FREETHORPE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Friday19th December 2025



A message from Ms Roberts & Mrs Andrews

As we come to the end of the Christmas term, we would like to take a moment to reflect on what has been a truly wonderful few months for our school community.
This term has been filled with learning, laughter, and memorable moments. From the children's hard work in the classroom to festive performances, events, and celebrations, it has been a joy to see our pupils grow in confidence, creativity, and kindness. We are incredibly proud of all they have achieved.
We would like to extend our sincere thanks to our dedicated staff, who continue to go above and beyond to support and inspire our children, and to our families for your ongoing support and partnership. Together, you help make our school such a warm, caring, and successful place to learn.

As we approach the Christmas break, I hope you are able to enjoy precious time with family and friends. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the New Year, refreshed and ready for another exciting term ahead.

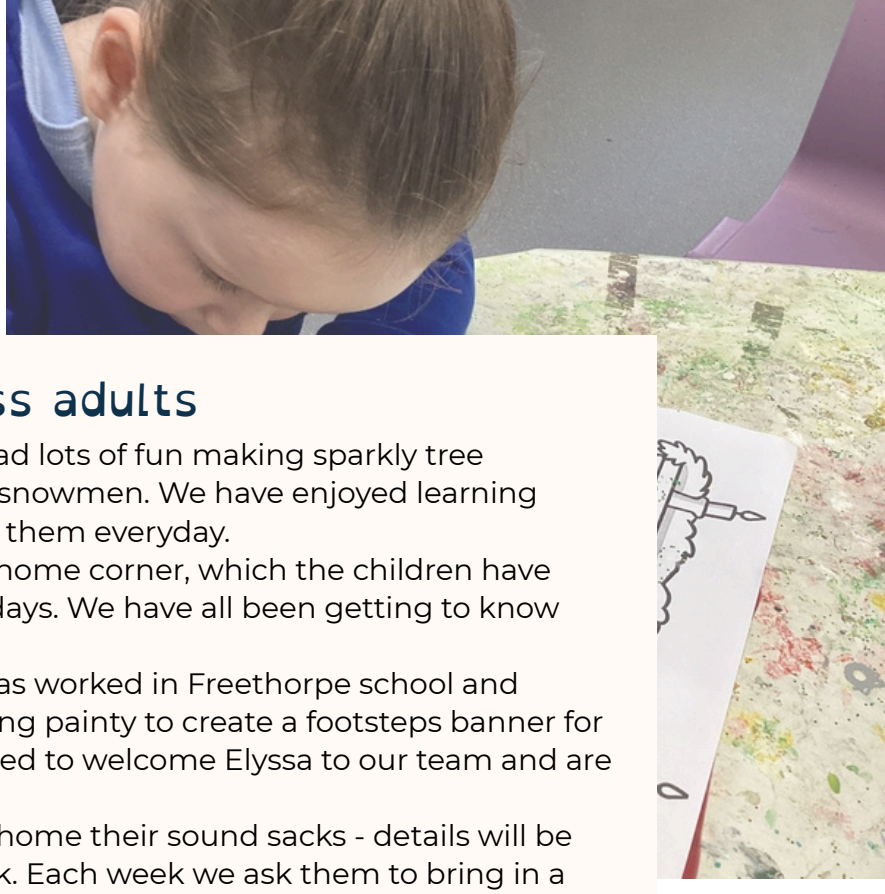
AUTUMN TERM 2

Dates for the Diary

6/1/26 – All classes – First day of term
12/1/26 – 23/2/26 – Year 5 Swimming
26/1/26 – Goldfinch – Parent Café (2:15pm) – Families Welcome
27/1/26 – Barn Owls – Parent Café (2:15pm) – Families Welcome
28/1/26 – Swallow – Parent Café (9:30am) – Families Welcome
29/1/26 – Buzzards – Parent Café (2:15pm) – Families Welcome
30/1/26 – Kingfisher – Parent Café (2:15pm) – Families Welcome
4/2/26 – 6/2/26 – Year 4 – Hilltop Year 4
6/2/26 – All classes – Dress Up for Digits (Number Day)
10/2/26 – Reception – Year 6 – Showcase of Learning (3:30 – 4:25pm)
12/2/26 – All classes – Valentine's Day Cake Sale (3:30pm)
13/2/26 – All classes – Last day of Spring 1

