



St Thomas More Catholic Primary, A Voluntary Academy

2023/24 Newsletter – Issue 22
Week Commencing – 26 February 2024
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M&M Production – The Jungle Book

The whole school will get the chance to watch **M&M** theatrical production in School of the **Jungle Book**, on the morning of **23rd April 2024**.

Full details about the play will be in the Newsletter shortly. The cost per child is a contribution of **£6**.

All children will take part in watching this show, however, if you wish for your child to **NOT** attend please call the school office on 01142468020.

Y3 Tag Rugby Update – 24/04/2024

Please note that students attending the Tag Rugby event at Chesterfield Panthers on this date are now required to arrive at school by **8:20am** due to the coach leaving school at 8:30am

Fun Fact Friday

Not all astronauts are human!



Many early astronauts were dogs. Scientists trained them to use simple controls in the spacecraft. Other animals sent into space include apes, frogs, guinea pigs, monkeys, rabbits, rats and tortoises!

Important Dates:

Monday 4 March 2024

Y2 Gymnastics @ Graves Places for People

Wednesday 6 March 2024

Y2 Striking/Fielding @ Yewlands

(please check ParentMail for any potential updates for this event)

Thursday 7 March

World Book Day - Deadline for Writing Competition

Wednesday 13 March 2024

Y1/Y5 Dance Festival @ Winding Wheel

Friday 15 March 2024

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

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 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

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 afterschool club!

Book now only

£3.00 – 3.20pm – 4.15pm

£6.00 – 3.20pm – 5.00pm

£8.00 – 3.20pm – 6.00pm

Jewellery Reminder

Jewellery		
<p>One pair of small plain stud earrings may be worn, maximum of one in each ear, no other style is permitted.</p> <p>Earrings should be removed for PE.</p> <p><u>No</u> other jewellery is allowed</p>		



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. 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](#).



SEND Festival Sports Trip 2024

Please see below some photos from our SEND Festival sports trip this year. The students had a lot of fun taking part in a variety of sporting activities! Mrs Faley enjoyed attending the trip and was really proud of how well all the children did!





DT Compassionate Cooking Day

This week in Class 4, we have had a DT Compassionate Cooking Day! We prepared and tasted a vegetarian meal consisting of a vegetarian chilli and a fruit crumble. The children used a range of cooking skills such as grating, slicing and weighing ingredients. They were eager to taste what they had made. Well done Class 4!





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 – it's 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.

