

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a productive and enjoyable half term it has been. There has been a real buzz for learning around school and the children have thoroughly enjoyed participating in numerous enhanced provision activities.

The children in Key Stage 2 attended the Young Voices 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary concert at Sheffield Arena. Some children also visited Retford Oaks Academy for a number of sporting events. We have welcomed Rotakids, who held a whole school assembly for the children where they learnt all about turning dirty water in to clean water and the PTA held their annual Valentine's disco. It really has been a fun-filled half term!



Within this newsletter, you will find some information which has already been sent out to you via Parentmail, regarding keeping children safe online. This follows on from the work the children have been learning about in class as part of Safer Internet Day 2025.

I hope you enjoy a restful half term and we look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026.

Best wishes,  
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**

Enquiries about admissions, school dinners and any other query should be directed to [office@clarborough.notts.sch.uk](mailto:office@clarborough.notts.sch.uk)

Finance queries should be directed to: [finance@clarborough.notts.sch.uk](mailto:finance@clarborough.notts.sch.uk)

### **Booking in Lunches, 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 2. Please note, these must be booked one week in advance to allow us to ensure correct staffing. Breakfast is served daily until 8:20 am. If you have any questions or queries relating to Breakfast club, Wraparound and lunches please email Mrs Hardie on [office@clarborough.notts.sch.uk](mailto:office@clarborough.notts.sch.uk)

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

On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February, children across KS2 represented the school at the Young Voices Concert, hosted at the Utilita Arena Sheffield. All the children and staff had a fantastic evening singing and dancing the night away. We look forward to attending again next year.

Well Done #TeamClarborough!



### Book Tokens Winners

At the end of last term some of our children were presented with a book token from Mrs and Mrs Herdman. Every year they provide book tokens from Wonderland bookstore in Retford for six pupils across the school, in support of reading. Some of our pupils have visited the store and chosen a wonderful book to read!



Emily had the opportunity to choose books from the bookstore during the holiday season. She chose two Isadora Moon titles because she is currently her favourite book character. The two books have now joined her home collection of other Isadora Moon stories. Emily has already read both of them!



Willow was so happy to receive the token and was exited to go into town and choose the third book in a series she's been loving! (Nina Peanut)



Kiki was excited to choose a book from the Isadora Moon collection. Thank you Mr and Mrs Herdman!

## Safer Internet Day



Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February was Safer Internet Day and it is the UK's biggest celebration of online safety, covering online issues or themes relevant to young people. National Online Safety (NOS) produce informative posters highlighting specific online items and

we sent out a few posters detailing various social media sites via Parentmail. Please take a few minutes to read through this information.



## Attendance Matters!

*'The lessons your child learns at school go far beyond academics. The friendships they build, the challenges they work through and the everyday experiences they have, teach them skills for life. We know it isn't always easy getting your child to school. But encouraging them to go, even during difficult moments, builds their resilience.'*

*'School is where they develop social skills, build confidence, and learn that working through challenges can be rewarding. When children attend regularly they are more likely to feel connected to their school community and their peers.'* Attendance Information for Parents, Nottinghamshire County Council, 2026



Clarborough Primary School recognises that positive behaviour and good attendance are essential in order for pupils to get the most of their school experience, including their attainment, wellbeing and wider life chances.

The law entitles every child of compulsory school age to an efficient, full-time education suitable to their age, aptitude, and any special educational need they may have. It is the legal responsibility of every parent to make sure their child receives that education either by attendance at a school or by education otherwise than at a school.

Where parents decide to have their child registered at school, they have an additional legal duty to ensure their child attends that school regularly, on time. This means their child must attend every day that the school is open, except in a small number of allowable circumstances such as being too ill to attend or being given permission for an absence in advance from the school.

