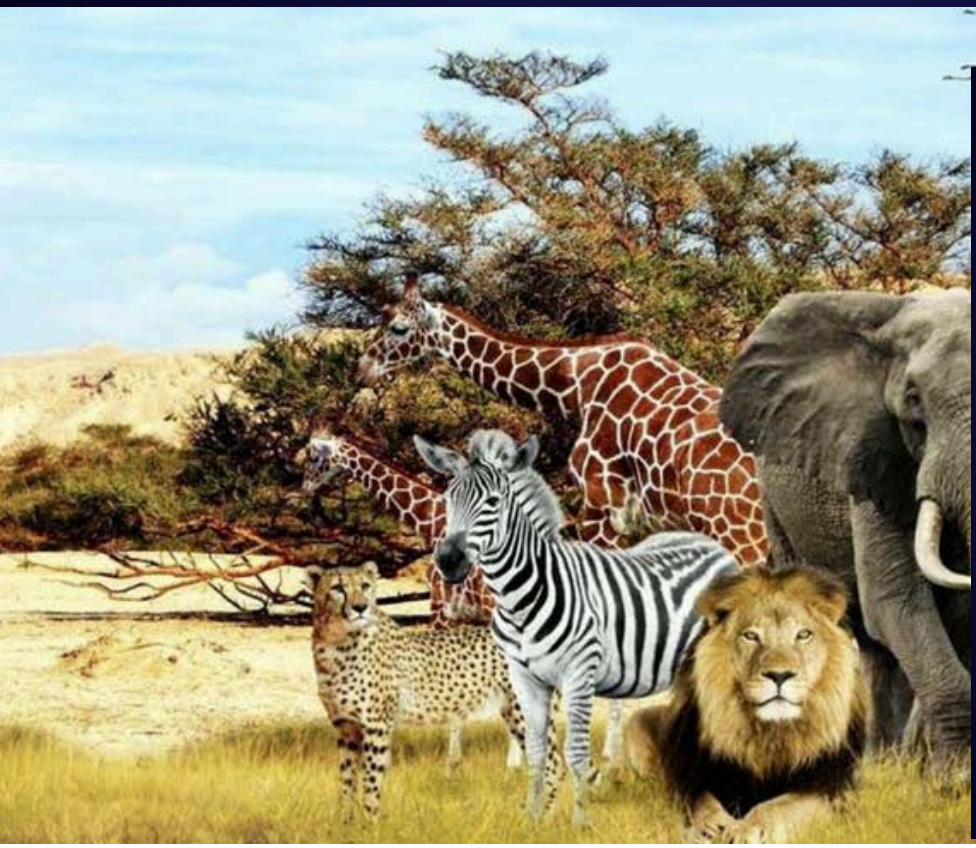
FREETHORPE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Friday 27th March 2026



Dates for the Diary

- Year 4 Swimming: 20th April- 18th May
- Preschool Open Afternoons 20th & 27th April
- Parent Cafes 27th, 28th, 29th & 30th April
- Year 6 SATs Week 11th - 14th May
- Showcase of Learning: 20th May
- Key stage 1 and Key stage 2 Sports Day 21st May
- 22nd May: Last day of Spring Term.

A message from Ms Roberts & Mrs Andrews

What an incredible few weeks it has been at Freethorpe! Our school has been buzzing with excitement, creativity, and wonderful learning experiences, and I want to take a moment to celebrate all that has taken place.

The school was alive with imagination and colour as our children embraced World Book Day on 5th March with such energy! From fabulous costumes to creative activities, it was inspiring to see our pupils' love of reading shine. A huge thank you to all the families who joined in the fun and helped make the day so special.

It was fantastic to welcome so many families into school for Parents' Evenings on 17th and 18th March. The engagement, support, and enthusiasm from parents and carers were truly wonderful, and it was a pleasure to see so many conversations about children's achievements and progress taking place.

Our pupils had an energising and inspiring day taking part in the Canaries Lunch and Physical Activity Programme on 19th March. The excitement and determination displayed by the children were incredible, and it was brilliant to have families joining in and cheering them on!

