

# Reeth and Gunnerside Schools



## Newsletter 3 Autumn Term 2025

### HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

We hope that you enjoyed our nativity, *Prickly Hay*. The younger children based at Reeth have had a super time telling the Christmas story, this time from the perspective of a stablehand and friends. The messages of encouragement, confidence and self worth were clear and complemented the special events and visitors at the stable. The singing was very good, there was some great acting and everyone had fun.

We are looking forward to our Christmas Market tomorrow morning. Preparations are going well, with lots of pupils telling us about their products, ideas and plans. Thank you for your help at home with the project – we really appreciate your support. All pupils will have the chance to browse the stalls and activities. A little spending money will enable children to buy items, although it is optional; there will be plenty to do without any money at all. Those bringing spending money are asked to bring change, if possible. We do hope that you can join us and look forward to seeing you. Please let friends and family know about the event too.

The last week of term will be busy with carol singing, Christmas dinners, parties, a pantomime visit and Christingle; we hope that everyone enjoys the events. On behalf of the pupils, staff and governors of Reeth and Gunnerside Schools, Happy Christmas. We wish you and your family health, happiness and peace over the holiday and in the coming New Year.

*G. Stainsby*

Gordon Stainsby, Headteacher  
Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December



## GOOD BEHAVIOUR CERTIFICATES

**BRONZE**

Ella Shade, Jack Rukin, Annie Hunter, Zadok Chen-Robinson, Olivia Sunter, Polly Kendall, Arthur Porter, Ethan Thompson, Alfie Allison, Charlotte Tinsley, Isabelle Porter, Alexa Stoddart, Robbie Wearmouth

**SILVER**

Charlie Dunworth, Brooke Thompson, Harry Coates, Phoebe Guy, Henry Abbey, Zander Coates, Emma Livingstone, Rose Calvert, Thalia Calvert, Arthur Pybus, Luke Williams, Seth Whitehead, Joe Cessford, Annie Hunter, Olivia Sunter

**GOLD**

Charlotte Tinsley, Rose Clarkson, Holly Calvert, Raife Coates, Eliza Guy, Isabelle Porter, Franklin Parker, Henry Law, Amy Allison, Harry Calvert, Eli Atkinson, Brooke Thompson, Liv Hartley, Samuel Chen-Robinson, Charlotte Whitehead, Jacob Coates

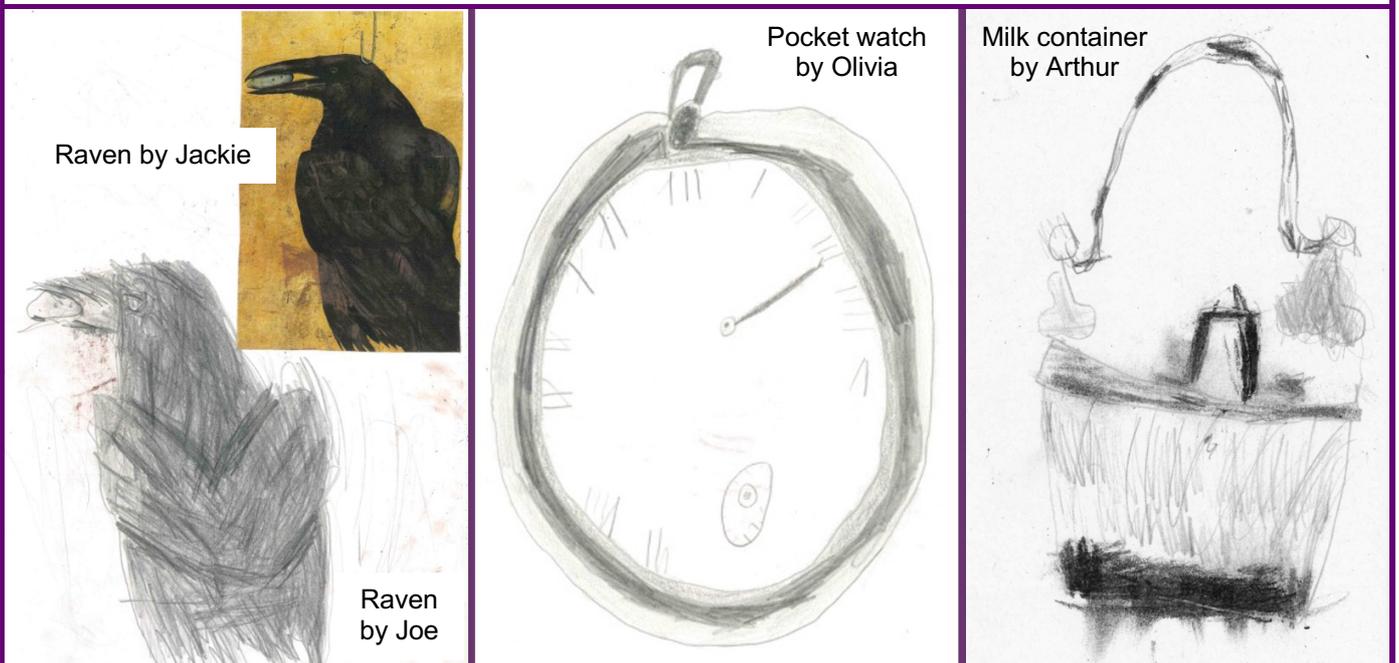
### EARLY YEARS

This half term, early years children have been exploring seasonal change and enjoying activities around the theme of 'autumn'. We have enjoyed improving our scissor control by snipping dry, crunchy leaves, creating our own transient art pieces linked to our book 'Leaf Man', and seeing the effect of the drop in temperature on the water in the autumn trays. We were surprised at how quickly it turned to ice!



