



St Thomas More Catholic Primary, A Voluntary Academy

2023/24 Newsletter – Issue 23

Week Commencing – 4 March 2024

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Holy Week

During Holy Week our KS2 classes will each undertake a Lent Celebration of The Word. The dates and times are as follows:

Monday 25th March - 2.45pm - Y3 Palm Sunday

Tuesday 26th March - 9.15am - Y4 Last Supper

Tuesday 26th March - 2.45pm - Y5 Garden of Gethsemane

Wednesday 27th March - 10.15am - Y6 Crucifixion

A link has now been sent via ParentMail for booking

British Science Week

8th - 17th March 2024

During British Science Week, children will be taking part in exciting activities linked to this year's theme of 'Time'. Students will also be taking part in a Whole School Science Poster Competition, in which entries should be handed in to Miss Butterworth by **Friday 22nd March**

More information can be found within this newsletter

No After School Club 9th May & 5th June 2024

Please note that due to whole school staff safeguarding training, there will be no after school club on **Thursday 9th May** and **Wednesday 5th June**.

Thank you.

Important Dates:

Wednesday 13 March 2024

Y1/Y5 Dance Festival @ Winding Wheel -

Please arrive at school by 8:20am

Friday 15 March 2024

Children (& adults) come to school in pyjamas for the Good Shepherd Appeal (£1 donation)

Tuesday 19 March 2024

Y2 walk to the Local Library at Parson Cross

Friday 22 March 2024

Deadline for Science Week Poster

Thursday 28th March 2024

Online/remote learning

Friday 29 March & Monday 1 April 2024

Bank Holiday – School Closed

Tuesday 2 – Friday 12 April 2024

Easter Holidays

Tuesday 16 April 2024

SEND Parents' Session 3:30pm – 5pm

Thursday 18 April 2024

Y5 Sports Summit @ EIS Sheffield

Tuesday 23 April 2024

M&M Theatrical production of Jungle Book (£6 contribution)

Wednesday 24 April 2024

Y3 Tag Rugby @ Chesterfield Panthers –

Please arrive at school by 8:20am

Wednesday 24 April 2024

Y5 Handball @ Yewlands

Tuesday 30 April 2024

Y4 Mini Tennis @ Graves Places for People

Monday 6 May 2024

Bank Holiday – School Closed

Monday 22nd May – Wednesday 24th May 2024

Y4 Residential to Kingswood (Peak Venture)

Jesus said: "Love one another as I have loved you."

At St Thomas More our Mission is to love and to become the wonderful person God created us to be



Whole School Information



After School Club Information

The club has the children participating in different and fun activities each day. The club is split into three different sessions which are listed below:

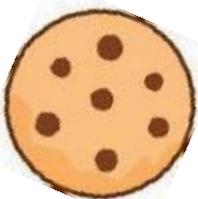
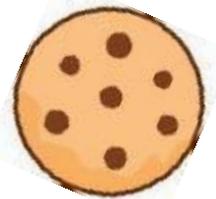
Bookings can be made via [Parent Mail](#) up until **3pm the previous day**. After this time bookings can be made by contacting the school office. For the parents whose children attend after school club, please don't hesitate to get in touch and leave any feedback!

15:20 - 16:15	The children will take part in a different activity until it is time to be collected (£3)
15:20—17:00	The children will take part in a different activity and will be given a choice of either a hot or cold food followed by a snack such as fruit or a sweet treat. (£6)
15:20—18:00	The children will take part in a different activity and will be given a choice of either a hot or cold food followed by a snack such as fruit or a sweet treat before either starting a new activity or carrying on with the previous one. (£8)

Join in the fun at After School Club!

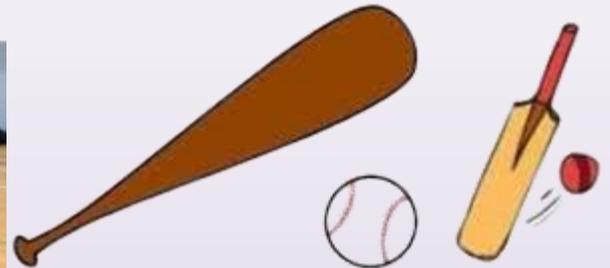
Please note: ***NO After School Club on Thursday 9th May and Wednesday 5th June***

Take a look below at some of our latest activities during ASC!





