

Be the best you can be!

Autumn Term 2 Newsletter

19th December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another wonderful fun-filled term. The children have worked tirelessly to 'be the best they can be!' We've enjoyed the festivities of; the EYFS and Key Stage One Nativities, Key Stage Two held their annual Carols around the tree, Christmas dinner, Christmas party days and finally Christmas jumper day.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to Mr and Mrs Herdman for their generous ongoing support of reading in our school. Every year they provide book tokens from Wonderland bookstore in Retford for six pupils across the school. Teachers have chosen the following children to receive this prize:

Year 1 – Stanley

Year 2 – Emily

Year 3 – Kiki

Year 4 – Willow

Year 5 – Lorelei

Year 6 – Holly

In the Spring term, all parents and carers will receive attendance letters regarding their child's Autumn term attendance.

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and a very happy New Year! See you back in school on Tuesday 6th January 2026.

Thank you,
Mrs Holmes

Contacting us:

Calls can be made to school Monday to Thursday from 8:30am – 4.30pm and Friday 8.30am - 4pm on **01777 708065**. Please note, the office will be closed from Friday 19th December 2025 to Tuesday 6th January 2026.

Enquiries about admissions, school dinners and any other query should be directed to office@clarborough.notts.sch.uk

Finance queries should be directed to: finance@clarborough.notts.sch.uk



Booking in Breakfast Club and Wraparound Club

Parentmail is now open for you to book your child's Breakfast club and Wraparound places for the Spring Term 1. Please note, these must be booked one week in advance to allow us to ensure correct staffing.

Please also note that Breakfast club starts from 7.45am and children will not be allowed into school before this time. Thank you.

Merit and Courtesy Awards: Autumn Term 2025

Congratulations to this term's recipients:

Y1 Merit: Eddison
Y2 Merit: Nina
Y3 Merit: Isabelle
Y4 Merit: Elliott
Y5 Merit: Peyton
Y6 Merit: Edith

Y1 Courtesy: Theo
Y2 Courtesy: Grace A
Y3 Courtesy: Everly
Y4 Courtesy: Leo
Y5 Courtesy: Albie
Y6 Courtesy: Henry G



Well done everyone!

Always, Always Tea Party

Mrs Holmes was joined by this half-term's 'Always, Always' pupils for a Christmassy treat or two and a chat. Congratulations to:

Y1: Alexander
Y2: Lennie-Rae
Y3: Jasper
Y4: Alfie
Y5: Annabelle
Y6: Poppy



❖ A Very Special Assembly ❖

During this term we were delighted to welcome UNISON Union for Support Staff into school for a very special assembly. One of our team had secretly nominated Mrs Hardie for being an absolute star in our school... and she won!

We are incredibly grateful for all of our amazing support staff who keep Clarborough running with care, positivity and dedication every single day. But this assembly was all about her — Mrs Hardie.

She always goes above and beyond for children, staff and families, and her smiley face is often the very first thing people see when they walk through our doors. We simply can't imagine Team Clarborough without her.

Thank you, Mrs Hardie, for everything you bring to our school. We're so proud of you!



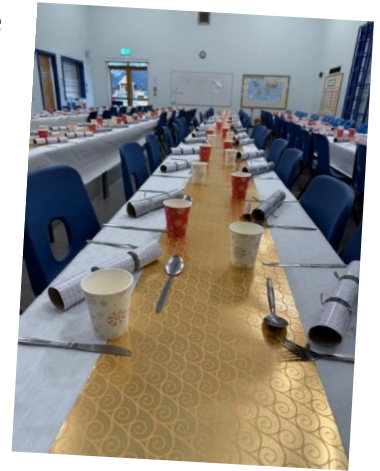
Christmas@Clarborough 2025!

What a great week we have had this week with our Christmas activities in school! On Tuesday, we saw the children in Years 3 to 6 perform a medley of Christmas songs, for Carols around the Tree. It was great to see so many of you coming into school to support the children and join in the sing along. It's always one of our favourite events.