For our children to gain the greatest benefit from their education it is vital that they attend regularly and be at school, on time, every day the school is open unless the reason for the absence is unavoidable. **It is a rule of this school that pupils must attend every day, unless there are exceptional circumstances, and it is the Headteacher not the parent, who can authorise the absence.**

### Year Group Attendance so far this academic year:

Year 1: 94.1%  
Year 2: 94.0%  
Year 3: 94.7%  
Year 4: 93.7%  
Year 5: 93.0%  
Year 6: 91.0%



### Intra House PE Competitions



Our Intra House PE competitions took place again this term. Years 1 to 6 took part in a Gymnastics tournament - There was certainly a lot of competition between teams!

The final scores were as follows...

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Hawking (Yellow) with 1046 points  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Pankhurst (Red) with 919 points  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Attenborough (Blue) with 842 points  
4<sup>th</sup> Place: Wilberforce (Green) with 813 points



### Nursery & 30hrs

It's been a really busy term which started with a bumper group of ten new children joining us after Christmas. Everyone has settled well and we have learned so much during our *Water, Water Everywhere!* topic which started straight after Christmas with a week of freezing weather - perfect for all of our Science experiments! We thought about how we use water for washing, drinking and even know how to check that we are drinking up enough by looking in the toilet to see if our wee is too dark! The half term finished with a celebration of the upcoming Chinese New Year of the Horse. We heard the story about how the animals raced across the river to have a year named after them, we tasted noodles, made fans and dragons, and had a wonderful time doing a lion dance throughout the school. Next term our topic is *Eggsciting!* and we will be thinking about animals that lay their eggs in different places culminating in our famous Easter Bonnet Parade at the end of term. Have a great holiday everyone!



## Reception

This half term the Reception topic has been *Water, Water Everywhere* and we have been looking at water, its forms and its uses. We began by looking at what happens when water becomes very cold and freezes to become ice and then looked at what happened when the ice was put in a warm place. During a very rainy week we talked about the difference between waterproof and non-waterproof materials and tested several materials to see which would keep a toy dry when it was put in water.



The children have also experimented with lots of different things to see which would float and which would sink, and then used Lego, plasticine and tin foil to see if they could make something that floated.



We have talked about different bodies of water, such as oceans, rivers and lakes and the difference between saltwater and fresh water.

We learnt about the importance of water for hygiene and health, how it helps us to clean ourselves, our homes and our clothes, and how important it is for all living things, including animals and plants. The children had a very exciting visit from members of the Rotary Club who brought a machine with them to demonstrate how water can be cleaned.

We also had lots of fun celebrating Chinese New Year. The children came to school in Chinese clothes or something red (as red is a lucky colour in China), listened to Chinese music, ate Chinese food and took part in a lion dance. We listened to the story of the animal race, which is how each year is given its name, and learnt that people give each other red envelopes with money in to bring them good luck.



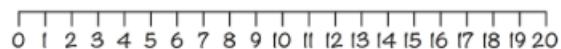


In Maths, the children have been finding out the different ways to make 6, 7 and 8 and have been measuring capacity, weight, length and height. In Phonics, we have begun to learn digraphs, such as 'sh', 'ch', 'ai' and 'ng'.

Once again, we have been so proud of how hard the children have been working and how much their brains are growing: Well done everyone!

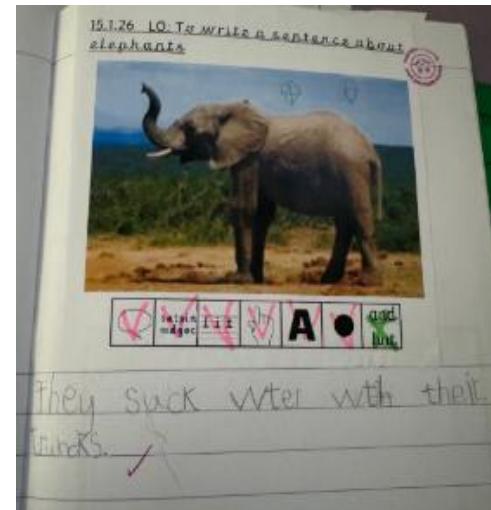
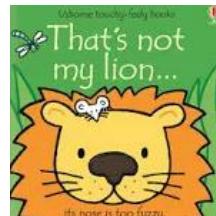
## Year 1

In Maths this half term, Year 1 have been counting, comparing and ordering numbers to 20. They have been using number lines and finding one more and one less.