NURSERY/PRESCHOOL

ROBIN



A message from Robin class adults

Glitter season has hit Robin Class, we have had lots of fun making sparkly tree decorations, Christmas cards, stockings and snowmen. We have enjoyed learning christmas songs and look forward to singing them everyday.
We have our own little christmas tree in our home corner, which the children have enjoyed decorating and redecorating most days. We have all been getting to know 'Carlos', the Robin Class elf!!
We have sadly said Goodbye to Diane who has worked in Freethorpe school and preschool since 2006. Children enjoyed getting painty to create a footsteps banner for her. We wish her every success. We are pleased to welcome Elyssa to our team and are looking forward to getting to know her.
In the New Year, children will begin to bring home their sound sacks - details will be inside letting you know our letter of the week. Each week we ask them to bring in a couple of items from home beginning with the sound of the week.
Merry Christmas!!







RECEPTION/Y1

GOLDFINCH



A message from our adults in Goldfinch class

Goldfinch Class have loved exploring their creative side as potters! The children have enjoyed working with clay, noticing the differences between it and play dough — one of our favourite areas of continuous provision. They have been exploring patterns in their creations and thinking carefully about the purpose of the pots and cups they chose to make.



Each child has had the opportunity to roll, mould, and shape the clay themselves, building on their exploration before making their final piece. Some children even chose to add handles to their pots or cups, successfully joining these pieces together — a real achievement!
Goldfinch Class have shown great creativity, patience, and pride in their work, and it's been wonderful to see their ideas come to life.

We have been enjoying the story Claymates, exploring the adventures of the characters and bringing the story to life in our reading. The children have been practising using both question marks and exclamation marks, not only in their writing but also in their reading and expressions, making their storytelling even more exciting!
In phonics, Reception has now learnt all the sounds of the alphabet and have made a fantastic start on digraphs — two letters that make one sound. The children are already beginning to use these new sounds in their reading and writing.
In Maths we have been exploring both 2D and 3D shapes. The children have used these shapes to create patterns and build constructions, demonstrating good understanding of shape properties and spatial awareness.
We also had lots of fun creating our own Christmas decorations with clay. We hope these special creations will bring joy to your home for many years to come. Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas from all the team in Goldfinch Class.





Y1/Y2

BARN OWLS



A message from staff working in Barn Owl class

In Barn Owl Class, our topic Fire and Forge has sparked plenty of curiosity and creativity! The children have been busy exploring clay—discovering how it behaves as a material, experimenting with shaping and moulding, and creating beautiful imprints using natural and classroom objects. They have each made their own pinch pot as well as a festive Christmas decoration, showing great focus and imagination.

In RE, we have been learning the Nativity story and talking about what it means to Christians. The children have also explored the meaning of Advent, making their own advent wreaths to help them understand this time of preparation. We ended the term by learning about Christingles—and, of course, making them! The class enjoyed discussing the symbolism behind each part.

In Maths, we have continued our work on addition and subtraction, most recently tackling missing-number problems. The children have shown excellent reasoning skills as they worked out the numbers that make each equation true.

In English, our focus has been on grammar. Using the delightful book Claymates as inspiration, the children have explored different types of sentences and punctuation, and have been practising using these features confidently in their own writing.

It has been a wonderfully creative and thoughtful 3 weeks in Barn Owl Class—well done, everyone!







Y2/Y3

SWALLOWS

A message from adults working in Swallow class

Our latest topic, *Fire and Forge*, has continued to look at the Iron Age and how the raw materials of the earth, from stone and metal to clay and grain, have been transformed through heat, tools and human ingenuity. We have examined different grains and how they are formed into flour. We have tasted different types of bread and looked at their origins around the world, from ciabatta to baguettes, sourdough to naan bread. We have made a Bread Passport documenting them all and recording our observations of how they differ. We have even worked as bread-makers mixing and kneading bread, baking and, the best part, eating it!

In English, we have focused on improving our editing skills. How can we make our writing more vivid to the reader? How can we paint clear pictures through the words we use? The children have run with this idea and produced wonderfully imaginative pieces of writing. Adjectives, adverbs and noun phrases have been added, as well as punctuation to allow the reader to take a pause.