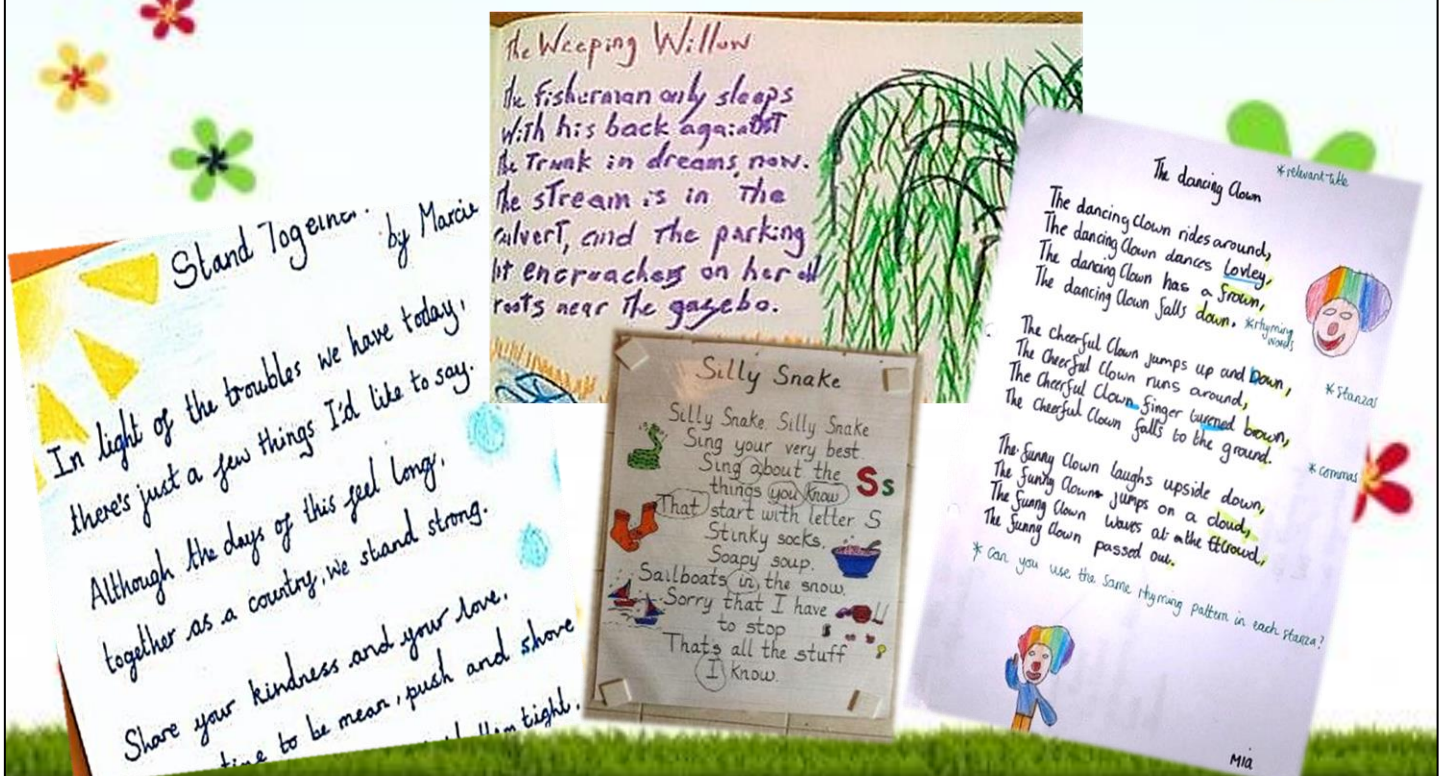


Whole School Writing Competition

*Calling all young writers and budding artists!
Dive into the World of Words at St Thomas More
to celebrate World Book Day 2024!*

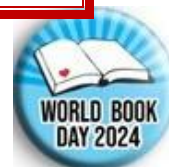
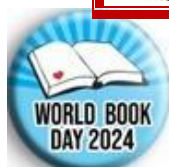
*Unleash your creativity in our Whole School Writing Competition!
This time, we're inviting you to weave enchanting poems about characters
from your favourite books or stories.
Bring them to life through your words, and let your imagination soar!
What's more? Each poem must be accompanied by your very own
illustrations, making your creation a masterpiece of
words and images!*

*Don't forget to hand in your literary gems
to Miss Garner by **Thursday 7th March 2024**
We're assembling a unique St. Thomas More Book of
Poems, and your work will be featured in our book.
Exciting prizes await those with the most
captivating tales and imaginative illustrations.
So, grab your pens, let your creativity flow,
and be a part of this literary adventure!*





Whole School Information



It's soon approaching that time of year once again, the time that we love in St Thomas More... **World Book Day!** World Book Day is taking place this year on **Thursday 7th March** and we are inviting all children and staff to get involved! Our teachers have been extremely busy planning ideas for each class. We will be holding a whole school 'best-dressed competition' and a whole school writing competition. We would love for children to come to school all dressed up and we would like to invite children to bring in a favourite book on the day if they would like to. **Take a look below to see what your class are doing for World Book Day 2024:**

F2	F2's World Book Day theme is 'Traditional Tales'! Children can come dressed up as their favourite character from a traditional tale-The Gingerbread Man, Goldilocks, Billy Goats Gruff, Little Red Riding hood....! The choice is yours. We will be going on an adventure around school to look for clues to try and figure out which character is causing mischief! We will also be doing lots of art, drama and of course reading many traditional tales throughout the day!
Y1	Year 1's theme this year is Wild About Reading! The children will spend the day writing an information fact-file about their chosen animal. We would like the children to send a 'caught in the wild' photograph of them reading in the most unusual place!
Y2	Y2 will be having a Dr Seuss Day! We will be learning all about Dr Seuss, diving into some of his most famous characters such as the Grinch, Lorax, Fish, Cat in the Hat and many more. The children will be drawing, listening to stories and reading lots of his books. They will also be using the book to help to create their own Dr Seuss puppets.
Y3	Year 3 are experiencing the scrumdiddlyumptious joy of reading this World Book Day, through sharing and celebrating the works of our favourite author Roald Dahl. We will be creating our own marvellous medicines, tasting the delights of the chocolate factory, and spending our day in our own class library just like the clever Matilda.
Y4	Year 4 will be exploring the power of words this World Book Day! The children will take part in a range of activities inspired by the book The Word Collector by Peter H Reynolds, including playing word games and writing poems. We would like the children to fully enter into the spirit of being 'word collectors' so we are asking Y4 children to come to school dressed up to represent a 'wow word' that is new or interesting to them. Their chosen word should be clearly displayed within their outfit. Keep a look out on our class dojo page for some ideas!
Y5	Year 5 are journeying into Tolkien's magical realm of Middle Earth! In the spirit of literary exploration, we'll be embarking on a captivating adventure filled with a timeless tale that promises to ignite our imaginations ready for a day full of creativity!
Y6	Step into the world of inspiration with Year 6! In our classroom, we will become the inspirational figures who have appeared in the 'Little People, Big Dreams' collection of books. Children are invited to come to school dressed as a person who has featured in the books, we will be stepping into the shoes of a writer for the day and composing our very own biographies on a person who has inspired change in the world. We will be creating a piece of artwork to accompany our writing, and this will be displayed within school.