The children have also been adding and subtracting within 20, finding and making number bonds to 20 as well as learning about doubles and near doubles. They have started learning how to subtract by counting back and finding the difference.

In English, Year 1 have enjoyed a range of different texts including *Dear Zoo* and *That's not my Lion!* They created their own stories about a monster that included adjectives. The children have also been learning about nouns and verbs and finding these within a sentence. They have recently enjoyed creating and writing their own love potions.



This half term as part of our Clarborough Curriculum, we have completed the topic of 'Nurses'. We have discussed three significant nurses; Florence Nightingale, Mary Seacole and Edith Cavell. The children really enjoyed learning about the nurses and discussed similarities and differences. They talked in depth about the impact these nurses had and why they are remembered today.





Our Science topic has covered the topic of plants. The children have identified and labelled parts of a plant. They have also learnt that seeds grow into plants and we discussed the difference between deciduous and evergreen trees.



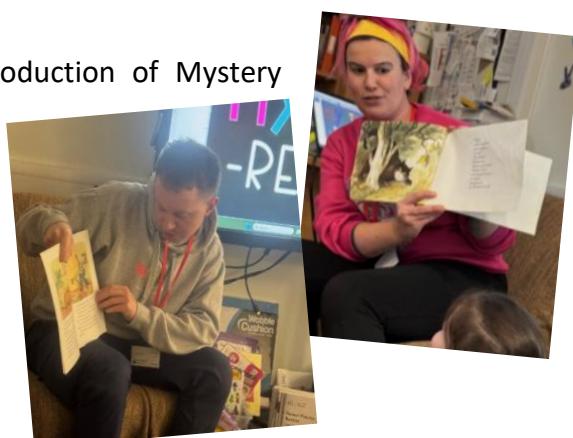
In Design and Technology, the children have enjoyed learning how to design and make a puppet out of felt. We learned how to hold scissors correctly, cut out material for our puppet and used a stapler to join two pieces of fabric together.



In our weekly PSHE sessions, the children have spoken in depth about how they can keep safe. This included discussing safe adults, what to do if you were lost and how to make an emergency phone call.

## MYSTERY-READER-

Year 1 have absolutely loved the introduction of Mystery Reader this half term and wait in anticipation every Thursday to see who will be reading a specially chosen story to us. A huge thank you to the Year 1 grown-ups for getting involved and supporting us with this. We can't wait to welcome more mystery readers next half term. The sign-up sheet is full!



### Next Term (Brief overview):

Maths: Number – Place Value (50) and, length and height

Science: Animals including humans

Music: Sound patterns

PE: Orienteering/ Attack v defence

RE: Why should we care for the world?

PSHE: Citizenship

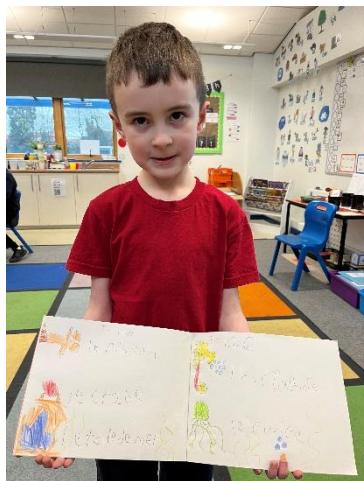
Geography: The local area

Art and Design: Sculpture and 3D paper play

## Year 2

In Maths this term, we started learning about shapes. The children recapped 2-D and 3-D shape names. They then counted the sides, vertices and faces on different shapes. We looked at lines of symmetry, 2-D shape patterns and described how we could sort 3-D shapes.

We then moved onto learning about money. We learnt to count money in pounds and pence and made different amounts of money by selecting the correct coins and notes. The children then learnt to give change by subtracting and answered some worded problems involving money.