On Wednesday, the children enjoyed their special Christmas dinner. Our first one with Ideal School Meals and it was certainly delicious! A huge 'thank you' to Mrs Smith and Mrs Bennett in our kitchen for serving up all the delicious food and bringing lots of Christmas cheer to the dining hall.

On Thursday we had our Christmas party day. The children came to school in their party outfits and joined in various party games like pass the parcel and musical statues.

Finally, on Friday we rounded off our Christmas week with our Christmas jumper day. The children ended the day with a festive film in their classrooms which included snacks from the PTA! Everyone looked very festive, including the staff!



Merry Christmas from Team Clarborough!

Year 6 Residential Trip to Dearne Valley



At the end of last term, our Year 5 and 6 children went on their residential trip to Dearne Valley. They caught the train from Retford Train Station over to the PGL centre. The children had an amazing time. They took part in lots of activities including abseiling, climbing and a cardboard challenge!!

They certainly had an action packed few days and there were a few tired faces on the bus journey home. Thank you to all the staff who went along with them.

Year 6 Christingle Service

Our Year 6 children had a wonderful visit to Clarborough Church, where they learned all about the meaning of a Christingle and even created their own! A Christingle is a symbol used in Advent and Christmas services:

- ♥ The orange represents the world
- ✝ The red ribbon reminds us of God's love
- 🍬 The sweets show the fruits of the earth
- 🕯 And the candle symbolises Jesus as the Light of the World.

A huge thank you to Clarborough Church and Reverend Mark for welcoming us so warmly, as always. The children were fantastic ambassadors for our school and had a truly lovely time. They ended the session beautifully by singing 'Away in a Manger' as their candles gently flickered.



Jingle Jog



Thursday 4th December saw the return of the Jingle Jog at Sherwood Pines. A selection of pupils from Years 4 to 6 took part and were accompanied by Miss Mayhew and Craig. The children and staff dressed up in festive jumpers, accessories and anything that jingled to complete the 3km course around the forest. It was a

great afternoon and everyone involved had so much fun.

KS1 Nativity

On Wednesday 10th December and Friday 12th December our wonderful Key Stage 1 classes (Year 1 and 2) performed their Nativity, 'Bethlehem Bake Off'. On Thursday morning, the children all walked to Clarborough Church to perform all their wonderful songs from the show. The children put on a fantastic show to all their parents and family members, who filled the hall on both days. There were some very catchy songs and amazing costumes. The children did such a great job and it was clear to see all the hard work and effort that had been put in by all of them.

We are all so proud of them! We would like to say a huge 'thank you' to Miss Green, Mrs Williams, Mrs Green, Mrs Freeman, Miss Speller, Mrs Beswarick and Mrs Waring for putting on a great show! A special thank you to the parents who helped to make costumes or came and helped the children learn their lines. And finally, a huge 'thank you' to each and every one of the children who took part. You were all AMAZING!



Nursery and 30hrs

It seems to have been an incredibly busy half term! We always enjoy the topic based on our favourite stories and the children have loved expressing their thoughts about them through playdough, acting, songs, craft activities and even construction! It has been rewarding to see even our quieter children blossoming as they play with their friends in the Curiosity Corner. The outside area has been revamped and the children are creating many games with the new resources. We would also like to thank our incredible PTA for the beautiful wooden toys which the children are getting so much from. We use every opportunity we can to teach the children new skills - the sink getting blocked was one such example and Aida-J managed to sort it out with expert advice from Miss Holden. The children were brilliant elves in the Christmas Play and our Elf Yourself day was a huge hit too. There's nothing like a day of silliness to beat the stress of Christmas. Take care everybody have a wonderful holiday and we look forward to seeing you in January to kick-off our new topic Water Water Everywhere!





Reception

It's been another busy half-term in the Adventurers class and we have been very proud of the children for lots of reasons, but especially for their performance in our Christmas Show!

Our topic has been 'Books we Love', and we have enjoyed listening to lots of fantastic stories, beginning with 'Stone Soup'. We re-told the story using actions to help us and developed our fine motor skills by using child-safe knives to chop up vegetables; we even picked some of the herbs that grow in school to add to our 'soup'. We have read different versions of fairy tales, such as The Magic Porridge Pot and Little Red Riding Hood and have looked at the parts of the story that are always the same and those that can be different. When we read The Gingerbread Man we talked about speech bubbles and what they are used for, and then retold the story using small world toys.



As there have been lots of festivals and events during this half-term we have been learning about them too. We began by talking about Bonfire Night and then the children made poppies for Remembrance Day and learnt why it is celebrated every year. We read the story of The Nativity to understand why Christmas is important to Christians, as well as talking about the ways people celebrate Christmas by decorating their homes, eating special food and giving each other presents.



In Maths, we have been learning to recognise 2D shapes and their properties, and have been identifying shapes in our environment. The children have also been finding 1 more and 1 less than a given number and been making numbers from 1 to 5 in different ways. In the last week of term, we have been practising selecting the correct size of paper to wrap presents of different shapes and sizes. We finished the term with a fun-filled Elf Day, where we got up to lots of rascally things, and had a great time at our party.

We would like to wish you and the children a very Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in 2026!



Year 1

In Maths this half term, Year 1 continued learning about addition and subtraction and were introduced to the part-whole model and enjoyed finding a part. The children have been looking at the addition and equals symbols and learning to write number sentences as well as subtraction and fact families. Children also learned to recognise a range of 3D shapes and find patterns within 2D and 3D shapes.

In English this term, we have read the following texts:

'The book of names'

'Snowball'

'Hurry Santa'

'Jack Frost'

'Nativity story'



Activities around these texts focused on writing simple sentences including beginning with a capital letter, leaving spaces between words and using a full stop. We also learnt that we need to use capital letters for names.

In our Clarborough Curriculum this term, our topic was 'The Gunpowder Plot'. We have completed our learning by finding out about the early life of Guy Fawkes, how he came to be a part of the Gunpowder plot, and how Bonfire night is celebrated today.

In French, the children have been learning how to say 'hi' and 'hello' with Mrs Gulsever. They have also learnt how to say 'my name is...' and ask somebody in French how they are feeling and give them a reply. They then began learning a range of colours and numbers up to 12.

Our Science topic this half term has covered 'Seasonal changes'. The children have enjoyed listening to the 'Four seasons of the Year' song and can name all the months that fall into each season. The children have learnt to observe changes across the four seasons and describe the weather.

In Art we focused on drawing - Make your mark. Children used different line types and mark-making techniques in drawing, described different lines, used control drawing materials like pencils and chalk, and experimented with various media, while responding to music.

Next Term:

English: Books we look forward to reading:

- 'Dear Zoo'
- 'That's Not my Lion' (exclamation marks and adjectives)
- 'We're Going on an Egg Hunt' (recap adjectives and exclamation marks)
- Love potion recipe writing for Valentines (nouns, verbs and adjectives)
- Pancake recipe writing (nouns, verbs and adjectives)
- Retell of the Easter story
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Maths: Place Value (Within 20), Addition and Subtraction (Within 20)

PE: Gymnastics/ Dance

French: Colours/ Numbers

Science: Plants

Computing: Music Creation

Music: Dynamics - Seaside

RE: What is God's job?

PSHE: Safety and the changing body

DT: Puppets

History: Nurturing Nurses



Year 2

In Maths this half term, we have been learning addition and subtraction. We have used what we have learnt during our place value unit to support us in adding and subtracting single digit numbers and then moving on to 2-digit numbers. We have also been adding 3-single digit numbers by using what we know about our number bonds to 10.