Recent Trips- Y2 Striking and Fielding at Yewlands





Recent Trips - Y2's Trip to Grave's for Gymnastics



PIC • COLLAGE

WELL DONE!



Good Shepherd Appeal 2024



Good Shepherd Appeal 2024

“Every Day Miracles”



Every year during Lent, our school supports the [Good Shepherd Appeal](#) by undertaking some fundraising.

We are delighted to launch our Good Shepherd Appeal for 2024!

The theme of this year's Appeal is 'Every Day Miracles'; here is a short 2 minute video to help get the conversations started:

<https://youtu.be/oRVXGf7hVS8?si=tVPfaAkWFeJelfVE>

This year to raise money we will be doing the following events: -

Friday 15th March

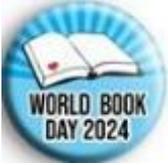
On this day, children (and adults) can come to school in their pyjamas/dressing gowns/onesies/relaxing at home clothes (suitable footwear should be worn).

We are asking for a donation of £1 per child

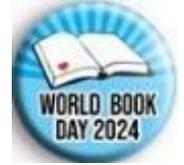
Name the Teddy Game – (one per class) this will be 50p per entry and children can bring in money to enter any time from Monday the 11th March. Children can choose their name for the teddy and once all the names are chosen, the winning name will be revealed.



The child who has chosen the winning name will receive a small cuddly teddy bear
All monies raised will go to the [Good Shepherd Appeal](#).



World Book Day – Thursday 7th March 2024



WORLD BOOK DAY 2024

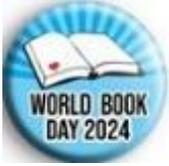
Students had such a fabulous time for World Book Day this week and enjoyed taking part in various activities throughout the day, immersing themselves in the amazing world of books!



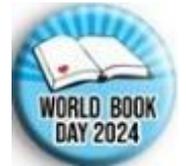
F2 really enjoyed dressing up as their favourite book characters! They went on an adventure around the school to look for clues to try and figure out which character was causing mischief! Can you guess which character it was from the photos to the left?



Take a read on the Wild Side: Y1's theme was: **Wild About Reading!** Just take a look at all the wild animals that arrived into school today. The children shared their 'caught in the wild' photographs. What a lot of wild and wacky places to be caught reading.



World Book Day – Thursday 7th March 2024



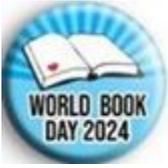
Year 2 had lots of fun on their 'Dr Seuss' themed World Book Day! They enjoyed drawing, listening to stories and reading lots of Dr Seuss books and even created their own Dr Seuss puppets.



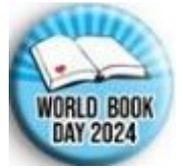
Class 3 have enjoyed a phizz-whizzing day learning all about Roald Dahl, we have created Mr. Twits beard using (worms, feathers, cereal and other arts and craft materials). We cracked the code to escape the library using our Math's and SPAG knowledge. And to end the day we enjoyed some scrumdiddlyumptious hot chocolate with a book.