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




UK Health
Security
Agency

Measles: How to Stay Safe


The best protection is 2 doses of the safe, effective MMR vaccine at 1 year of age, and 3 years, 4 months




If you have not had two doses, you can get them free from your GP surgery



Know the symptoms!
Keep people with symptoms away from others




Call ahead before going to A&E or your GP




Symptoms


Rash




Temperature




Runny Nose



Red Eyes



Cough



UK Health Security Agency gateway number: 2023004. Download only resource www.gov.uk/government/publications/measles-outbreak

For more information, please refer to the NHS website [Measles - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)



SEND and Inclusion News



Information day about anxiety, sensory challenges and behaviour Friday 8th March 10:00-2:30 Niagara Centre, S6 1LU

An information day about support for children and young people who are experiencing anxiety, sensory processing difficulties and/or behaviour that challenges.

For parents and carers of children and young people (0-25 years) with additional needs in Sheffield.

- Browse [information stalls](#), pick up leaflets and talk to representatives from over 25 local services
- Attend up to three [workshops](#) to learn practical strategies that you can use at home
 - Chat to other parents and carers
 - Enjoy a free lunch!

Please note: This event is not suitable for children. Booking essential.

Click on this link for more information and to book your **FREE** place:

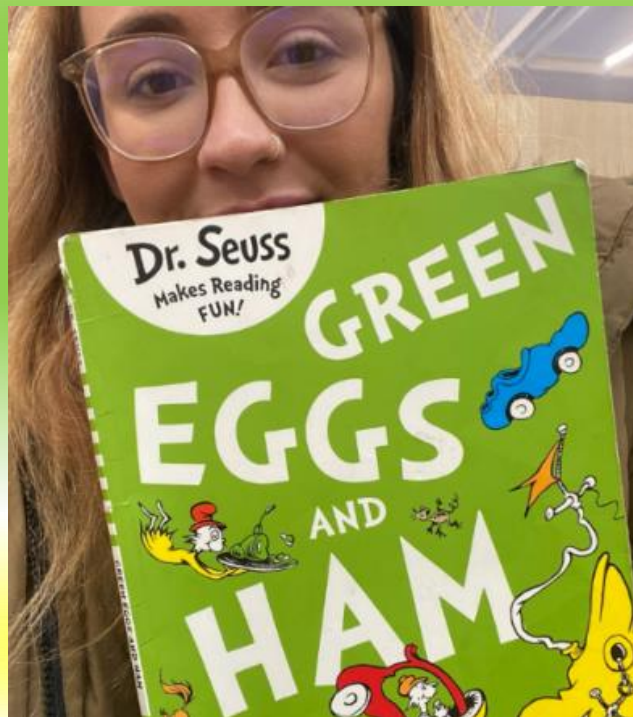
[Book now – Information Day about anxiety, sensory challenges and behaviour – Niagara Centre, Fri 8 Mar 2024 10:00 AM - 2:30 PM \(tickettailor.com\)](#)



Staff Updates: What do Staff at STM Read and Recommend?

Each week, we will be asking a different member of staff to recommend a good book they have read, and why they have enjoyed reading it!

Miss Bowman recommends reading 'Green Eggs and Ham'



"I recommend the book Green Eggs and Ham! It is so funny to hear Sam-I-am try to convince the other character to try green eggs and ham in all the different scenarios! The rhyming is excellent and it always makes children laugh whenever I read it to them. The moral of the story is you never know unless you try!"



