowl until smooth and creamy.
3. Spread the mixture in the tin, levelling off the surface with the back of a spoon.
4. Bake for 25–30 minutes until golden and springy. Leave to cool in the tin for a few minutes then carefully remove the paper and leave to cool completely on a wire rack.
5. Mix together the icing sugar and enough lemon juice to make a pourable icing.
6. Spread the icing over the cooled cake, scatter over some sprinkles and leave to set before cutting into squares.

Word Search


SUMMER WORD SEARCH
T N C W Z V B Y G B O U S E A B M T K G
Q B S B A S K O W E M M U E Q G G R W E
P D F A K T W T N A W H R A T O N Z L N
U P W L N C E I E C T G F Q D H Q C V C
Q W I R X D H R M H H S Y T L F I P B Z
W A V C M S C N M F W I O H C S Q K O U
S F S L N E O A X E E H H Y P R N F N M
K W L U C I K O S U L P K O S K W L F D
E Y S I T X C D A T G O P C T H Z O I V
T G L A P N E L D G L W N M K A D T R M
U A C A A F C Q K J J E Q Q Q K Z C E X
K A S U N G L A S S E S J J X F B C E D
V W T Y C P O O L U V U L E M O N A D E
R U C L U T W L P D U L K Q V O N J M L
R G A G D Y N B C S O C E A N S S F V E
Y H M L T D S M B G O J L P F P H A Y R
J F P W F I R E W O R K S X G E E K E W
P H I C C X Z T U Q Q R W C X V L L B C
Z R N M B R P N A H V A C V Q H L Z E P
K T G M Q G T V N X E U V I D F S J U F
OCEAN
BEACH
SHELLS
SWIM
FLIP FLOPS
POOL
PICNIC
SURF
SUNGLASSES
WATERMELON
VACATION
SANDCASTLE
LEMONADE
ICE CREAM
POPSICLE
FIREWORKS
CAMPING
HOTDOG
SUNSHINE
BONFIRE

Puzzles and Jokes

Maze



Puzzles and Jokes

Joke of the Newsletter



To get to the other slide!

Events at Thornhill Park School	
Date	**Event**
20th July 2026 to 31st August 2026	Summer Holidays
30th July 2025	International Friendship Day
3rd August 2026	National Watermelon Day
5th August 2026	National Day for Play
8th August 2026	National Bowling Day
9th August 2026	National Book Lovers Day
16th August 2026	National Tell a Joke Day
19th August 2026	National Photography Day
20th August 2026	National Radio Day
31st August 2026	Bank Holiday
1st and 2nd September 2026	Inset Days
3rd September 2026	New School Year Begins

north east autism society

Thornhill Park School

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