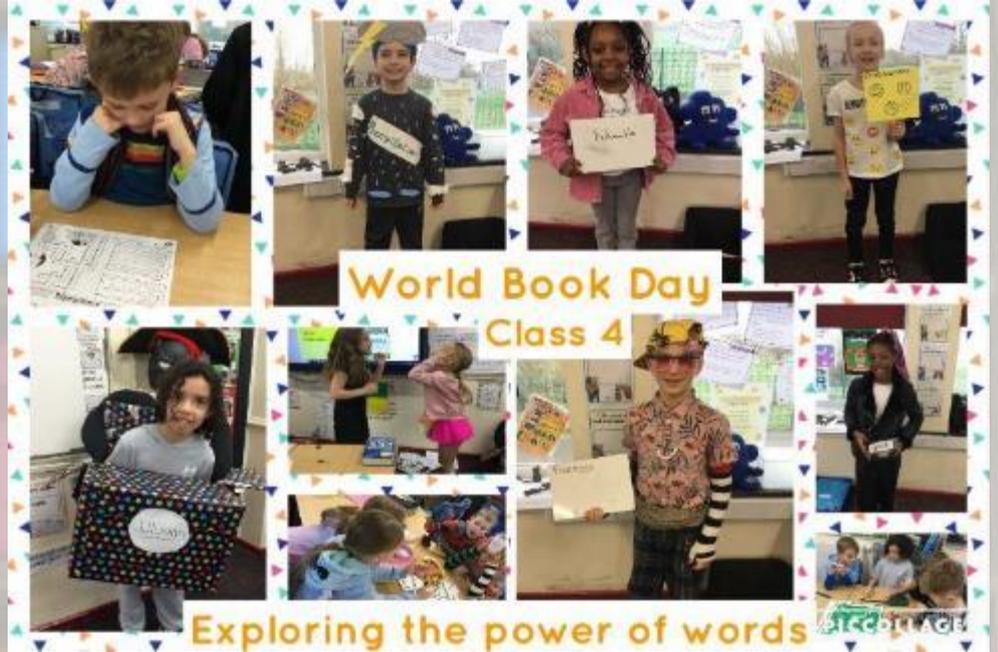
Whole School Information



World Book Day – Thursday 7th March 2024



Year 4 had fun dressing up as their 'Wow word' and being 'Word collectors' for the day!



Year 5 enjoyed embarking on a captivating adventure to Tolkien's magical realm of Middle Earth!



Y6 enjoyed dressing up and writing their biographies on a person who has inspired and changed the world!





Staff Updates



World Book Day – Thursday 7th March 2024

Each year, staff at STM look forward to dressing up for World Book Day and this year was no exception! Staff had a lot of fun dressing up as some of their favourite characters from their favourite books!





British Science Week 8th- 17th March 2024



During British Science Week, children will be taking part in exciting activities linked to this year's theme of Time. Take a look below to see what your class will be doing during British Science Week:

F2	See & Eat Grow a Beanstalk F2 will explore the life cycle of a vegetable, following its journey from root to harvest. They will plant their own green beans and describe the different stages of their growth.
Y1	Changing apples Class 1 will delve into the world of apple varieties. They'll use their sense to describe the apples' appearances and textures, and even taste them! They'll discover the smallest, tallest and widest varieties, and observe apple cores over time.
Y2	Nature's Future Nature in the UK is in trouble – its future is in our hands! Can you imagine a better future for nature on our school grounds? Class 2 will be taking action together to make a change!
Y3	Can you use the sun to tell the time? Before clocks were invented, people told the time using sundials. Class 3 will be making a gnomon (the projecting piece of a sundial) from a selection of materials and observing how the shadow cast by it changes during the day.
Y4	The Big Plastic Count: It's time for change! The Big Plastic Count (11-17 th March) is the UK's biggest household plastic waste investigation. Class 4 will be joining thousands of schools and households across the UK by counting how much plastic waste they throw away, gathering vital evidence to present the true scale of the problem to the government. Keep an eye out on our class dojo page for further information!
Y5	Make your own pendulum timer! Class 5 will be becoming engineers by learning about pendulums and making one themselves. They'll experiment with ways to slow down its swing and even explore different types of swings. Are you up to the challenge Class 5?
Y6	Design a farm of the future! Farming is often described as the 'world's oldest profession,' but what does the future hold for farming? There are over 8 billion people on Earth, up from only 1 billion in the year 1800. Class 6 will be exploring how farmers can rise to the challenge of feeding everyone whilst also looking after our planet.



Whole School Science Competition



The British Science Week 2024 Poster Competition

STM will be taking part in British Science Week 2024 (8-17th March 2024), which marks the Week's 30th anniversary. The theme this year is 'Time' - there are loads of STEM topics to be explored!