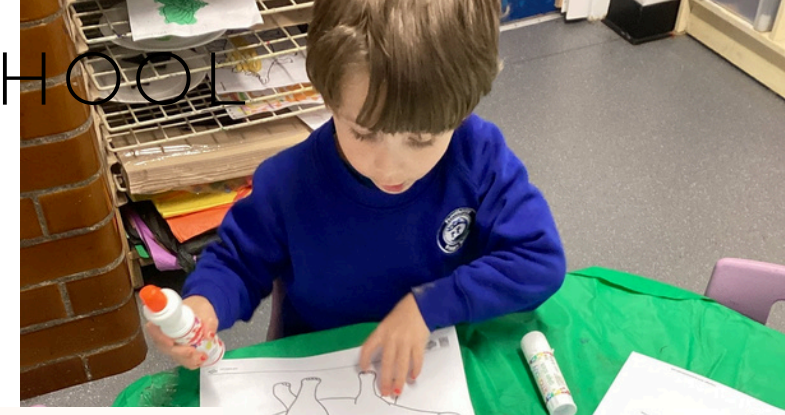
The Showcase of Learning on 25th March was a dazzling celebration of our pupils' creativity, hard work, and achievements. The children were proud to share their projects, and seeing so many families engaging and celebrating alongside them made the event truly special.

Our Easter Event on 26th March, hosted by the Friends of Freethorpe, was an absolute joy! The laughter, excitement, and fantastic community spirit filled the school, and it was heartwarming to see families coming together to support the children and enjoy the festivities.

A heartfelt thank you to all our wonderful families for joining in, supporting the children, and helping make these events so memorable. Your involvement truly makes our school community shine!

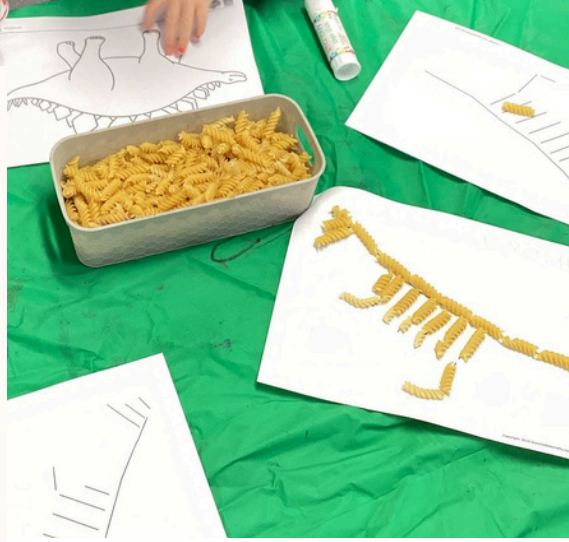
NURSERY/PRESCHOOL

ROBIN



A message from Robin class adults

We have had lots of fun in Robin Class this term, with one of the children's favourite subjects 'dinosaurs'. We have talked about which ones were meat eaters and plant eaters. Why do we not have dinosaurs alive today? We all had a turn of being Paleontologists and found the dinosaur bones in the sand. Goldfinch class kindly shared their noodles and prawn crackers with us when they celebrated Chinese New Year. And we celebrated World Book Day with an array of costumes from Paddington to a Postman and lots of us in our comfy clothes. Our parents joined us to read us stories in the morning which we really enjoyed.







We are rounding off the term by learning the Days of the Week and taking part in lots of Easter activities. We have painted our egg plaques which Chelsea kindly made for all the children and next week we will be making Easter nests and baskets filled with chocolate treats, yummy!