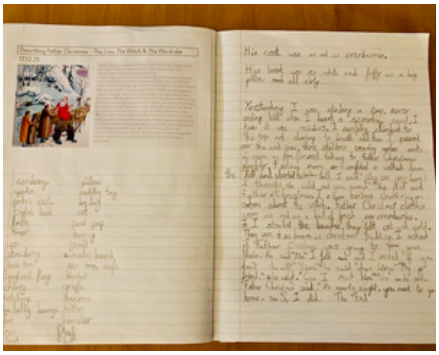
In maths, we have focused on reasoning skills, re-capping on 2-D and 3-D shapes and their properties. We have looked at word problems using addition, subtraction, multiplication and division and how to break them down into stages. We are still building on our skills of number bonds to 100 and knowing our 5 x tables by heart - feel free to quiz us!

In RE, we have looked at the Jewish festival of Chanukah

A large part of the last few weeks has focused on preparations for our Christmas performances. We are so proud of the dedication, creativity and bravery that the children showed in both shows. There were children who took on speaking parts for the first time, those who played an instrument in front of a packed church, or led the singing for the class. Lots of them attended additional lunch-time rehearsals, or stood in for class-mates at the last minute, some supported by learning songs for the other production when we were short on numbers. We are incredibly grateful to them all; it has been wonderful to see them grow in confidence and to work so well as a supportive team.







Y4/Y5

BUZZARDS



A message from our adults in Buzzard class

Buzzard Class have had a very busy and exciting term and have worked incredibly hard! They really enjoyed learning how to make and bake bread, from preparing dough and mixing ingredients to understanding each step of the process. They also wrote some lovely instructional texts explaining how bread is made. The children created some fantastic projects too, including role plays, designing their own cafés and making different types of bread for special occasions and moments.

In Maths, they have worked hard adding and subtracting four-digit numbers and continuing to practise their times tables, with a new focus on building confidence in their 6s, 7s and 8s. The class put in a great effort during assessment week and should be very proud of themselves.

In PE, the children have taken to their dance unit brilliantly, creating energetic and expressive routines inspired by The Greatest Showman and showing great teamwork and creativity. We hope families enjoyed watching the Buzzard Class video at the showcase, which shared their wonderful writing inspired by One Plastic Bag and explored the impact of plastic pollution.

To finish the term, Buzzard Class sang beautifully at the Halvergate Church service and read their class poem with confidence. We would like to wish everyone at Freethorpe, a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!







Y5/Y6

KINGFISHER



A message from staff working in Kingfisher class

Kingfisher Class have been busy completing our fourth project, Fire and Forge. We've followed the story of bread from field to table—discovering where grains come from, milling our own to see how flour is made, and investigating how yeast creates airy loaves through fermentation (our balloon experiments were a hit!). Children explored recipes, mixed a simple dough to bake at home, and considered bread's global impact by comparing styles and traditions across different countries and religions.

In English, inspired by The Best Ever Bread Book, we've been crafting our own bespoke bread recipes, using expanded noun phrases, fronted adverbials, clear explanatory conjunctions, and plenty of imperative verbs and adverbs for precision. Alongside this, we've studied the lyrics for our Halvergate Carol Service, unpacking vocabulary and learning how to read more archaic texts. In Maths, we've strengthened addition and subtraction with much larger numbers, started working confidently with decimals to thousandths, and used data handling to survey the class on bread preferences.

Across Science and the wider curriculum, we've tested the properties of materials—especially thermal and electrical conductivity—built 3D products in Computing using Tinkercad, practised ordering in a café and counting larger numbers in French, and focused on recognising and managing feelings like stress and nervousness in PSHE. In RE we've explored how Christians view the idea of suffering. We're incredibly proud of the children's commitment to the Halvergate Carol Concert; they've shown real progress in their performance skills. Thank you for your continued support at home.









Well Done!

At Freethorpe, we take great pride in recognising and celebrating pupils who demonstrate positive behaviour, kindness, and a commitment to our core connections. Throughout the term, children who have been positive role models, made excellent progress in their learning, shown compassion, or contributed positively to our school community are celebrated in a variety of ways. Each week, pupils are recognised in our celebration assemblies, where we highlight their achievements in front of the whole school. We also make positive phone calls home to share these successes with families, and some children are invited to our special Fine Dining experience as a reward for going above and beyond. Additionally, pupils can earn house points for good ideas, kind actions, and positive contributions to class and school life. These moments of recognition help build confidence, promote our school values, and ensure every child has the opportunity to shine.



phone calls home so far!

Number of children who have received certificates:



WE WISH YOU ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS

