

Youlgrave, All-Saints' Primary School Newsletter



Dear Parents, Carers and Families

Welcome to this month's bumper edition of the newsletter. We wanted to show you the breadth of the exciting learning opportunities the children are experiencing in school. What is really exciting is the strength of the pupil voice in school and the engagement of all of our children in their learning.

There have been two very special highlights for me this month. Firstly, the way the children joined the Act of Remembrance in All Saints Church and the lovely feedback we received from members of the community about their messages and readings and the respect they showed throughout. Secondly, the Eco Council met with their counterparts at Biggin C of E Primary School to share their work on reducing carbon. Both eco councils came away from the meeting with many more ideas, even more enthusiasm and a true sense of accomplishment from the steps they had already taken. We hope this is the first of many opportunities for children to take the lead in our improvement journey.

Best wishes

Teresa Nicholls

A Prayer for Thankfulness

Dear God,

Thank you for our plentiful world. Remind us not to take more than we need and give the land and nature time to rest and recover. May we always remember that even the smallest helpful action matters.

Amen

Dates for your diary:

- 17th November– PCSO Boswell for YR 5/6 Knife Crime
- 24th- 27th November (Monday to Thursday)– Scholastic Book Fair
- 1st December at 2pm– Christingle Service
- 2nd December– Level 2 Bikeability for Y6
- 3rd December– Christmas Crafting with Parents/ Carers (time to be confirmed)
- 5th December- 1pm Aladdin Panto at Buxton Opera House
- 10th December- 2pm Nativity
- 11th December– Save the Children, Christmas Jumpers and 6pm Nativity
- 15th December– Carol Service (time to be confirmed)
- 16th December– Christmas Festival of Fun for Class 1 (1-3pm) at The Arc
- 18th December– Christmas Dinner: Christmas jumpers
- 19th December– Christmas Fair with party clothes (time to be confirmed)

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Well done everyone for maintaining good attendance so far this year. We are continuing to experience higher levels of children being off for illness than usual. Please ring if you need advice on whether to send your child into school if they are ill.

Please remember if your child arrives after the register has been taken, it will count as an absence for that morning's mark. School is open from 8.50am, and gates are closed at 9.00am when the registers are taken in classes.

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
97.1%	95.0%	94.2%	96.2%	98.3%	95.2%	96.7%

Simplifying our systems

We are aware that the number of different systems we use don't always make it easy for you to book and pay for things, give consents to trips and send us messages etc.

Our project for this year in the admin team is to try to reduce the overall number and maximise the use of our new management information system. We will keep any disruption to a minimum and thank you for your support whilst this takes place.

Primary School Admissions

The admissions window is open for pre-school parents/carers to apply for their child/children's place at their chosen Primary School.

Child(ren) should be born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022. Please remember the deadline for applying is 15th January 2026.

[Primary, infant and junior school admissions - Derbyshire County Council](#)

We are always happy to show prospective parents round school at a time that suits them. Please spread the word to any parents looking for a primary place for September 26 who may be interested.

School Photographs

Please look out for them in school bags .

Any problems please let the school office know.

Thank you.





Please ensure to book children in online using School Money. If you have any difficulty please contact the school office on 01629 636289. Please book your sessions as soon as possible so we can ensure appropriate levels of staffing are in place.

INSET Days and Holidays 2025/2026

- 22nd December to 2nd January- Christmas Holiday (return to school 6th January)
- January 5th– **Inset Day**
- 16th February to 20th February– Half Term
- 30th March to 10th April– Easter Holiday
- 4th May– May Day Bank Holiday
- 25th May to 29th May– Half Term
- 22nd July– Last day of Summer Term
- July 23rd– **Inset Day**

Young Voices

We're excited to announce that our pupils in KS2 (years 3, 4, 5 and 6) will be taking part in Young Voices 2026! This is a wonderful musical event that brings together children from across the country to sing and perform as one huge choir. Our performance will take place on Monday 9th February 2026 at the Utilita Arena Sheffield.

We'll be starting to learn the songs and dances in school soon, but in the meantime, you can explore and enjoy them together at home! Young Voices has provided online access to all the songs, lyrics, and dance videos.