RECEPTION/Y1

GOLDFINCH



A message from our adults in Goldfinch class

In Literacy, we have enjoyed sharing the book The Emperor's Egg. The children have been fascinated by learning about the start of a penguin chick's life and were particularly interested in how the father penguin cares for the egg. The story has inspired lots of thoughtful discussions and engaging activities in class linking to our Topic work Zookeepers. Year 1 have also created their own penguins from clay, which we are very proud of and hope you will be able to see at our next showcase.
In Maths, Year 1 have been developing their addition and subtraction skills, building confidence in solving number problems and explaining their thinking. Reception children have been focusing on doubles and have been exploring odd and even numbers with growing confidence. They have also been learning to use the correct mathematical language when talking about length and height, and have thoroughly enjoyed exploring measuring through continuous provision activities.
In P.E., the children have been developing their ball skills, including throwing, catching and controlling a ball with increasing confidence and coordination. They have shown great focus and determination during sessions. Mr Turner from Premier Sports has been very impressed with both their skills and their excellent concentration. It has been fantastic to see the progress they are making and the positive attitudes they bring to their learning in P.E.





The children showed great enthusiasm while learning the story of Hansel and Gretel, carefully crafting their own puppet characters, which helped them bring the story to life during retelling as well as supporting their understanding of the sequence of events and key characters. Their enjoyment continued outdoors, where they eagerly acted out the story. They worked together to construct a "cage," showing imagination, teamwork, and an ability to connect the story to their environment. The children also showed impressive care and concentration while creating a gingerbread house, thoughtfully adding details and even designing a garden around it.
As part of Science Week, the children explored two exciting experiments, developing their curiosity and understanding of scientific concepts through hands-on learning. First, they created colourful "rainbows" using capillary action. The children enjoyed observing how colours grew when we added water to the kitchen roll. This experiment introduced them to the concept of capillary action, which we will continue to explore further in upcoming Spring growing activities. They showed great interest in predicting what might happen and were delighted by the results.



The second experiment involved inflating a balloon using yeast. The children observed how the yeast reacted and produced gas, causing the balloon to expand. By comparing different conditions, they discovered that warmer temperatures resulted in greater inflation. This helped them understand how temperature can affect reactions, and they were excited to see the clear difference in results.

Y1/Y2

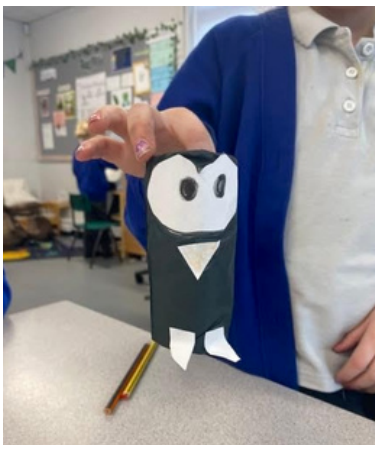
BARN OWLS



Y1/Y2

BARN OWL







A message from our adults in Barn Owl class

Barn Owls have really enjoyed this term's Wild World topic. Our focus book for English was The Emperor's Egg by Martin Jenkins. The children really enjoyed this and learnt a lot the harsh environment of the Antarctic and the adaptations that mean penguins can survive here. We found out about how blubber can keep animals warm in the extreme cold by conducting an experiment which involved plunging their hands into icy water with and without a layer of blubber (vegetable shortening in between two plastic bags)! The children have found very creative ways to make model penguins, and pass on their knowledge of penguins. On world book day, we continued this theme and the children made penguin silhouettes against a sky lit up by the Southern lights.

In maths we have continued with multiplication, solving problems using equal groups and arrays and to help us find the product. In PE we have been learning Ball skills. This was particularly fun on an especially windy day when the wind kept blowing our balls along! We also discovered a new, favourite playground game - bridges!

As part of science week, we used our Friday afternoon enrichment time to carry out some STEM activities. The first involved using marshmallows and spaghetti to create stable structures (and some unstable structures!!) and considered what base would make our structures more stable. The second experiment was to look at why bread rises and is so light and fluffy. We mixed yeast in warm water and then fed it sugar. As the yeast consumed the sugar it released gas which began to inflate our balloons. The children loved watching as the limp balloons sprung up!

Y2/Y3

SWALLOWS

A message from adults working in Swallow class

In our latest topic, Wild Worlds, we have focussed on Antarctica and how animals adapt to their harsh environments. We have enjoyed our art activities which have included detailed sketches of animals and making penguins out of clay. Our observation skills are brilliant!

In English we have been learning all about frogs whilst reading the non fiction text 'Fanatical about Frogs'. We have been looking at the layout of non-chronological reports and are now in the process of practising sentences using expanded noun phrases and technical vocabulary. We have used our poetry skills to celebrate Valentine's Day by writing poems entitled 'These Things I have Loved' based on a poem by Rupert Brooke. We also wrote list poems for Mother's Day which were sent home as gifts to thank those who look after us.

In science, we are learning how to grow from seed flowers and vegetables which we will plant in our outdoor area. So far, we have pots of nasturtium, marigolds and sunflowers waiting to germinate in our classroom and we have chitted seed potatoes. As the weather warms, we plan to grow radishes, carrots and salad leaves in our newly painted blue planters! If you have any seeds, seedlings, plants or pots you would like to donate, we are hoping to transform our outdoor area into a lovely space over the next few months.



In RE, we have been learning about the Easter story starting with Palm Sunday. We learnt the significance of the palm leaves and we each made one before re-enacting this part of the story in the hall. This week, we learnt about the Last Supper and the names and jobs of the twelve disciples. In PSHE, we have looked at different jobs and careers and had some interesting discussions about what we would like to do in the future!





Y4/Y5

BUZZARDS

A message from our adults in Buzzard class

It has been a busy and exciting term in Buzzard Class, with lots of fantastic learning taking place across the curriculum!

In English, the children have been exploring non-chronological report writing. They have been learning how writers organise information clearly and guide the reader effectively. Using these skills, the class created their own detailed reports all about frogs, covering a wide range of fascinating topics including different species, sizes, warts, and even frog mythology!

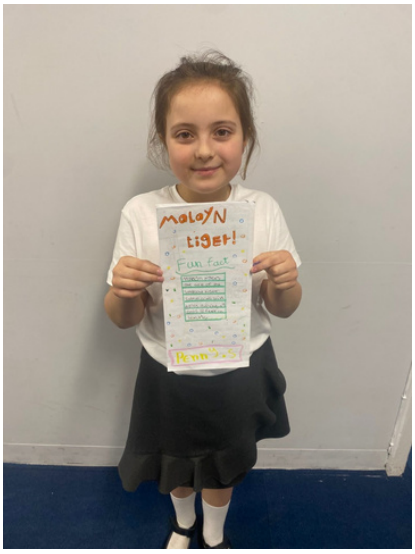
In Maths, we have been working with fractions, and reminding ourselves of what to do when adding and subtracting fractions with the same denominator. Year 4 have continued to practise their times tables, and it has been wonderful to see the progress everyone has made since Christmas.

Our Science lessons have focused on living things, particularly plants and the life cycle of a plant. The children have shown great curiosity and enthusiasm for understanding how plants grow and reproduce. In PE, we have been learning tag rugby, with a strong focus on teamwork, supporting one another, and playing fairly. It has been lovely to see the children encouraging each other and working together so well. In Computing, the class has been discussing what makes an effective web page and has begun learning how to design and create their own.

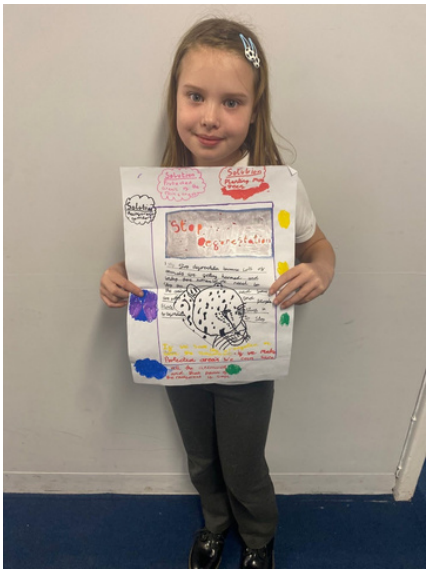
Our topic this term, Wild Worlds, has inspired the children to become wildlife conservationists. We have explored how human actions, such as deforestation, can threaten animals by destroying habitats and disrupting ecosystems. The children have learned about the important role each species plays within the rainforest and have come up with thoughtful solutions to help protect these environments. This has led to some wonderful projects and meaningful class discussions.