### YEAR 1 & 2

Key stage 1 pupils have been drawing in their art lessons this half term. They started by studying Jackie Morris' work, and went on to link their drawings with their geography topic on Swaledale. The Keld Resource Centre kindly offered some artefacts, and pupils used these for still life work, incorporating colour and tonal shading.

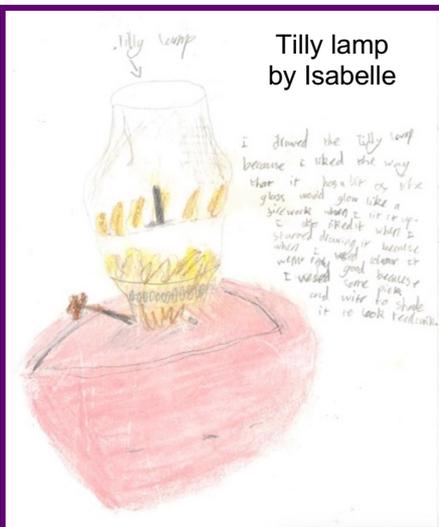


Raven by Jackie

Raven by Joe

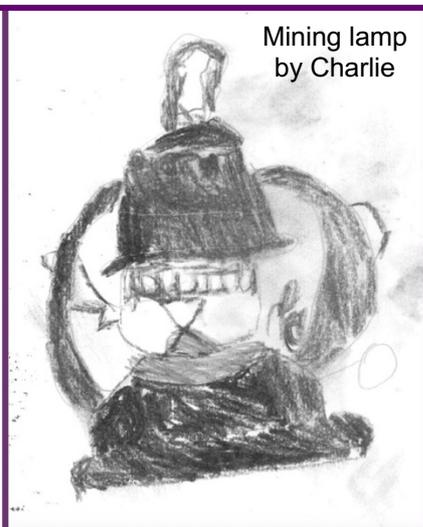
Pocket watch by Olivia

Milk container by Arthur

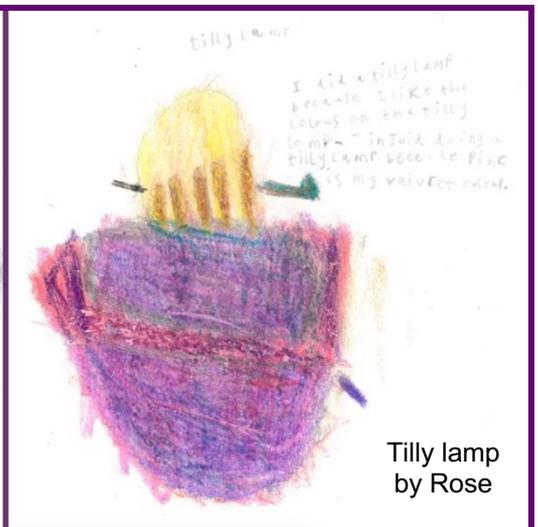


Tilly lamp  
by Isabelle

I drew the tilly lamp because I liked the way that it has a glass chimney and the glass would glow like a tilly lamp when it is lit. I started drawing it when I was 2 years old because when I was 2 I used to make a tilly lamp and I used to make it with wire to make it look real.



Mining lamp  
by Charlie



Tilly lamp  
by Rose

I did a tilly lamp because I like the colors on the tilly lamp - in fact doing a tilly lamp became to find it's my favorite color.

## YEAR 3 & 4

Art in Y3 & 4 has focused on collage. Linking with a geography topic on land use and farming in Swaledale, pupils have created collages with a farming theme. The children have tried to create their own colour sheets as well as using magazines and newspapers, with wool and tissue to add extra texture. During December we have been lighting candles on our advent wreath and the children have used felt and different fabrics to create an advent candle collage.

Today pupils enjoyed a science day on the topic of light. Children investigated materials to find the best reflector and had fun experimenting with mirrors.



## YEAR 5 & 6

Inspired by the ceramic work of Tom Sutton, and linked to their geography project *Design a City*, Y5 & 6 pupils have made clay houses. They are certainly characterful - we think that they are great.



