

THORNABY CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

OCTOBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

Issue 2 | 21 October 2026

October update

Thank you to all of the parents and carers who came along to parents' evening last week. I hope that you found it useful and that it gave you a good understanding of where your child is in their learning. If you weren't able to make it and would like to speak to your child's teacher, please contact the school office. Whilst at parents' evening, you may have had the opportunity to complete the parents and carers survey. If not, please follow the link : Parent and Carer Questionnaire October 2026 It would be really useful to us as a school to have the views of as many parents and carers as possible.

Over this first half-term, it has been good to see many parents and carers joining the reading workshops. We hope that you have found these useful. 2026 is the National Year of Reading, and we hope to enable as many of our pupils as possible to become confident, fluent and lifelong readers. This week is the Year 6 pupils' residential visit to Marrick Priory in Swaledale. We hope that everyone has a lovely time and that the weather is not too wet!

THIS MONTH AT THORNABY CofE PRIMARY

Boccia Tournament

On Tuesday 13th October, a group of Year 5 and 6 pupils took part in a Boccia tournament. Boccia involves throwing soft leather balls towards a white target ball. The aim of the game is to get as close as possible by either throwing or kicking the ball towards the target. The team played really well and were proud to return to school with silver medals.

Living our Christian values – Generosity



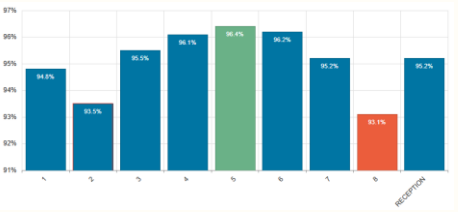
Thank you very much for the generous Harvest Festival donations that were brought into school. On Friday 9th October, Father Tom came into school to collect the donations – which had grown and grown! Thank you ever so much for all of your generosity. Given the high cost of living, it is very kind of our school community to donate so much to others.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Attendance Update – October 2026

Attendance continues to be a high priority for the school, ensuring that all children achieve their full potential. We continue to celebrate attendance each week in worship, and the children are enjoying receiving their badges. Currently, our whole-school attendance percentage is 95.1%, which is higher than at the same point last year but still lower than our target. As we move into late autumn, please use the NHS website to support your decision if you are unsure whether your child is well enough to be in school: https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/

Attendance is a full team effort; our Attendance Team continues to work with you to secure good attendance for all children.



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Year 5 pupils meet author Phil Earle

On Monday 12 October, Year 5 pupils went to an event organised by Drake The Bookshop to meet children's author Phil Earle. Phil is a well-known author, having written over 25 books. In fact, one of Phil's books, *When the Sky Falls*, is one of our key texts! The morning was great fun and included Mr Gair taking part in a drawing competition!



Reading Café

This month has seen the start of the Reading Café at school. It has been great to welcome pupils from Year 1 to Year 6 to talk about favourite books and reading over a drink and a biscuit. We look forward to seeing many more pupils coming along over the school year.



Safeguarding spotlight

As concerns about the digital manipulation of photos and images continue to grow, we are taking additional care with the photographs used by school. This will include using more pupil photos taken from behind or from the side, as well as images that do not clearly show pupils' faces. These steps are a precaution in response to the increased risks associated with digital manipulation and AI. We will continue to share images that give families a flavour of school life while helping to protect our pupils.

Be Safe, Be Seen!

Darker evenings and mornings are back! As we move towards winter, please can I remind everyone of the importance of taking care on the way to and from school – especially those pupils who walk to and from school on their own.

NOTICES AND UPDATES

- Friday 23 October is a training day. School is closed to all children. For those children who are returning from residential, we will post an update on Facebook with the time that we expect to return to school.
- Half-term is next week. School reopens on Monday 2 November.
- Bookings for Thornaby Nest after-school care and Breakfast Club can now be made through ParentPay until 10.00 pm on the day before care is required. If you need help using ParentPay, please contact the school office.
- School clubs will be restarting after the half-term break, please look out for information coming out from school in the first week back after the holiday.

Thank you for your continued support.

- School lunches must be booked through ParentPay by midnight on the Friday before the following school week to support catering arrangements. Parents and carers are responsible for keeping the school informed of any allergies or changes to dietary requirements. If you do not pick your child's meal they will be provided with the hot option.
- If your child is unwell, please contact the school before 9.10 am. If a child is absent and we are unable to speak directly with a parent or carer, this may result in a home visit.

Term-time holidays

- Please avoid taking holidays during term time. Term-time leave is only authorised in exceptional circumstances, and unauthorised absences may result in a penalty notice.

Upcoming dates and events

Training day – Friday 23 October; school closed

Half-term week – Monday 26 October to Friday 30 October

School reopens – Monday 2 November

Class 2 Multi-sports event -4 November

School clubs start week beginning -Monday 16 November - details to follow

Remembrance Service at school – Wednesday 11 November

LKS2 Christmas Singing – Thursday 3 December; time to be confirmed

Classes 1 and 2 Nativity production – Wednesday 9 December; time to be confirmed

School Choir Singing Around the Tree – Wednesday 9 December; time to be confirmed

Children in Need – Friday 13 November; details to follow

Anti-Bullying Week -16 -20 November

Early Years Singing Around the Christmas Tree – Thursday 3 December; time to be confirmed

Christmas Jumper and Christmas Dinner Day – Thursday 10 December

Christmas parties – week commencing Monday 14 December; further details will be shared nearer the time

UKS2 Carol Service – Wednesday 16 December, 2.00 pm, at St Mark's Church

TERM DATES FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR 2026-27

Autumn term 2026

Staff training day: Friday 23 October 2026. **Half-term break:** Monday 26 October to Friday 30 October 2026.

Christmas holiday: Monday 21 December 2026 to Monday 4 January 2027. **Monday 4 January is a staff training day.**

Spring term 2027 – Tuesday 5 January to Thursday 25 March 2027

Half-term break: Monday 15 February to Friday 19 February 2027

Easter holiday: Friday 26 March to Friday 9 April 2027

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

Half-term break: Monday 31 May to Friday 4 June 2027

Summer holiday begins: Wednesday 21 July 2027

Please keep these dates for reference. We will share any updates with families as soon as possible.

STAY CONNECTED

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