In English this term, we watched a short film clip, called 'Bridge' and have been basing our learning around the clip. This was a story with a moral so we looked at some different stories which contained morals and how they were called fables. Within this unit of work, we have learnt about using punctuation for different sentence types, using past and present tense within different types of writing and using conjunctions to join clauses together. We have finished this unit off by writing our own fables using the children's ideas.

In History we have been learning about significant explorers. We looked at what made a person significant and discussed people like Nelson Mandela, Queen Elizabeth and Mo Farah and how they had helped lead a country, had raised money for charity etc. We then learnt about Ibn Battuta, Matthew Henson, Felicity Aston and Neil Armstrong. Ibn Battuta was an explorer from over 700 years ago who explored many countries such as China and Egypt. Matthew Henson explored the North Pole and is believed to have been the first black man to reach the North Pole. Felicity Aston also explored a polar area, but this time the South Pole. She is a much more recent explorer so had some very different equipment and tools to help her in her explorations compared to Matthew Henson. We also looked into Neil Armstrong and how he explored somewhere no man had gone before!

Our Science unit this half term has been 'life cycles'. The children have been taught to notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults. We have matched parents to their offspring and discussed what certain animals might have inherited from their parent. The children have learnt about the lifecycles of humans, chickens, frogs and butterflies.

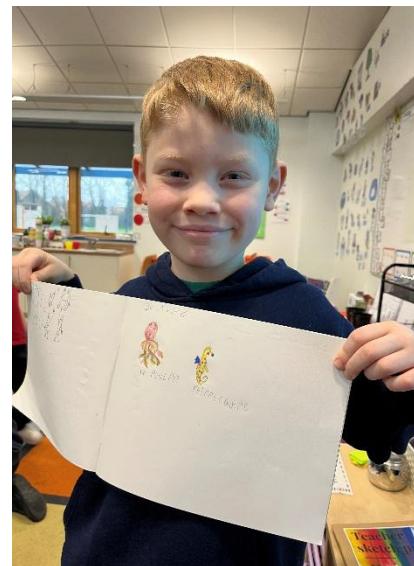
Our topic in French this half term has been 'Sea Creatures'. The children have learnt the French names for fish, crab, starfish, seahorse and octopus. They have also continued to practise counting in French.

In Art this half term we have been investigating colour through paint. The children learnt about what happens when we mix colours together and looked closely at creating textures with paint. This enabled them to create a collage picture using the skills of colour mixing and textures to create a landscape.

Next Term (Brief overview):

In Maths we will be learning multiplication and division, length and height.

In Clarborough Curriculum, the children will be learning to describe the location of each continent using compass directions. They will also explore the different features of each continent and learn the difference between human and



physical features. We will look at famous human and physical features from around the world and the continents they are located in.

Our next Science topic is 'Plants.' The children will learn to: observe and describe how seeds and bulbs grow into mature plants; and find out and describe how plants need water, light and suitable temperatures to grow and stay healthy.

Our next topic in French is 'In the Jungle.' The children will learn the French names of seven animals. Each lesson is accompanied by a song which can be accessed at home using the Language Angel login at the back of your child's planner.

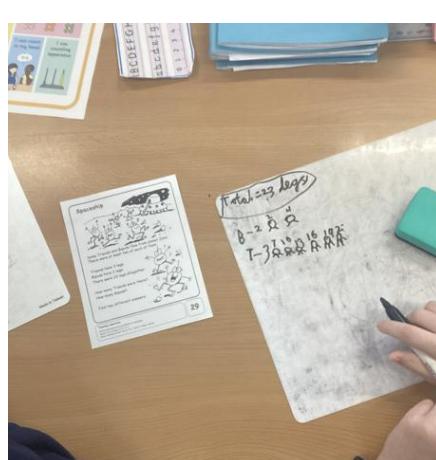
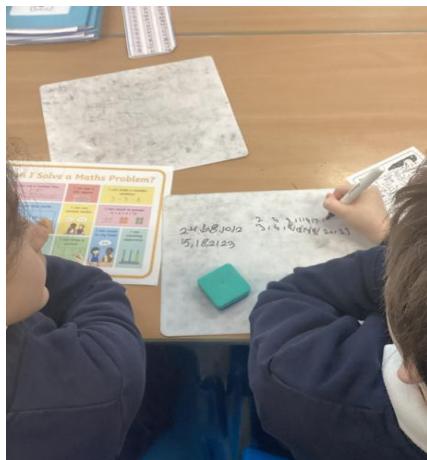
In Computing we will be learning about data handling. The children will collect, research and explore different ways of presenting the data in ways such as pie charts and bar charts.