### REMEMBRANCE

Thank you to pupils from Reception to Year 6 that led our Remembrance Service, delivering a powerful message of peace and hope. Thank you to everyone that supported the Poppy Appeal – together we raised £196.86

### FRIENDS OF SCHOOL FUNDRAISER RELAY

Well done to everyone that took part in the school relay and to those who supported the event. This year we raised over £1000 towards Friends of School projects. Special thanks to Holly Calvert, this year's fundraising champion.

### CAROL SERVICE

All pupils in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 are leading a Christmas Carol Service on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm in Gunnerside Methodist Chapel. Parents and pupils of all ages are welcome to come along and enjoy singing in the spirit of Christmas. Extended family members and members of the community are also most welcome to join us too.

### CHRISTMAS DINNER

School governors are joining pupils at each school on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December to enjoy Christmas dinner with them. All pupils are welcome to dress in a festive coloured top or Christmas themed jumper for the day.

### CHRISTMAS PARTIES IN SCHOOL

Pupils in our early years will enjoy their Christmas party on the morning of Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December, followed by a party lunch. Reception pupils can come to school in party clothes on this day, and do not need to bring any uniform items. On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December, following the Christmas dinner, pupils in Years 1 to 6 will enjoy Christmas parties in their class settings. Pupils will enjoy the party in the festive coloured top or Christmas themed jumper they have chosen to wear to school that day.

### CAROLS AT REETH MARKET AND SHELTERED HOUSING

All pupils will be based at Reeth School on the last day of term, enabling us to sing carols together at Reeth Market, starting at 9:30am. Parents, family and friends are of course welcome to join us. It would be great to see you there. We also plan to sing at the sheltered housing in Reeth a little later in the morning.

### CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

Our Christingle Service is on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December at St. Andrew's Church, Grinton, starting at 1.30pm. Parents and family members are very welcome to join us for the service. We expect the service to finish by approximately 2pm. Parents are asked to take their child(ren) home directly from the service and make the most of an early start to the Christmas holiday! We are hoping that everyone will be able to meet this request, or that you will be able to ask a friend or relative to collect your child for you. Transport to the church for pupils will be arranged by the school for pupils in Reception to Year 6. Envelopes to collect donations from family or friends for the Children's Society have been sent home with pupils today. If you would like to make a donation, please return these envelopes to school by Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December. There will also be a collection plate in aid of the Children's Society at the service. For safety reasons, all pupils with long hair should come to school with their hair tied back. Our younger pupils will be using glow sticks in their Christingle oranges. Pupils will make Christingle oranges on the morning of the Christingle service. A pack of items can be provided to nursery pupils who don't attend on Friday mornings so that they can make their Christingle at home. Nursery aged pupils are welcome to join us at the church along with their accompanying adult(s).

## TREE PLANTING

About 15 years ago our schools were involved in tree planting on land above Gunnerside, we were pleased to help again last week at the same site. Working in partnership with the landowner, Sustainable Swaledale and the Yorkshire Dales Millenium Trust, two groups of KS2 pupils were involved in planting. Well done everyone!



## FELL RUNNING IN THE DARK

Y5 & 6 have had a great time exploring the local area – despite the dark and some awful weather!



## AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS – FIRST HALF OF SPRING TERM

We are pleased to be able to offer a number of after school clubs for pupils next term. Sessions will start in the second week back (week beginning 12<sup>th</sup> January) and will run for five weeks through to the half term break. \* Please note that the sessions led by Mrs Seymour will **not** take place on 19.01.26. or 09.02.26.

Please use SchoolPing to let us know which clubs your child(ren) would like to attend.

Day and time	Location	Staff	Year groups	Club
Mondays * 3:30pm – 4:30pm	Reeth	Mrs Seymour *	Rec, Y1 & Y2	Dance
Tuesdays 3:30pm – 4:30pm	Gunnerside	John Clark	Y3 – Y6	Netball and basketball
Fridays 3:30pm – 4:30pm	Reeth	John Clark	Y1 & Y2	Sport TBC

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Dec	Fri 12 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Market at Reeth School. All pupils based at Reeth School for the full day
	Tues 16 <sup>th</sup>	EY Christmas party (am)
		KS2 Christmas carols, Gunnerside Chapel, 6pm
	Wed 17 <sup>th</sup>	Rec and KS1 Visit to The Georgian Theatre pantomime (am)
	Thurs 18 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas dinner at both schools
		Christmas parties at both schools (pm)
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup>	All pupils based at Reeth, Christmas carols at Reeth market, 9.30am, followed by Christingle making in school	
	Christingle at St Andrew's Church, Grinton, 1.30pm. School closes after the service.	
Jan	Mon 5 <sup>th</sup>	Staff training day
	Tues 6 <sup>th</sup>	School reopens

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR SUMMER 2026 STATUTORY TESTS

Each year the Department for Education set dates for statutory testing and all pupils in certain year groups must be in school to complete these on specific dates. Please find these dates outlined below:

Year group	Test dates and details
6	KS2 tests Monday 11th May to Thursday 14th May 2026
4	Multiplication tables test within the 3-week period from Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2026
2	Optional KS1 tests administered during May 2026
1	Phonics tests during week commencing Monday 8th June 2026