Children could create a poster showing how a certain type of technology has changed over time, or even the advancement of time-telling technology itself. Budding poster makers could go futuristic by showing how the world might look in years to come, or perhaps look at nature - lifecycles, lifespans and hibernation - nature is full of timely topics!

How will the posters be judged?

The judges at the British Science Association will be looking for:

- **Creativity** - Innovative angle on the content or creative interpretation of the time
 - don't be afraid to think outside the box!
- **Content** - Clear, accurate and informative about a STEM topic
- **Effective Communication** - Communicated in an engaging way

The judges will choose a winner from the following age categories: Early years, Infant (Y1-Y3) and junior (Y4-Y6).

What are the prizes?!

Prizes for 2024 competition winners include: memberships for My Science Club, A collection of Science Works books, space-themed 3D building playsets, A Day in the Life...books, WWF adoption pack and many more!

Entries must be 1 page of A4 or A3 only. Please hand in your poster competition entries to Mrs Butterworth no later than Friday 22nd March.

The top five poster entries will be revealed in assembly and submitted by Mrs Butterworth into the competition.



Egg-mazing Scene Competition!

School Council have challenged each child to create an egg-mazing scene by boiling an egg and placing it into a setting of their choice. The egg could be a popstar, a football on a field or even a baker in a Greggs (an entry from last year, it was incredible) ... the possibilities are endless.



A few visual egg-amples for inspiration

If you wish to participate, please bring your creation into school on **Wednesday 27th March 2024**. Judging will take place that day. **Entry will be £1** and one lucky child from KS1 and KS2 will receive a prize kindly donated by Tesco - Saville Street Sheffield.

All money raised will go towards a new sound system in the hall.



TimesTables RockStars



We are running three Times Tables Rockstars competitions this half term. Each week we will be updating you on the scores via Dojo.



Y2 Group 1 v Y2 Group 2
Y3 v Y4
Y5 v Y6

Please encourage your children to take part in this at home, as the winning classes/groups will be given a special certificate for their efforts.



Congratulations to the winners of last half term's competition.

11th January - 8th February 2024

Y2 Group 1 225 Y2 Group 2 162

11th January - 8th February 2024

Year 4 2793 Year 3 28

11th January - 8th February 2024

Year 5 732 Year 6 141

Y2 Group 1, Y4 and Y5 were our winners. Look out for the change to our display in the hall!

Well done!





A Culture of Safeguarding at St Thomas More

Looking After Your WELLBEING ONLINE

We all know that taking care of our minds and bodies is essential to keep us feeling happy and healthy. The thing is, we spend so much of our time online these days that it's also important that we remember to look after ourselves in the digital world, too. Our poster has got some simple but useful tips for supporting your wellbeing while you're gaming, on social media or just using the internet.

TAKE CARE WHAT YOU SHARE

TRACK YOUR SCREEN TIME

TAKE BREAKS

REPORT INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

SPEAK UP AGAINST HARMFUL BEHAVIOUR

STAY ACTIVE OFFLINE

CHECK YOUR PRIVACY SETTINGS

AVOID COMPARING YOURSELF TO OTHERS

PAUSE BEFORE YOU POST

BE KIND & BE CAREFUL

BLOCK BULLIES

GO TECH FREE BEFORE BED

NOS National Online Safety® #WakeUpWednesday

LOOK FOR POSITIVE COMMUNITIES



SEND and Inclusion News



SEND Parents' Session



From recent feedback from parents, we have decided to have our next SEND parents meet-up during an afternoon session rather than morning so that more parents can attend. The session will be on:

Tuesday 16th April 3:30pm-5pm.

The sessions are specifically aimed at those parents who have a child in school with a special educational need and/or disability. However, the sessions are inclusive so therefore all parents/carers of children attending our school are welcome.

These sessions are designed to share information about provision in school; share links with key agencies; share opportunities for our children with SEND within the community as well as the opportunity for parents/carers to informally meet one another, share experiences and ask questions. It is always great to realise that you are not alone on this journey; there are many parents treading a similar path!