Finally, Year 4 had a fantastic first swimming lesson. Everyone showed great resilience, tried their best, and supported one another. We are very much looking forward to continuing their lessons after Easter.

Well done Buzzard Class for all your hard work this term!







Y5/Y6

KINGFISHER

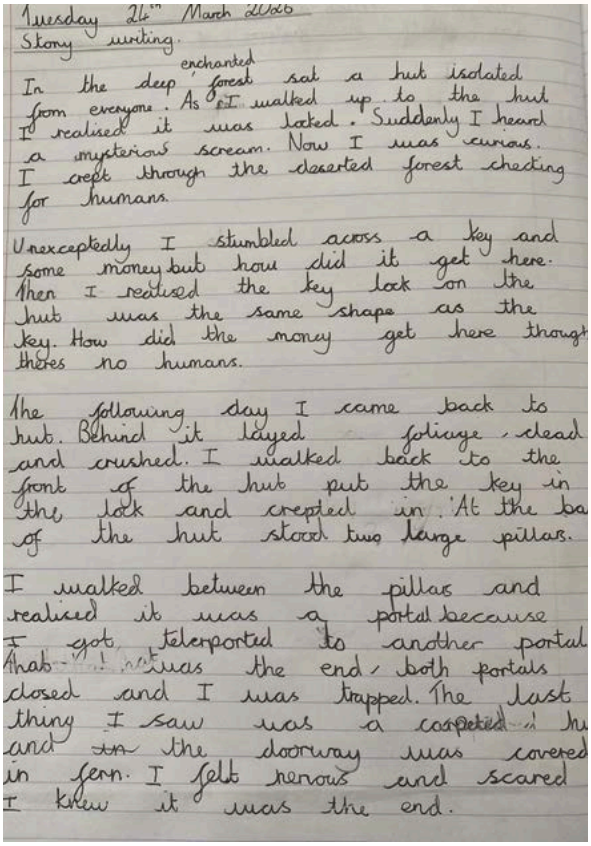


A message from staff working in Kingfisher class

Kingfisher Class have been busy completing our latest project, Wild Worlds. As conservationists, we have been learning about the threats facing the rainforest habitats we explored in our previous projects and the actions humans take to protect them. We investigated what makes up an ecosystem and how each part plays an important role, explored the remarkable adaptations animals have developed to survive in the rainforest, and considered different threats through cause-and-effect chains. We also expressed our views through advocacy art inspired by Andy Warhol, researched and compared conservation strategies, and learned how conservationists measure success. To share our learning, the children independently created science reports, protest campaigns and conservation guides.

In English, inspired by The Jungle Book, Fanatical about Frogs and The Geomancer, we have been writing setting and character descriptions, non-chronological reports and balanced arguments. Along the way, we have been practising consistent tense, varied sentence structures, "show not tell," passive voice, semicolons, fronted adverbials, and subordinate and relative clauses. Our reading has also taken us further afield with excerpts from Rust and The Secret Garden. In Maths, we have had a big focus on fractions this half term, including adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing fractions, and the children have shown fantastic resilience throughout.

Across the wider curriculum, we have continued classifying animals and plants in Science, enjoyed another brilliant invertebrate hunt outside, and begun investigating microorganisms. We have even set up our own camera trap—so far we've spotted a cat, but we will keep you posted! In Computing, we have been learning about websites and webpages by creating our own webpage about an endangered animal. In PSHE, we have explored money sense and gambling, including borrowing money, the risks of loans and entrepreneurship. In PE, we have developed our skills in tag rugby, hockey, tennis and athletics, and Kingfisher Class have been excellent collaborators, sharing knowledge and supporting one another brilliantly. Thank you, as always, for your support at home.