In DT, we will explore fairground wheels. The children will learn what mechanisms are involved in a fairground wheel and, design and make their own.



## Year 3

In Maths we have continued to develop our knowledge and understanding of multiplication and division. We have used arrays and other methods such as number lines and place value counters, in order to calculate. Year 3 have been absolutely amazing at learning their times tables this half term. We have started a weekly Times Tables Challenge, where the challenge each week is to get 60 out of 60 in order to move up to the next stage. Each week there are lots of children achieving this – keep it up! Times Tables recall is so important to support Maths lessons in KS2 so Year 3 are doing a great job. We have also been identifying units of measurement when working with length and the children have had opportunities to do practical work around the classroom to support with this.



Our English work this half term has been based around Tadeo Jones. The children have loved this and have really enjoyed developing their creative writing. We did a big focus on writing descriptively, including similes, metaphors and personification. They also put themselves in the role of the main character, writing diary entries about how they would be feeling if it was them going on an Egyptian adventure!

Our non-fiction work has linked to our Science unit on plants. We have been learning how to write explanatory texts, ensuring our writing is factual and clear.

In History we have been travelling back in time to Ancient Egypt where we have learnt lots about what life was like all those years ago. We have really enjoyed learning about how the Ancient Egyptians lived and what was important to them. We will be continuing with this after half term as there is still more to learn!

A creative homework has been set based on Ancient Egypt – we can't wait to see what the children bring in after half term.

In Science we have been learning about plants and the factors which affect plant growth. We have set up a practical experiment where we have plants growing in different conditions. Each day we check on the plants and observe any developments. Watch this space for our conclusions!

In DT, Year 3 have learned about wearable technology and experimented with what they would want in a smart watch.

Computing has been based on editing text and pictures – the children are getting really confident at adjusting text and copying and pasting. In French, we have been continuing our work on phonics and also learning some general classroom instructions.

#### **Next Term (Brief overview):**

Next term we will be developing our knowledge of measurement in Maths when we look at mass and capacity. We will also be revisiting fractions.

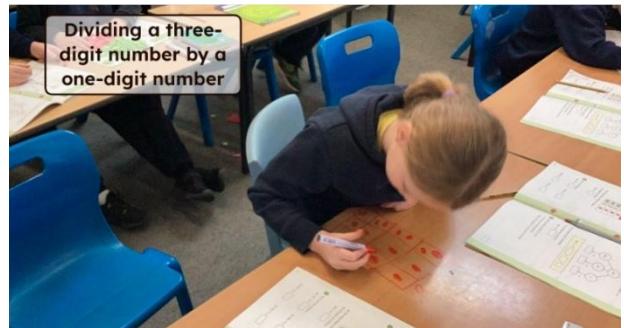
In English we will be improving our sentence structure and use of paragraphs as part of our fiction writing. Our non-fiction work will be based on balanced arguments.

In Science, we are going to finish our work on plants and then move on to animals. Our Geography is based on the local area and contrasting it to another country and in RE, we will continue to think about right and wrong and what happens when we do wrong. PE will be based on orienteering and hockey and in Computing we will be developing our coding skills. Our Art work is based on Ancient Egyptian scrolls and in Music we will be learning pentatonic melodies.