For this session, we are very lucky to have an Educational Psychologist attending: Dr Josie Faure Walker. She will be delivering a short workshop to support parents with dealing with emotional and mental health. She will give some key information about emotional dysregulation, sensory needs and strategies to support children.

These sessions will take place every half term and I hope in the future to invite other key professionals to join each as guest speakers to allow you find out more about their service, ask questions and collect some hints and tips.

If you would like to join us on Tuesday 16th April 3:30pm-5pm, please complete the link below:

<https://forms.office.com/e/wm9Wp1CFrv>

Thank you,
Mrs Round





SAT 23RD MARCH

MAKERS' MARKET

Join us for our Makers Market
Featuring a variety of unique gifts and crafts



10AM-4PM



SAT 23RD
MARCH

Pick up an entry for
our Spring Trail
from the Market or
Henry's Cafe



10am-
4pm



FIRTH PARK
METHODIST
CHURCH

Friends of Firth Park





Celebration Winners

W/e 1st March 2024



F2	Bella	For	Your amazing writing this week! You have listened so carefully to our star words and have applied new vocabulary in your writing such as 'delectable' and 'swindle', wow! You have used your phonics to sound out tricky words and have been trying so hard to make your writing neat, well done! 😊
	Emma		Being a kind friend. You have shown care and consideration for others this week. You have ensured that no one is left out and have encouraged others to join in with your game. You have helped others out without even having to be asked and are a great role model for how to be a great friend, well done 😊
Y1	Jack	For	Excellent work in maths this week finding halves and quarters of a shape or amount. Well done!
	Reuben		A fantastic attitude towards your learning! It has been lovely to see you focused in all your lessons.
Y2	Ollie	For	Being a great role model during our sports trips this week. You showed great resilience and lots of skill during our gymnastics session and you showed great use of a bat and ball at Yewlands. Well done!
	Miles		Writing a brilliant report on wolves. You have used lots of great features in your writing and we are so impressed with the effort that you have put into this. Well done!
Y3	Dominic	For	Having impressed Mrs Dodsworth during this week's swimming lesson by overcoming your fear of putting your face in the water.
	Amari		We're right at the start of our fractions topic and already, you have shown amazing understanding of recognising and writing fractions.
Y4	Finley H	For	Working hard to improve your handwriting! You were super focused during our big write this week and created a beautifully presented non-chronological report about spiders. Keep it up Finley! 😊
	Finlay W		Blowing all the adults away in our Art lesson this week! You created a first piece clay sculpture of a spider linked to our text Charlotte's Web! We can't wait to see your final piece after our clay skills lessons in the next few weeks. Well done Finlay 😊
Y5	Oliver	For	Great determination to challenge yourself! It has been great to see you focusing on your work and pushing yourself in our lessons! 😊
	Philomena		Being a super role-model for others! You always show your values around school and complete learning to the best of your ability! 😊
Y6	Vienna	For	Your lovely and thoughtful writing in RE this week. We talked about how it could feel to lose someone, and you approached this with such sensitivity and maturity. Thank you for your amazing work, Vienna! 😊
	Nancy		Your hard work and constant effort that you put into reasoning. You don't give up with any problem that there is to solve and you show amazing resilience until you find the answer. Well done Nancy, keep up your hard work and keep demonstrating that brilliant attitude! 😊



Out of School Achievements



Congratulations to Pixie, Lyra Y1, Leon, Violet & Bella Y2 and Daisy Y4 for their out of school achievements!



Congratulations to Sanjana & Elena Y3 and Ava Y6 for their amazing writing.

GROWTH MINDSET AWARD WINNER

W/e 1st March 2024



This week's winner is Franklyn in Y6

You have earned this celebration award for: Being a fantastic member of Y6! You support your friends and you show kindness to everyone in our classroom. As well as being such a great role model, you have demonstrated true resilience and perseverance with our weekly arithmetic tests. You have worked hard to improve your score and the hard work is paying off – a big well done to you Frankie! 😊



Attendance and Punctuality

W/e 8th March 2024



Class	Percentage	Lates
F2	88.9	6
Y1	97.3	1
Y2	99.7	1
Y3	96.9	0
Y4	98.7	2
Y5	91.7	5
Y6	97.3	3
School Total	95.9	18

Wow! Keep it up! Y2 will receive an extra playtime for your great attendance and punctuality.

