

THORNABY CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

SEPTEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

Issue 1 | 30 September 2026

Welcome back to school

It has been lovely to welcome everyone back to school this month. The first few weeks of the autumn term have raced by, and we are already at the end of September. Across the school, pupils have quickly settled into their new routines and productive learning is well under way. This year, we are placing a significant focus on reading. Alongside our phonics teaching, we have introduced a greater emphasis on reading fluency. Fluency combines accurate, appropriately paced word reading with prosody—reading with suitable expression, intonation and understanding. Both are essential skills for becoming a confident and capable reader. To support this, many children in Key Stage 2 are taking part in daily fluency groups. Reading at home is crucial too, so we are asking all children from Year 1 to Year 6 to read with an adult at least four times each week. We hope this regular practice will help every child become a confident and fluent reader. Each week, children who have read at home will be entered into a draw to attend our reading café. Reading is a skill for life, and we greatly appreciate your support.

THIS MONTH AT THORNABY CofE PRIMARY

Battle of Britain Memorial



On Sunday 6 September, the Thornaby branch of the Royal British Legion held a Battle of Britain memorial service at the airmen's memorial on Thornaby Road. The well-attended service provided a meaningful opportunity to remember those who gave their lives in conflict. Thank you to Fay and Ava, who laid a wreath on behalf of our school.

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.

Living our Christian values

Thank you very much for the generous Harvest Festival donations brought into school. We will continue to collect donations until Friday 9 October. The collection of food beside the altar in the hall is already beginning to grow.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Attendance Update – September

We have made a really positive start with attendance this year. Our current whole-school attendance is 95.5%, which is close to the national average. Thank you to all our families for ensuring that children are in school on time and ready to learn each day. *Every school day matters; every day in school helps children to learn, thrive and achieve.*

The start of the school year is especially important as children settle into their new classes and learn new routines. Please remember that attendance percentages reflect the number of days children are in school. At the beginning of the academic year, any absence can significantly lower a child's attendance percentage, and it may take many weeks to improve. We monitor attendance closely, and you may receive text-message updates from Education 5, our Education Welfare Team, if your child's attendance falls below the expected level.

This year, we are changing the way we celebrate weekly attendance. Children with 100% attendance during the previous week will have the chance to receive one of our lovely new badges during Friday's celebration Collective Worship. These can be worn with pride and represent a

Macmillan afternoon tea

Thank you to everyone who came to our Macmillan afternoon tea. It was wonderful to welcome parents and carers to the event. We are also grateful to the Year 6 team captains who helped to serve cakes and hot drinks.



great achievement. We look forward to seeing how many badges children receive across the year.

Safeguarding spotlight

Safeguarding is led by our designated safeguarding team:

- Mr Chandler – Headteacher
- Mrs Smith – Deputy Headteacher
- Mr Perks – Pastoral Leader

If you have any safeguarding concerns or worries, please contact the school and speak to any member of the safeguarding team.

NOTICES AND UPDATES

- Please take care when parking at the beginning and end of the school day. We have received several complaints from residents, particularly on Westdale Road and Wheeldale Crescent, about vehicles being parked on grassed areas. Thank you for your consideration and support.
- 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.
- Please avoid using the school office to arrive at school. Everyone, unless it has been agreed with school (or the green gate is closed) should come to school through the green gates on Mitchell Avenue.
- 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 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.
- If you have not yet booked a parents' evening appointment, please do so as soon as possible.

Thank you for your continued support.

Upcoming dates and events

Virtual-reality headset experience for Classes 3, 4 and 5 – Monday 5 October

Reception reading information meeting for parents and carers – Monday 12 October, 2.30–3.00 pm, in the studio

Parents' evenings for all pupils – Tuesday 13 and Wednesday 14 October

Year 1 reading information meeting for parents and carers – Thursday 15 October, 2.30–3.00 pm, in the studio

Year 6 residential visit to Marrick – Monday 19 to Friday 23 October

Children in Need – Friday 13 November

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

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

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

Half-term break: Friday 23 October to Friday 30 October 2026. **Friday 23 October is a staff training day.**

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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