#### **Year 4**

In Maths this term we looked at the following topics:

**Multiplication & Division:** The children learnt how to identify and use factor pairs, they multiplied and divided by 10 & 100. The children then went on to multiply and divide two-digit and three-digit numbers by a single digit number. **Length & Perimeter:** The children learnt how to calculate and measure a perimeter and find missing lengths when calculating the perimeter of various shapes.



In English this term, we looked at a fiction story called 'Home Sweet Home'. The children planned and wrote a narrative based on the short film that we watched as a class. For our non-fiction topic this term we looked at 'Mountains'. The children investigated explanation texts on how mountains are formed and wrote their own versions.

For our Clarborough Curriculum this term, we learnt what a mountain is and how they are formed. The children were able to name different types of mountains and name the 'Seven Summits' in the world. We investigated different mountains around the world, including in the UK. We looked at which mountain was the highest.



In French, the children learnt to say what they can and cannot do. The children had a chance to practice various sentences.

In Art, the children learnt about tints and shades. They used different paint techniques to create 3D effects and they used their knowledge and skills learnt to design and paint their own still life piece.



Next Term (Brief overview):

### English

**Fiction: Joe's Hooded Hawk:** Pupils will use this warning story to plan and write their own story about the dangers of electricity.

**Non-Fiction: Who Do You Think You Are?** Pupils will learn about the etymology and morphology of place names in the UK and their Roman, Anglo-Saxon or Viking origins. They will then plan and write their own report on local place names.

### Maths

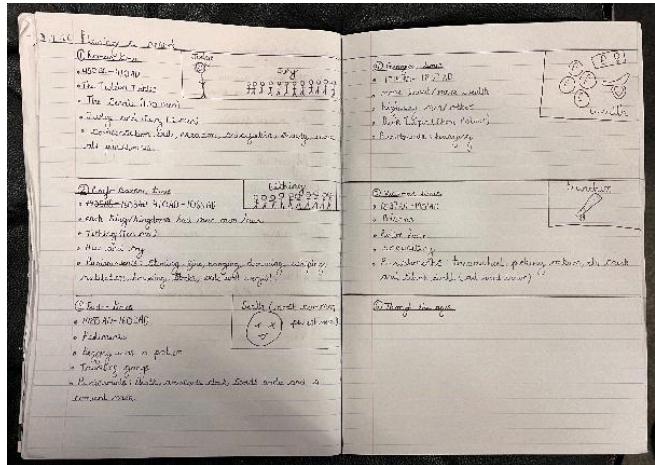
**Fractions:** Pupils will learn how to partition, compare and order mixed numbers and convert mixed numbers to improper fractions and vice versa. They will also explore equivalent fractions and, add and subtract with fractions.

**Decimals:** Pupils will learn how to identify tenths and hundredths and how to divide a one or two-digit number by 10 or 100.

### **Year 5**

This half term in Maths, I am so proud of how hard Year 5 have worked on understanding fractions! As previously mentioned, knowledge of times table facts is crucial to many areas of Maths and fractions is a prime example. Not only have they learned and understood key vocabulary such as: integer, unit fraction, non-unit fraction, improper fraction and mixed-number fraction, they have demonstrated their ability to multiply different fractions by an integer with increasing accuracy.

The mass of one bag of potatoes is  $1\frac{3}{4}$  kg.  
What is the mass of five bags of potatoes?



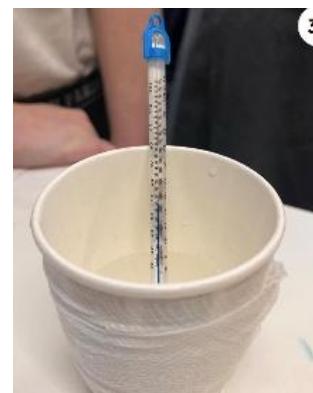
In English, and linking to our Clarborough Curriculum theme of *Crime and Punishment*, children have read about changes in laws, practise and punishments from the Roman period to present day. They have learned about using relative clause and brackets for parenthesis and applied these to writing a report.