How to log in:

<https://yvmusicroom.com/auth/parent/login>

Copy the link or scan the QR code and follow the instructions. Once completed, you'll find everything your child needs to get familiar with the songs and moves before rehearsals begin in school.

Further details about timings for the day and ticket purchases will be shared in the coming weeks. We can't wait to begin preparing for what promises to be a fantastic experience for everyone involved!



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Collective Worship - Trust:

The value we are currently focussing on is Trust.

This half term in Monday's collective worship we will continue to follow the Roots and Fruits Christian values scheme focussing particularly on Trust. We will be focusing on 'windows, mirrors and doors' to support our understanding and learning and use stories from the bible and drama to promote Christian virtues which promote Trust:

- Honesty, the foundation upon which trust is built.
- Forgiveness, the power with which trust is built.
- Patience, to weather to storm together and waiting for the rainbow that follows.
- Humility, not thinking less of ourselves but thinking about ourselves less.
- Kindness, showing concern for others and treating everyone with respect and compassion
- Love, the greatest virtue of all and the glue that holds us together.
- Faithfulness, choosing integrity and honouring your commitments.
- Self-control and managing your emotions and behaviours even when things are tough
- Compassion, the beacon of our humanity and tells others that you see them, your hear them and you're there for them.

Puppet Show: *The Donkeys Tail*



This week, our children enjoyed a delightful puppet show titled *The Donkey's Tale*, which told the story of the first Christmas from a very special perspective – that of the donkey who carried Mary to Bethlehem!

The performance was engaging and thoughtful, helping children reflect on the nativity story in a fun and imaginative way. It ended with a light-hearted moment that the children especially enjoyed – a sign reading "The End" was revealed alongside a donkey's tail, prompting lots of giggles at the clever "donkey tail" joke!

Mr and Mrs Briddon presented the children with a special gift of hand-knitted nativity figures.

These beautiful figures will be shared among classes throughout December, helping us all keep the spirit of Christmas alive in school and we thank Mr & Mrs Briddon for such a thoughtful gift. As we approach Christmas, we will be continuing the children's learning about 'Advent' and 'Christmas'.



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News from the Eco Council

Let's Cut Our Carbon – Together!

We're excited to let you know that our Eco Council (Logan, Clara, Daniel, Edward, Lottie Ivy and Aleysha) met this with pupils from Biggin School to talk about ways we can help the environment. Together, we've decided to take part in "Cut Your Carbon" month this November!

Over the next few weeks, children will be encouraged to complete **six simple challenges** that help reduce carbon emissions – things like saving energy, walking instead of driving, and cutting down on waste. Our Eco Council will visit each class next week to explain the challenges and how everyone can get involved.

We'd love your support at home! Please help your child take part in the challenges – small changes really do make a big difference.

At the end of the month, we'll count how many pupils joined in, work out how much carbon we've saved, and celebrate everyone's fantastic efforts.

Thank you for helping us make a positive change!



Drop your heating by 1°C for a week.



Meal plan to reduce food waste for one week.



Make 3 evening meals plant-based across the month.



Have a 'device-free' day.



Make 3 journeys active across the month.



Lower your washing machine temperature to 30°C for three washes across the month.

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Roving Reporters—Pupil Voice

Welcome to this months report from our roving reporters!

All Saints' Day – By Clara, Maria and Isla

On Tuesday 5th of November, Youlgrave All Saints Primary School celebrated All Saints Day by dressing up as saints. All Saints' day is a special day when Christians remember those that died and who loved God.

A saint is a person who follows God and is helpful, kind and caring to others. They might even have been leaders of their communities and looked after the blind, deaf and poor! Saints may also have been evangelists, someone who shares the word of God.

Christians celebrate saints lives by dressing up, lighting candles, singing, praying and going to church and learning about others between the 30th of October and the 5th of November. But All Saints' Day is actually on the 1st of November.