In English, we have been looking at another short video clip, this time called 'snack attack'. The clip was about two characters, a lady and a man. It showed the lady at first trying to buy biscuits from a vending machine, she then went and sat on the platform of the train station and proceeded to eat the cookies. The man, who was sat next to her, took one of her cookies and she got mad. Eventually the lady, who was very angry at the man for stealing her cookies, got on the train. As she went to get her ticket out of her bag she realised that her cookies were actually in the bag all along. The video rewound and we realised the lady had put her cookies in her bag and the cookies she ate were actually the mans. Following on from the video we have completed lots of activities linked to the story and learnt about expanded noun phrases, conjunctions,

past and present tense. We have discussed the story from the different characters perspectives and used this to write short paragraphs.

The children have also written Christmas shape poems. They have learnt about alliteration and adjectives and tried to use these in their poems.

In Geography we have been learning about hot and cold places. We have identified where the equator is and how this affects the temperature on earth. The children then located hot and cold places on a world map. We then described the features of hot and cold places thinking about the weather, animals, plants and physical features. Finally, the children learnt how animals adapt to living in hot and cold countries and considered what they would pack if they visited one of these countries.

Our Science topic has been looking at materials this half term. The children have identified and compared the suitability of a variety of everyday materials. They have also learnt that the shape of solid objects made from some materials can be changed by squashing, bending, twisting and stretching.



The children have learnt to count to ten in French. They have also learnt ten common colour names. We always enjoy our French lessons and the children now have Language Angel passwords in their planners. If they would like to sing any of the songs we have learnt at home or have a go at some games to practise their French, please have a go at logging on together.

In Computing, we have been learning about digital art and how to complete art work on a screen. We discussed how sometimes this works better as it can be less messy and you don't need to have all the equipment and tools you would need to paint a picture on paper. Also, if you make a mistake, you can rub it out and start again which you can't do when using paintbrushes. The children have enjoyed creating pictures in the style of Mondrian, using a grid and then the fill tool to add bits of colour to their picture. We have also learnt how to create shapes and use this to make pictures.

Next Term:

In Clarborough Curriculum we will be finding out about different explorers from the past as well as more recent explorers including Neil Armstrong.

In Maths we are moving on to multiplication and division and how to complete these number sentences.

In English we will be looking at another film unit called 'The Bridge' and learning about fables, writing our own fable and another unit around amazing animals.

Our Science topic will be covering 'animals including humans.' The children will learn to notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults. The children will be learning the names of seven sea creatures in French.

Year 3

In Maths this half term we have continued to develop our understanding of addition and subtraction. Our strong Place Value knowledge helped us when calculating answers as well as using mathematical resources and diagrams. We learnt how to use the column method for adding and subtracting numbers with up to 3 digits. We then moved on to multiplication and division, where we learnt what multiplying and dividing means. We have been learning the 3- and 4- times tables as part of this work which has really supported our times tables recall. We have recently started a weekly Times Tables Challenge. There are 60 questions and,

when someone gets 60, they move up to the next challenge level. Year 3 are doing incredibly well on this so far!



In English we started this half term writing our explanation text about Magnetism. We looked at example texts, identifying the key features of them. We were then able to write our own texts explaining how magnets work.

Following this, we looked at the film clip 'Ride of Passage'. We spent time identifying the sequence of events, developing our understanding of the story. We developed our knowledge of pronouns, conjunctions and clauses as well as learning how to punctuate speech accurately.

In History, we finished our learning on the Stone Age to Iron Age. We were even set a challenge from our recent visiting elf to recreate Stonehenge using custard cream biscuits which was great fun and definitely challenging!



We have started our Geography work looking at Food and Farming. We were curious about what information is provided on food packaging and have looked in more detail about how food is grown and produced around the world. We recently looked at Fair Trade and how it benefits farmers and their communities.



Our Science work this half term has been on Rocks. We have learned about different types of rocks and their properties. We have also been learning about weathering and fossils.

In Art our focus has been developing our drawing skills. We have practised shading and creating different effects with pencils. We then worked on our observational skills, paying close attention to the details of what we were sketching.