This term in History, knowledge, interest and enthusiasm was ignited during this 'gruesome' topic, in which pupils learned about laws, crimes and punishments through the centuries: Roman, Anglo-Saxon, Tudor, Georgian, Victorian and present day. They learned how laws were enforced and changes that happened over time such as the introduction of police forces and prisons.

In Science, pupils have learned about the properties of materials and conducted investigations into: comparing and grouping materials based on their properties (including hardness, solubility, transparency and conductivity); investigating how some materials will dissolve in liquid to form a solution and using their knowledge of solids, liquids and gases to decide how mixtures might be separated through filtering, sieving and evaporation.

Making pop-up books designed for pupils in Year 1 has been our DT challenge. E-Book Creator has been a popular Computing unit as pupils were able to apply previously learned skills to create their own e-books on a theme of their choice.



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

Next Term (Brief overview):

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

- Decimals and percentages
- Non-fiction writing about health and journal writing

- Rivers
- Forces
- Music Creation
- Drawing

## Year 6

In Maths, the children have been learning all about fractions; adding, subtracting, dividing and multiplying them as well as finding fractions of amounts. They have also been calculating area, perimeter and volume.

In English they have explored different poetry types and wrote their own based on the poem 'Thinker: My puppy poet and me' by Elouise Greenfield. They also used Francis, a visual stimulus, to write character and setting descriptions, as well as exploring 'show not tell' to show the character's different emotions and feelings. Finally, they wrote their own spooky narrative.

In History, the children have been learning all about the Pilgrim Fathers and how they disagreed with the religious laws. They learnt about when they boarded the Mayflower and how they came to settle in Scrooby.

In Art, they have been researching different global artists and finished with creating their final expressive piece.

In PE, the children have been learning how music influences movement. They learnt the Samba and then in groups created their own versions and showcased their work. In gymnastics they have learnt how to do different stretches, sits and tucks as well as using the equipment around the hall.

In Geography they have learnt about the Equator, Tropics and significant lines. They also looked at climates and researched why settlements require certain resources in order to thrive.



## Next Term, Brief Overview:

Next term in Maths, the children will be learning all about decimals, from rounding, to adding and subtracting them. Finally, we will conclude with understanding percentages and being able to find equivalent fractions, decimals and percentages. In English, they will be focusing on grammar and punctuation skills which will aid in up-levelling their writing. In Science, the children will be learning about electricity and in History and Geography they will be continuing their learning from this half term.

## Dates for your Diary....



### Dates for Your Diary

#### Spring Term 2



#### Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026 – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February – Children return to School – Start of Spring Term 2

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February – KS2 Boys' Football Match – CUP MATCH - Clarborough v Misterton AWAY at Rose Sports Ground Gainsborough, Kick Off 4.00pm (Details to follow)

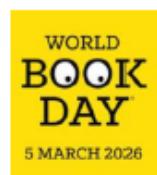
Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March – Year 6 CPR Training (Details to follow)

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March – Year 5 attending Frozen Performance at Retford Oaks (Details to follow)

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March – Year 4 Swimming Lessons Begin

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March – KS2 Boys' Football Match – Clarborough v Misterton – AWAY at Rose Sports Ground Gainsborough, Kick Off 4.00pm (Details to follow)

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March – World Book Day (Details to follow)



Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March – Pop-Up Uniform Table

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March – Dental Study for 5yr olds (Details to follow)

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March – KS2 Boys' Football Match – Clarborough v Gateford – HOME Match at Clarborough, Kick Off 4.00pm

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March – PTA Mother's Day Celebration (Details to follow)

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March – KS2 Girls' Football Match – Clarborough v St Luke's – HOME Match at Clarborough, Kick Off 4.00pm (Details to follow)

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March – Parent Consultations (Details to follow)

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March – KS2 Boys' Football Match – Clarborough v Holy Family – HOME Match at Clarborough, Kick Off 4.00pm (Details to follow)



Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March – Red Nose Day (Details to follow)

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2.30pm – Year 6 DAArt Graduation (Details to follow)

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March – Last Day of Term

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Holidays



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Summer Term 1 - Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April – Children return to school – Start of Summer Term 1