Our whole school attendance target for this academic year (23/24) is 95.5%

N.B. We are currently reviewing all children's attendance and punctuality so far this academic year. If your child's attendance is below 92%, and/or your child has a significant number of lates, then you may receive a letter for your information or be asked to attend a meeting in school to find ways to support you to help improve your child's attendance. Thank you for your support.



100% Attendance and Punctuality!
W/e 8th March 2024

F2	Tino
Y1	David
Y2	Ted
Y3	Elena
Y4	Daisy
Y5	Romaine
Y6	Lottie-Rae





STM Projects



Each half term, our children are being given a project to complete at home. The projects that we have designed link to an area of the curriculum that your child/children will be learning about during that half term. Below are the projects for your children. Your class teacher will be providing some inspiration for these on your Class Dojo next Monday. We can't wait to see what you produce and look forward to displaying them around school!

Returning the projects: You can return the projects at any point throughout this term but please be aware that the final date for their return is **Wednesday 27th March.**

Spring Term 2	
EYFS	<i>Please see Dojo for information about a wider range of activities to support learning across all aspects of EYFS</i>
Y1	<p>Leaf and flower rubbing: Collect some flowers and leaves, place paper on top of them and rub with crayons or chalk to create a wonderful piece of art!</p> <p>Challenge: Can you spot 2 evergreen trees and 2 deciduous trees? Write some facts about their appearance.</p>
Y2	<p>Map of the world: Create an artistic Map of the world that has a focus on the continents and oceans.</p> <p>Challenge: Pick a country from a continent on the map and create a fact file about it.</p>
Y3	<p>What is it like in Sheffield? Create a piece of artwork, depicting the landscape and history of Sheffield.</p> <p>Challenge: Write a report about how the landscape of Sheffield has changed over time.</p>
Y4	<p>Biomes: Create a model of your chosen biome inside a box e.g. tundra, desert, tropical rainforest. Include some of the plant and animal species found in your chosen biome.</p> <p>Challenge: Write a non-chronological report about the biome that you have chosen.</p>
Y5	<p>Blast off: Create a rocket and evidence its 'take-off'. Produce a poster of your rocket upon its completion, and label the forces at play as it sets off.</p> <p>Challenge: Create a script which you can read over the top of your rocket setting off. This script should have information around the specific forces which are taking place.</p>
Y6	<p>Healthy Me! Consider the ways in which you can take care of both your physical and your mental health. Create a booklet or a PowerPoint presentation as a guide to help someone live a healthy lifestyle.</p> <p>Challenge: Write a letter to the Prime Minister asking him to consider something to improve health (e.g. ban the sale of cigarettes, improve free sports clubs in the city).</p>



Trips and Events



STM Sporting Events and Competitions 2024

Event	Year	Venue	Date/Time
Dance Festival	Y1/Y5	Winding Wheel	13/03/24 9:30am - 12pm <i>(please arrive at school by 8:20am for the coach)</i>
Sports Summit	Y5	EIS Sheffield	18/04/24 9:30am - 2:30pm
Tag Rugby	Y3	Chesterfield Panthers	24/04/24 9:30am - 12pm <i>(please arrive at school by 8:20am for the coach)</i>
Handball	Y5	Yewlands	24/04/24 1:00pm - 3pm
Bikeability	Y5	In School	29/04/24 - 03/05/24
Mini Tennis	Y4	Graves Places for People	30/04/24 9:30am - 12pm
Mini Tennis	Y6	Graves Leisure Centre	06/06/24 9:30am - 12pm
Derby County Football	Y3	Derby County Training Ground	11/06/24 9:30am - 12pm
Football District	Y6	Derby Country Training Ground	14/06/24 9:30am - 12pm
Water Polo	Y5	Graves Places for People	18/06/24 9am - 11:30pm

MORE SPORTS EVENTS TO FOLLOW

There will be no cost to parents/carers for any of the above events.