In French we have continued to develop our phonics knowledge. We learn French in a variety of ways and Year 3 especially love the games we play!

Next Term:

Next term in English we will be looking at Tadeo Jones for our narrative work, with a focus on language and descriptive writing. Our non-fiction work will be based on the life cycle of a flowering plant.

In Maths we will be continuing with Multiplication and Division and will then move on to Length and Perimeter. We will continue to really focus on all children being confident recalling their times tables, including division facts, so please do carry on supporting your children learning them at home as well.

Our Science next half term will be based around Plants. In Geography we are focussing on the local area and then a contrasting locality in South Africa. In History we will begin our work on Ancient Egypt. We will be developing our singing techniques in music and doing gymnastics and dance as part of our PE lessons.

Year 4

In Maths this half term, we have been working on our times tables and developing our knowledge of multiplication and division.

Within English, Year 4 created their own narrative about the Romans using the skills that they have learned. For example, expanded noun phrases, fronted adverbials and the correct punctuation of speech. More recently, we have been creating a set of instructions on how to build a roman road.

This half term, in History, we have been learning about the Romans. The children investigated the expansion of the Roman Empire, the story of Boudica and what life in Britain was like before the Romans. The children thoroughly enjoyed creating Roman shields too.

Within Science, Year 4 have been learning about states of matter. The children investigated the particle structures of solids, liquids and gasses before discussing condensation and evaporation.

In French, the children looked at the phonemes i, in, ique and ille. The children then looked at the phonemes within words and texts.



Next Term:

English: Create a narrative using dialogue, apostrophes and paragraphs. Also, creating an explanation text.

Maths: Developing our multiplication and division skills further to include both multiplying and dividing three-digit numbers by one-digit numbers.

Year 5

Maths this half-term has been a real eye-opener as to the importance of knowing and understanding times tables. Pupils have learned about multiples, factors, prime numbers, square numbers and cube numbers. Pupils then moved on to the first block of work on fractions and have successfully applied what they know and have learned to: recognise equivalent fractions, convert improper fractions to mixed numbers and vice versa, compare and order fractions and add and subtract fractions. I am extremely proud of how hard they have worked in Maths!

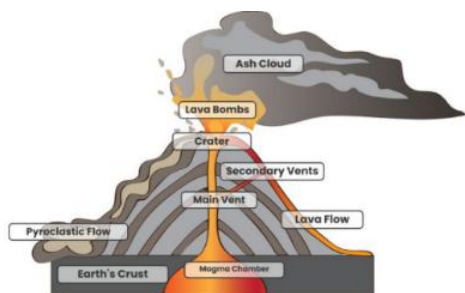
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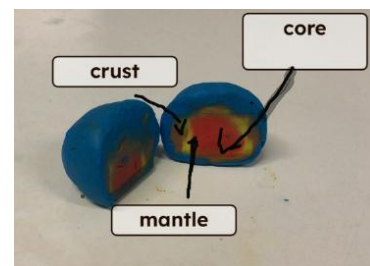
Our first unit of work in English was based on a short film called 'Little Freak' and followed the story of 'freak shows' from the past. Pupils enjoyed learning about the history of the circus and



how the abolition of 'freak shows' came about. Pupils used the film as a stimulus to make inferences and write some descriptive phrases to describe the character and setting. Following our assessment week, we have spent some time revisiting aspects of grammar and punctuation that are not yet secure and will continue to do so to fill any gaps in knowledge and understanding.



Volcanoes and earthquakes have sparked a real interest and curiosity in many pupils this half-term. They have learned about the structure of the earth, what tectonic plates are and what happens when they meet. They have learned about the key features of a volcano and some famous volcanoes around the world. They have located where some famous earthquakes have occurred, discussed the human and environmental impact of volcanic eruptions and earthquakes and decided what might need to be included in an emergency survival kit.

