

December Newsletter

'Walking and Learning with faith in the footsteps of Jesus'



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The Christmas tree in the hall –children will bring home their decorations on Friday

We are finally drawing closer to the end of the Autumn term 2025. As always at this time of year, it has been lovely to welcome so many of you in to school. Whether this has been for carols around the tree or to the various different performances at school, it has been wonderful to see the commitment of so many of you to come and support your children.

This Christmas it has been lovely to see a range of different opportunities happening at school. Of the many highlights was the PTA's Carols around the tree that was held in the first week of December. The stars aligned for this event with the specially installed 17 foot tree sparkling in the cool, dry evening air. The children's (and parents/ grandparents!) singing was excellent and was a really powerful example of the school community together as one! I hope that everyone that attended also enjoyed the evening.

Thank you also to members of the PTA that have come in to school to help run different events including the school discos. I would like to wish everyone a joyful Christmas and a happy New Year.

Earrings and PE/ Water bottles and book bags

We have been advised that all earrings should be removed for PE lessons -as even if they are taped up there is still risk of them causing serious injury. There have been cases shared where permanent damage has been caused to the ear and also neck. We would like to avoid this from happening at school. From January, can we please ask that on PE days earrings are either removed by the child or alternatively not worn on PE days.



The Shepherds and Mary get ready to perform in KS1's Wrigley Nativity

Since September we have replaced a huge amount of home/school reading books for children in Early Years and Key Stage One. Unfortunately we are seeing quite a few of these damaged by water bottles leaking in book bags. Please can everyone take care to try and avoid this happening. It is not always easy to replace missing or damaged books and in the future we will have to ask parents and guardians to help towards the cost of replacing them.

Goodbye and Good Luck Mrs Wailes and Mrs Rigg

At the end of this term we are saying goodbye to Mrs Wailes and to Mrs Rigg. Mrs Wailes has been a member of the lunchtime team for 12 years and more recently has also worked at The Nest. Mrs Wailes has decided that now is the right time to retire. Also, at the end of term, we are saying a final goodbye to Mrs Rigg who, following being a teacher here at Thornaby, went on to be the Chair of Governors a role that she has done for many years. Mrs Rigg has given a huge amount of time to the school and knows many of the children both past and present.

Collective Worship

He will be called 'Wonderful Counsellor', 'Mighty God', 'Eternal Father' 'Prince of Peace' Isaiah 9 vs6

The theme for this half-term is:

The coming of Jesus

Over the last 7 weeks we will look at the build up to the birth of Jesus

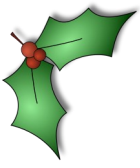
Term Time Holidays

Term time holidays are rarely authorised and most result in a fine. They can be very disruptive to learning leaving gaps in understanding. Please avoid taking holidays during term –time. A list of school holidays up to July 2027 is included in this newsletter.

Great North East Air Ambulance

Thank you for all of the donations at each of the school performances. Due to your generosity £213.56 has been raised for this important charity.





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Thornaby CofE in the community

On Monday 15th December Mr Perks and Mrs Hutchinson took a group of pupils from Year 5 and 6 to Meadowfield House care home where they met Father Tom to join in with carol singing. Everyone had an enjoyable time and the residents appreciated our visit.



Attendance Update

This week we have celebrated the attendance of the children who have achieved 96% and above. In Collective Worship, 80 children achieved a certificate for attendance of 96% and above as well as a further 45 children who received a prize and a certificate for 100%. This is a fantastic achievement for those children and really supports their learning.

This has been a challenging term for our whole school attendance and sadly it sits much below where we need it to be at 93.3%, which is 2% less than this time last year. We know that many children across the school were hit with a nasty sickness bug as well as many suffering with flu-like symptoms. The culmination of illness, along with many term-time holidays, has had a negative impact, not just on our attendance figures, but on the children's learning. Our learning is made up of small, incremental steps which are all important in order for children to secure knowledge and grow in understanding.

As we move into the Spring term, please make every effort to ensure that your child is in school, on time, every day so that they can reach their full potential. Not only is school important for the academic, it is proven to support children socially as well as improve their well-being. If you are unsure if your child is well enough for school, please use the government website - <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Attendance is a team effort – let's work together to achieve the best for every child in our school.

Upcoming dates at school

Friday 19th December Last day of term

Tuesday 6th January Children return to school

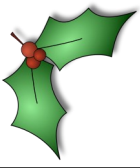
Monday 12th January: Bikeability for pupils in Year 5

Monday 19th January—Friday 30th January Swimming for Class 5

Thursday 5th March World Book day

YEAR 6 SATS WEEK 2026 –ALL YEAR SIX PUPILS

- **Monday, May 11:** English Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling (Paper 1 & 2)
- **Tuesday, May 12:** English Reading (Paper 1)
- **Wednesday, May 13:** Mathematics (Paper 1: Arithmetic & Paper 2: Reasoning)
- **Thursday, May 14:** Mathematics (Paper 3: Reasoning)



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Terms Dates 2025/26 and 2026/27

Christmas holidays are: Monday 22nd December 2025 to Monday 5th January 2026 (PLEASE NOTE MONDAY 5th JANUARY IS A TRAINING DAY)

Spring term 2026

The Spring term is: Tuesday January 6th 2026 to Thursday 2nd April 2026

Half-term is: Monday 23rd February 2026 to Friday 27th February 2026

Easter holiday is: Friday 3rd April 2026 to Friday 17th April 2026

Summer term 2026 Monday 20th April 2026 to Friday 17th July 2026

Mayday is MONDAY 4th May 2026

Half-term is: Monday 25th May 2026 to Friday 29th May 2026

Summer holiday 2026 is Monday 20th July 2026 to Wednesday 2nd September

Autumn term 2026

The Autumn term is Thursday 3rd September to Friday 18th December

Half-term is: Friday 23rd October to Friday 30th October (PLEASE NOTE FRIDAY 23rd OCTOBER IS A TRAINING DAY)

Christmas holidays are: Monday 21st December to Monday 4th January 2027 (PLEASE NOTE MONDAY 4th JANUARY IS A TRAINING DAY)

Spring term 2027

The Spring term is: Tuesday 5th January to Thursday March 25th 2027

Half-term is: Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February 2027

Easter holiday is: Friday 26th March to Friday 9th April 2027

Summer term 2027 Monday 12th April to Tuesday 20th July 2027

Half-term is: Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June 2027

Summer holiday 2027 is Wednesday 21st July 2027