These events, including transport will be fully funded from the school's premium grant.



Trips and Events



	<u>F2 Magna trip</u>
	Friday 19 th April 2024
	Normal time
	<u>Magna</u>
	Coach
	The cost of the trip is £19.00 per child. If we do not receive enough contributions, the trip may have to be cancelled
	<p>F2 will be going to Magna Museum for a fun filled adventure day out on Friday the 19th April 2024.</p> <p>They will be taking part in a dinosaur detective workshop where they'll be digging for fossils and following footprints to discover which dinosaur was the culprit. They will also explore the pavilions and play on the adventure playground, weather permitting. Children will need a water bottle and pack lunch (which can be ordered through school if you wish)</p>



Trips and Events



<u>Y2 Walk to Local Library at Parsons Cross</u>	
	Tuesday 19th March <u>AND</u> Tuesday 9th July 2024
	Normal time
	<u>Parson Cross Library</u>
	Walking
	No payment required
	<p>On Tuesday 19th March 2024 and Tuesday 9th July 2024, Y2 will be walking to the Local Library at Parsons Cross.</p> <p>Students will be leaving school at 9:45am to arrive at the Library for 10am. The children will be able to explore the library and read books, supported by school staff and volunteers and the Librarians.</p> <p>Students will be back in time for their school lunch.</p> <p>Please let the school office know if you do not want your child to attend.</p>



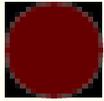
Trips and Events



Y4 Residential to Kingswood (Peak Venture)



Monday 20th May 2024 - Wednesday 22nd May 2024



Normal school time, the children leave around lunchtime on Monday.



[Peak Venture Yorkshire | Outdoor Education | Kingswood](#)



Coach



The cost of the trip is [£235.00](#) per child

Exhilarating Adventure Park with apparatus including a zip wire, 3G swing and leap of faith, plus specially designed bush craft sessions and nature walks.

Flexible indoor space for all weather activities including fencing and indoor initiatives. Located adjacent to our water sports area, situated on the Scout Dike Reservoir, offering exciting activities including canoeing and raft building.

Other facilities: Diner, shop, social hubs, party leader lounges, indoor classroom spaces. Offering each child an opportunity to increase their resilience, grow their confidence and develop their character.

The cost of the trip is £235 per child. This includes: -

- Travel
- Accommodation for 2 nights
- Activities over the 3 days
- Meals over the 3 days

The full balance for the trip needs to have been paid by **28th March 2024**.

If you wish to discuss anything about costs, please do not hesitate to contact the school office. Here is a link to the Peak Venture website: [Peak Venture Yorkshire | Outdoor Education | Kingswood](#)



Trips and Events



<u>Year 6 Trip to Whitby</u>	
	Monday 24th June until Wednesday 26th June 2024
	TBC
	YHA Whitby Abbey Hostel Accommodation Whitby
	Coach
	The total cost of the trip is £180 . Once confirmed, please make the deposit of £20 and provide consent on ParentMail .
	<p>We are pleased to announce that we are offering a 2-night residential to this year's class six pupils on Monday 24th June 2024 until Wednesday 26th June 2024. The children will be staying at the Youth Hostel in Whitby next to the Abbey.</p> <p>The stay will include all accommodation, including 3 meals - breakfast, lunch and dinner, and refreshments during the stay. The cost to parents will also include the coach to and from Whitby. The cost for the transport and accommodation including all meals and supervised activities per child is £180.</p> <p>We will be offering an information session for parents to attend in the near future to find out more about the activities the children will be participating in and further information on the YHA Whitby Centre. We will also be giving you information on clothing and footwear the children will need for the trip. For now,</p> <p>We would like you to confirm if you would like your child to take part in the Y6 Residential trip and include a £20 deposit, payment is available on ParentMail , this is needed to secure the booking with the YHA in Whitby.</p> <p>Payments can be made in instalments, with the full balance needing to be paid by 22nd April 2024.</p>