Celebration Winners

W/e 1st March 2024



F2	Emily	For	Settling into our class family so well. You have come into school every day with a big smile on your face and eager to learn. You have learnt the rules and routines so quickly and have enjoyed playing with your new friends. Well done ☺
	Valentino		Your exceptional behaviour this week! You have followed our rules first time and have been so polite as always. We are really impressed with your effort to always try your best, be determined and show kindness to others, well done! ☺
Y1	Heidi	For	A brilliant attitude within PE this week! Heidi you have been very helpful supporting others with our dance for the Festival. Thank you for being an amazing role model and offering to support others around the lesson.
	Valentina		Impressing us with your descriptive narrative of 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. Valentina, you have worked incredibly hard this week making sure you use lots of interesting adjectives to describe each part of the story. Well done!
Y2	Arthur	For	Showing lots of effort and for being focused in his learning this week. Well done!
	Albie		Sharing lots of great ideas in our topic lessons this week and for show lots of focus during learning time at tables. Well done!
Y3	Nathan	For	You have worked extremely hard this week in maths. You have used previous learning and knowledge to be able to measure intervals in minutes and seconds to estimate how long a task may take. I am super proud of you. Keep it up.
	Lucy		You have produced some amazing narrative writing this week. You have been able to 'show not tell' the reader a description of how the character is feeling by describing the characters facial expressions. Keep up the great work.
Y4	Nelli	For	Your accurate use of apostrophes for possession with plural and singular nouns in our English lesson this week. You mastered this challenging skill, well done Nelli ☺
	Stasiu		The excellent quality of questions you asked during our Compassionate Cooking Day this week! You also used your multiplication skills to calculate how much sugar we needed to use in our fruit crumble.
Y5	Andrea	For	Setting a great example for others! We have noticed the effort you are putting in with your learning - keep it up! ☺
	Laylah		A fantastic week! Both of us have been impressed by your desire to improve your learning and how you have shown resilience to carry on even when you find it tricky! ☺
Y6	Ava	For	Your lovely work during RE this week. You considered how people can live out their lives in a similar way to Jesus and show love for others. Lovely work, well done Ava! ☺
	Kordell		Your fantastic writing this week. You have thought carefully about sentence structure and contributed your brilliant ideas to our whole-class writing. Well done, Kordell! ☺



Out of School Achievements



Congratulations to Harry, Hugo & Hettie Y1 and Daisy Y4 for their out of school achievements!



Congratulations to Maya Y2 for her out of school achievements!

GROWTH MINDSET AWARD WINNER

W/e 1st March 2024



This week's winner is Romari in F2

You have earned this celebration award for: Your attitude to learning.

Every day, you come into school eager to learn and are an exceptional role model to others.

Even when you find something tricky, you never give up and persevere with a big smile on your face. It is wonderful to see how proud you are of your achievements, keep up the good work! 😊



Attendance and Punctuality W/e 1st March 2024



Class	Percentage	Lates
F2	92.9	0
Y1	96.7	2
Y2	96.7	1
Y3	96.6	4
Y4	93.3	2
Y5	93.3	0
Y6	96.7	3
School Total	95.2	12

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 1st March 2024

F2	Azaria
Y1	Elliott
Y2	Robyn
Y3	April
Y4	Carlos
Y5	Laylah
Y6	Eve





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	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! Challenge: Can you spot 2 evergreen trees and 2 deciduous trees? Write some facts about their appearance.
Y2	Map of the world: Create an artistic Map of the world that has a focus on the continents and oceans. Challenge: Pick a country from a continent on the map and create a fact file about it.
Y3	What is it like in Sheffield? Create a piece of artwork, depicting the landscape and history of Sheffield. Challenge: Write a report about how the landscape of Sheffield has changed over time.
Y4	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. Challenge: Write a non-chronological report about the biome that you have chosen.
Y5	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. 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.
Y6	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. 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).



Trips and Events



STM Sporting Events and Competitions 2024

Event	Year	Venue	Date/Time
Gymnastics	Y2	Graves Places for People	04/03/24 9:30am - 12pm
Striking/Fielding	Y2	Yewlands	06/03/24 1:00pm - 3pm
Dance Festival	Y1/Y5	Winding Wheel	13/03/24 9:30am - 12pm
Tag Rugby	Y3	Chesterfield Panthers	24/04/24 9:30am - 12pm <i><u>(please arrive at school by 8:20am for the coach)</u></i>
Handball	Y5	Yewlands	24/04/24 1:00pm - 3pm






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>Y4 Residential to Kingswood (Peak Venture)</u>
	Monday 20th May - Wednesday 22nd May 2024
	TBC
	Peak Venture Yorkshire Outdoor Education Kingswood
	Coach
	The cost of the trip is <u>£235.00</u> per child
	<p>Exhilarating Adventure Park with apparatus including a zip wire, 3G swing and leap of faith, plus specially designed bush craft sessions and nature walks.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The cost of the trip is £235 per child. This includes: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Travel-Accommodation for 2 nights-Activities over the 3 days-Meals over the 3 days <p>The 2nd £70 payment instalment needed to be paid via ParentMail by 1st February 2024. The full balance for the trip needs to have been paid by 28th March 2024.</p> <p>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</p>



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 until Wednesday 26th June. 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 <u>22nd April 2024</u>.</p>