Tuesday 26th March 2026

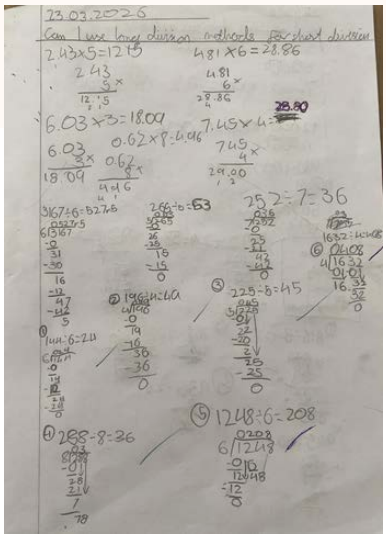
Story writing.

In the deep enchanted forest sat a hut isolated from everyone. As I walked up to the hut I realised it was locked. Suddenly I heard a mysterious scream. Now I was curious. I crept through the deserted forest checking for humans.

Unexceptedly I stumbled across a key and some money but how did it get here. Then I realised the key lock on the hut was the same shape as the key. How did the money get here though there's no humans.

The following day I came back to hut. Behind it layed foliage, dead and crushed. I walked back to the front of the hut put the key in the lock and crepted in. At the ba of the hut stood two large pillas.

I walked between the pillas and realised it was a portal because I got teleported to another portal that was the end, both portals closed and I was trapped. The last thing I saw was a carpeted h and the doorway was covered in fern. I felt nervous and scared I knew it was the end.