Everyone who dressed up got to share their outfits and tell everyone about their saint. There were lots of different outfits like St Francis of Assisi, St George, St Lucy, St Kateri Tekakwitha (a native American) and St David. We found out that St Francis was the patron saint of ecology and loved animals and that St Tekakwitha loved nature. St Lucy was a Roman saint and helped people who were blind and that St George was the Patron saint of England.

Other children dressed up as modern day saints like policeman/women, surgeons, doctors and vets. We sang and marched to 'When the Saints Go Marching in' and had a special dinner and traditional dinner, which was yummy.

We learnt that All Saints' day is celebrated across the world and that anyone can be like a saint if they are kind and caring to others. Dressing up and sharing our saints was great fun.

We all loved it!



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Messages from the classroom:

Class 1

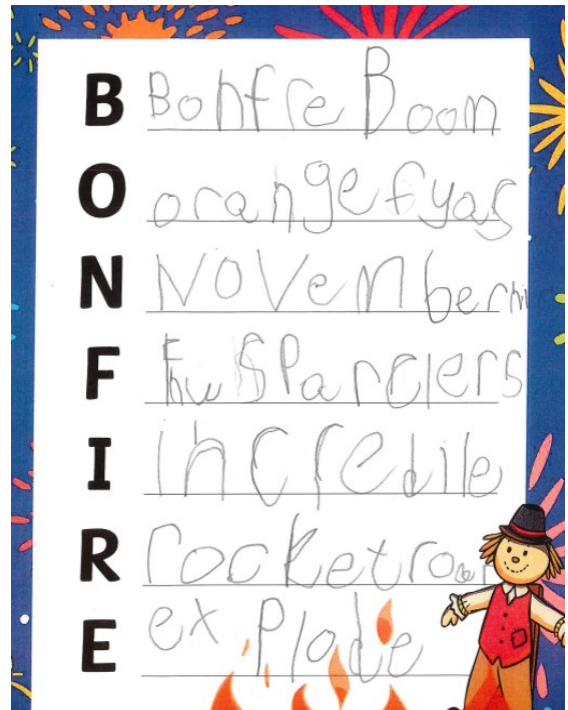
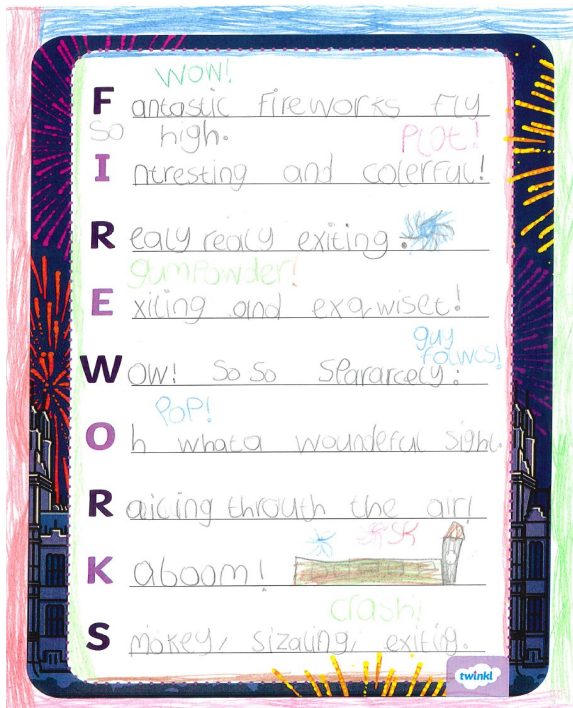
We have had a busy first week back at school where the children have been learning about bonfire night- we wrote acrostic poems and also made bonfire safety posters to ensure we all knew how to stay safe!

We also had a fantastic day dressing up and celebrating All Saints day- a big thank you to Mrs Houghton for organising! We have a very, very busy rest of the half term ahead of us. The children are extremely excited about getting started with our nativity rehearsals and can't wait to perform it to our friends and family and the Youlgrave community! Our topic for this half term is 'Starry, starry night' where we will be doing lots of different topic-based learning. We will be looking at 'light and dark' in science, learning about Guy Fawkes and Diwali in History and RE, and doing a variety of different sparkly based art and craft activities- plus as many singing and acting play rehearsals that we can squeeze in (lines to learn will be getting sent home in the next week!). In PE this half term the children will be doing gymnastics in the village hall, focusing on different ways to travel, different shapes and balances, rolls and jumps, linking movements and then putting all these new skills and knowledge together to perform our gymnastic routines to our friends. As always for class one this is a very busy time of the school year so, please hear your child/children read as often as possible.