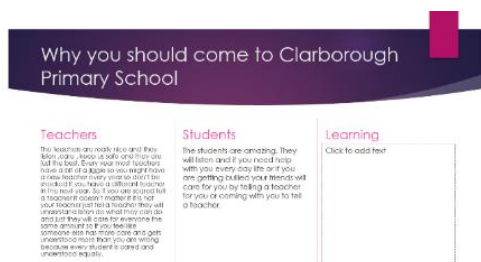


In Science, pupils have learned about the changes that happen as humans develop to old age. They learned to identify the key stages of a mammal's life cycle, about the gestation period of different mammals, about foetal development, conducted an investigation into hand spans in children and adults, learned about the changes that happen during puberty and how our bodies change as we enter old age. Pupils have discussed themes with maturity and good understanding.



Installation Art had been our topic for this half-term and pupils began by creating a 3D poppy installation for the front of school to commemorate Remembrance Day. They learned about the work of significant installation artists and created their own pieces.

Design was a very popular Computing unit because pupils learned how to design and make their own apps that include: changing slide size and background colour, adding text, images, icons and hyperlinks. They then applied these skills to designing their own apps on a theme of their choice.



In French, pupils have learned some key French vocabulary linked to Ancient Britain.

Next Term:

The Spring Term theme is Raging Rivers! Pupils will learn about:

- Fractions (continued)
- Non-fiction writing about crime & punishment and a fictional piece
- Rivers
- Crime and punishment (beyond 1066)
- Properties of materials & Forces
- Music Creation & E-Book Creation

Year 6

This term in Maths, Year 6 have been learning all about the four operations, and how using BIDMAS for answering the order of operations is important. The children have learnt how to calculate fractions using multiple different methods. They have learnt how to convert mixed numbers to improper fractions and find common denominators. Furthermore, they have been applying their methods when tackling multi-step problems.

In English this term the children used the stimuli 'Beyond the lines' and 'The Piano' to write an emotive letter and a flashback, both of which were based on WW2.

The children have also written a newspaper report about 'The Grinch who stole Christmas'. They explored character and setting descriptions as well as interviewing different characters using reporting clauses.

In History, the children have learnt all about WW2. They researched: The Blitz, Dunkirk and The Battle of Britain. They have explored the roles of men and women during the war, as well as, the effects it had on children. They learnt about rationing and the types of food and clothing which were rationed. The children have worked incredibly hard throughout this emotive topic and have demonstrated such a mature attitude.

In Science, Year 6 have explored light; they found out that it travels in straight lines and they explored how light is reflected off multiple surfaces. They have carried out numerous experiments to support their learning including: building periscopes, and investigating how shadows are formed. They learnt that shadows can change length depending on how far away the light source is. Finally, they have explored the concept of refraction and investigated how a rainbow is made.



In Design Technology the children have been sewing bags; learning how to thread a needle, sew a running stitch and tie a knot. They initially drew out their design, made their bags and then evaluated their design.





Dates for your Diary....



Dates for Your Diary



Spring Term 1

Tuesday 6th January 2026 – Friday 13th February 2026

Monday 5th January 2026 – INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS

Tuesday 6th January – Children return to School. Start of Spring Term 1

Friday 9th January – Pop Up Uniform Shop

Tuesday 13th January – Year 6 DAaRT Sessions Begin (Details to follow)

Wednesday 14th January – Census Lunch (Details to follow)

Tuesday 10th February – Safer Internet Day

Wednesday 11th February – Young Voices (Details to follow)

Friday 13th February – Valentines Disco (Details to follow)

Friday 13th February – Last Day of Term

Monday 16th February to Friday 20th February - Half Term

Spring Term 2

Monday 23rd February – Children return to school – First Day of Spring Term 2

Thursday 26th February – KS2 Boys Football Match (Details to follow)



Just a friendly reminder...

Breakfast club, wraparound care, need to be booked in and paid for at least one week in advance on Parentmail. Breakfast is served daily until 8:20 am. If you have any questions or queries relating to Breakfast club, Wraparound and please email Mrs Hardie on office@clarborough.notts.sch.uk