23.03.2026

Can I use long division methods for short division

2.43×5=12.15 481×6=28.86

6.03×3=18.09 0.62×8=4.96 7.45×4=

252÷7=36

3167÷6=527.8

225÷5=45

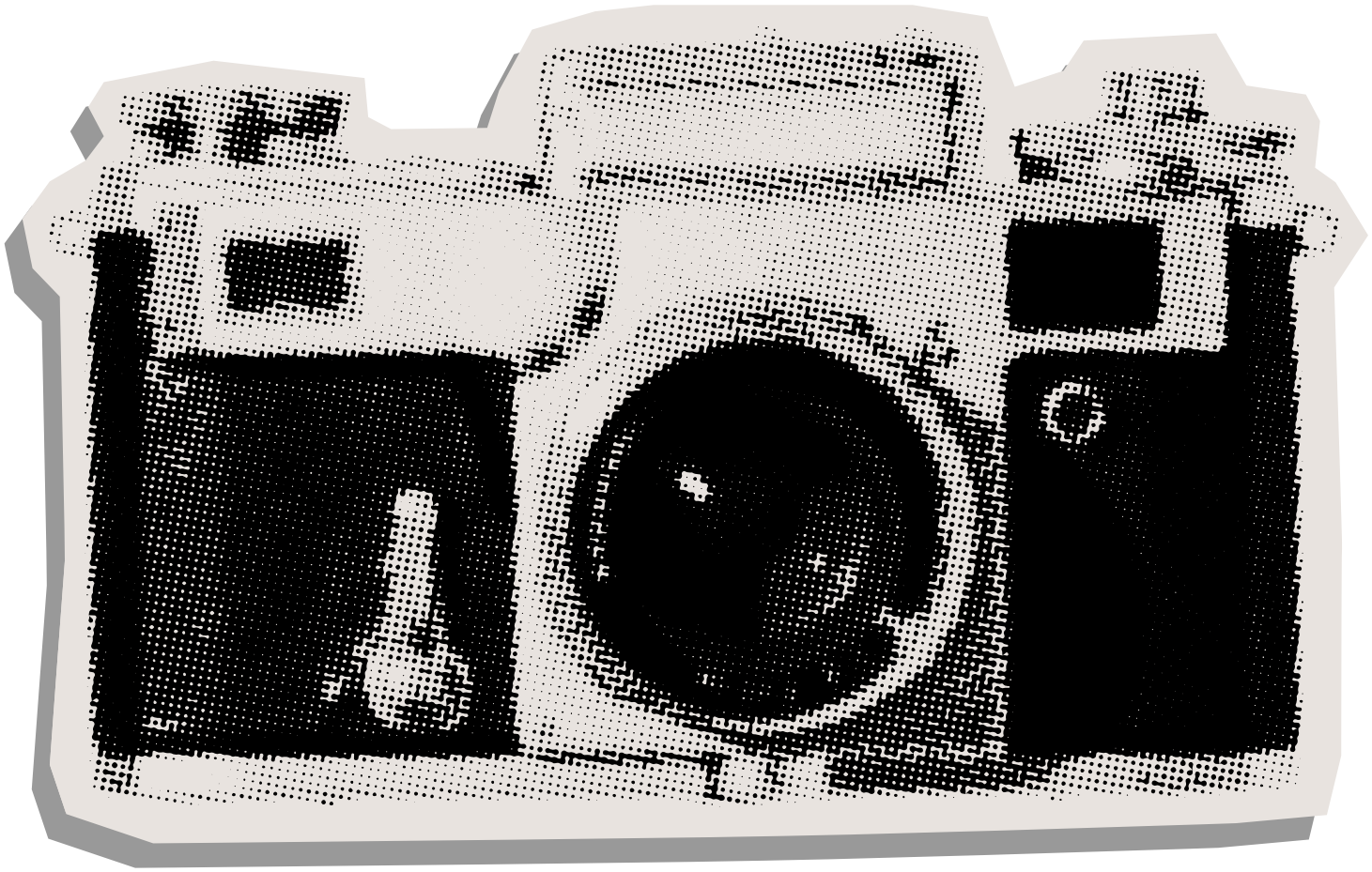
1248÷6=208

288÷8=36

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.



SHOWCASE OF LEARNING

We are excited to invite you to our upcoming Parent Showcase our Spring Term 2 topics on Wednesday 20th May at 3:30 - 4:25pm . This is a special opportunity to explore a gallery of work, presented as authentic outcomes that reflect the children's learning journey throughout the topic. The showcase will highlight the new knowledge they've gained, the skills they've developed, and the ways they've worked both independently and collaboratively. In the meantime, we encourage you to ask your child questions about their topic and learning—this is a great way to spark meaningful conversation and help them rehearse and reflect on their new learning. We look forward to celebrating their achievements with you and sharing the wonderful ways they've noticed and explored the natural world around them.

Join Friends of Freethorpe PTA

We Need Your Help!

Friends of Freethorpe (FOF) is our school's PTA and we are looking for **parents** and **carers** to **join the committee.**

We urgently need more people to join the PTA to support extra activities, equipment & experiences for the children!

Why Do We Need More Committee Members?

- To **help organise school** events like fairs and **fundraisers**
- To **share ideas** for activities that benefit the children
- To **make sure** events can continue to run in the future
- To **spread** the workload so it's manageable for everyone
- To keep Friends of Freethorpe active & thriving

The Good News

- **You don't need** lots of spare time
- **You don't need** experience
- Even a small amount of time makes a big difference!

Why Join?

- **Help raise** money for the school
- Meet other parents & carers
- **Be part** of a positive school community
- Make a real difference for the children

Interested?

Please **speak** to a member of Friends of Freethorpe or contact the **school office** for more information.

Together we can keep making great things happen for our **children!**

A MESSAGE FROM FREETHORPE VILLAGE HALL COMMITEE

We need your help!
Freethorpe Village Hall and Sports and Social Club are the heart of our community but to keep them running smoothly- and make them even better, we need to expand our committees. These are vital but vulnerable assets that rely on community support.
If you can volunteer a few hours a month to help, such as event planning, fundraising or occasional bar work, please get in touch. We would love to have you on board. Any support would be very much appreciated.
If you are interested or would like to know more, please message me or you can message Mike Lord on mikelord412@gmail.com
Or go to the Freethorpe Village Hall and Sports and Social club website for more information on how we support our village.