If you have any concerns or questions, please feel free to contact me either via the school office or personal email.

Thank you

Miss Hulme and the Class One team



Class 2:

We've had a fabulous month in class, filled with creativity, curiosity, and lots of learning across all subjects!

Our focus in writing has been all about instructions. Inspired by the imaginative book "How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth", the children wrote their own sets of instructions using toy unicorns, pandas, and giraffes. They acted out their steps with great enthusiasm, making sure their instructions were clear, fun, and easy to follow.

The children have really grasped these features and are becoming confident, purposeful writers!

In Reading lessons, we've been working on becoming fluent and expressive readers. A highlight this month was our performance of "There's a Rang-Tan in My Bedroom"—a powerful story with an important message. The children performed it beautifully for the Head Teacher and again during Collective Worship at church, showing great confidence and expression. We were so proud of them!

The children have planted daffodil bulbs in our playground, which we hope will bloom beautifully in spring. This will help us observe seasonal changes and learn about the life cycle of plants in a hands-on and meaningful way.

We have also had great fun during dress up day Go Pink for Ashgate and All Saints' day and came second in a dodgeball competition more about these else where in the newsletter. What an amazing month!



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Class 3:

Our journey into the world of the ancient Maya continues! This week we've been learning all about the Mayan Gods. The children have been busy researching online and are now using their ICT skills to create engaging presentations to share what they've discovered.

In Maths, we've been focusing on multiplication and division, especially looking at fact families and how knowing one fact helps us find others. A great way to keep practising at home is with TT Rockstars (Times Tables)– every little bit of practice really strengthens their learning!

Our current topic is Living Things and Their Habitats, and we've been exploring the school grounds to find living things with the children creating detailed journals about our discoveries. Next, we'll be moving on to learn about the reproduction of all living things – a fascinating part of the science curriculum!

A huge well done to everyone who took part in the Tag Rugby Tournament at Bakewell Juniors- we came runners-up! The teamwork, effort, and sportsmanship on display was brilliant.

Finally, a big [congratulations](#) to our Year 6s for completing their Level 1 Bikeability training. They showed fantastic listening skills and positive attitudes throughout – these qualities will serve them well when they move on to the higher levels in the coming weeks.

Miss Blackham

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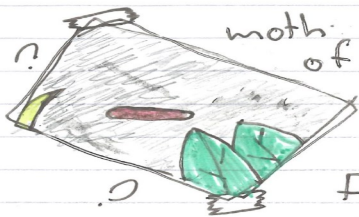
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Class 3 Mayan work





Wednesday 5th November
Naturalists: My Journal.



moth: caterpillar
of some sort?

Is going to
find food?

It crawls and has no patterns.
Found on a wall in the playground

It was
alone

Does talk / make
sounds?

Brownish
pinkish colour

Spotted on a ^{damp}
cloudy day

Will it turn
into a moth or
a butterfly?

It was
hairless

Has some lines
on it's body

Sporting Events

Last week the children in KS2 attended a sports tournament at Bakewell Junior School. Class 2 took part in a Dodgeball festival of fun, which also included competitive matches. We are very pleased to announce that our Blue team were 'Runners Up' with all of our children showing some amazing skills and putting into practice all that they'd learnt. There were some very rosy cheeks at the end of it all!

Similarly, Class 3 took part in a competitive and hard-fought Tag Rugby competition. We were joint first, so it came down to the narrowest of margins based on the number of tries scored throughout the competition. Once again, we were 'Runners Up' but we did receive the overall trophy for 'determination' based on both classes' hard work and sustained effort! As staff, we were so proud of the way the children conducted themselves, showing great sportspersonship, whilst having a really good time.

Miss Tonks

