

Reeth and Gunnerside Schools



Newsletter 2 Spring Term 2026

WORLD BOOK DAY

5 MARCH 2026

WORLD BOOK DAY

We're really looking forward to World Book Day on Thursday 5th March. Pupils are invited to dress up as a character from their favourite book. If possible, we ask that pupils bring in a copy so that they can share some of the best bits and tell others all about it as part of our classroom activities linked to World Book Day. There will be a themed lunch served at each school and the catering team will award a book voucher for the best costume.

Please note that dressing up is optional; we understand that it isn't for everyone. The World Book Day website has some useful tips for dressing up:

- Pick a book that your child is happy to talk about
- Use items that you already own
- Add one simple detail to show the character, setting or idea from the book
- Focus on comfort so your child feels confident on the day
- A small prop or label can say just as much as a full costume
- For those that prefer non-fiction, celebrate facts, subjects or dress as an author
- Choosing a character that wears everyday clothes can be a good option for those that are less confident with clothing choices

At the end of the day, pupils and parents are invited to join us for a reading event in the school library at Reeth. Parents are welcome to drop in and share a story with their child/ren. Older pupils can help with this too, reading stories for younger pupils. Hot chocolate and juice will be provided. We hope to see you there!

Best wishes for a lovely half term break.

G. Stainsby

Gordon Stainsby, Headteacher
Friday 13th February



GOOD BEHAVIOUR CERTIFICATES

Congratulations to the children below that have received good behaviour certificates in the last few weeks.

BRONZE	Olivia Sunter, Rose Calvert, Annie Hunter, Holly Calvert, Ruby Rukin, Mason Doughty-Coates, Seth Booth, Clemmie Livingstone-Owen, Arlo Johnson, Zadok Chen-Robinson, Henry Law, Liv Hartley, Eva Reynoldson, Amy Allison, Charlie Dunworth, Luca Atkinson-Iesini
SILVER	Eliza Guy, Jack Rukin, Isabelle porter, Ella Shade, James Calvert, Daniel Calvert, Chloe Reynoldson, Rosie Holliday, Charlotte Tinsley, Brooke Thompson, Eli Atkinson, Harry Calvert, Ethan Thompson, Polly Kendall, Alfie Allison, Abigail Sunter, Arthur Porter, Rose Clarkson
GOLD	Luca Atkinson-Iesini, Olivia Sunter, Lottie Shade, Annie Hunter, Harry Coates, Lucy Allison, Seth Whitehead, Joe Cessford, Evie Burge, Jenson Tyler, Eloise Fowler, Emma Livingstone, Zander Coates, Isabelle Porter, Toby Sunter, Henry Abbey, Eliza Guy

LENT SERVICE

Thanks to everyone that joined us at church this week. Rev Jo Brown and Miss Bunting led the service, exploring Lent and helping pupils to think about ways that they can take part.

During Lent, many people decide to give something up that they love – like chocolate. Others might decide to take up something, like helping out more with jobs at home or making an effort to do nice things for their family and friends.

Well done to all pupils and adults that plan to make a commitment – and enjoy your pancakes on Tuesday.



CAREER ASSEMBLIES

Thank you very much to Thomas Barningham and David Tinsley who have led talks at each school. Pupils have really enjoyed hearing about the work of British Antarctic Survey and the Royal Navy. We look forward to more sessions after half term, and we're pleased to let you know that Robert Sunter has kindly offered to talk about his work with the Fire Service.



PRAYER SPACES

Miss Bunting and volunteers from the KS2 collective worship team led a prayer spaces workshop for pupils at Reeth School last week.

'I liked sharing the bread. It helped me to think about being thankful.'

'I used Scrabble tiles to make words that describe God.'

'The footprint painting was fun!'



CHINESE NEW YEAR

Early years pupils have been learning about *Special Times*, and this week have enjoyed learning about Chinese New Year. The children have listened to the story of *The Great Race* and have produced some excellent pieces of writing to go with it. They have been busy creating different pieces of artwork inspired by the Chinese celebration and enjoyed practising Chinese calligraphy in our outdoor area. We were also very pleased to welcome Mrs Chen-Robinson to share her experience and expertise of Chinese New Year. The children enjoyed listening to her and were delighted to try some of her delicious celebration cake. As you can see, it was a great hit!



INUIT ART

Pupils in Y1 & 2 have been printing in their art lessons this half term. Inspired by the work of Canadian artist Kenojuak Ashevak, they have enjoyed creating their own version of her well known piece *The Enchanted Owl*.

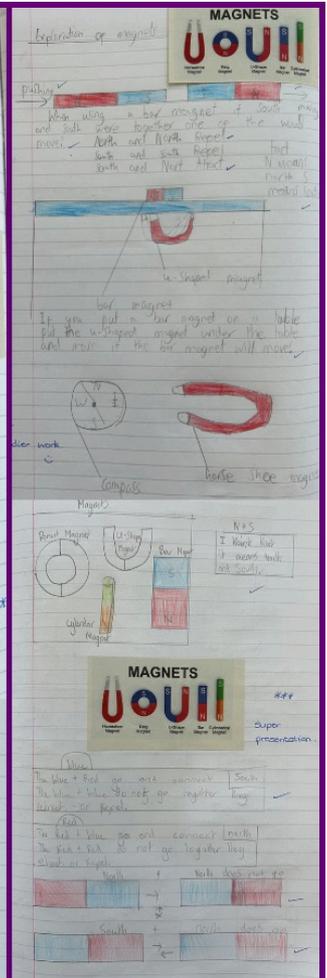
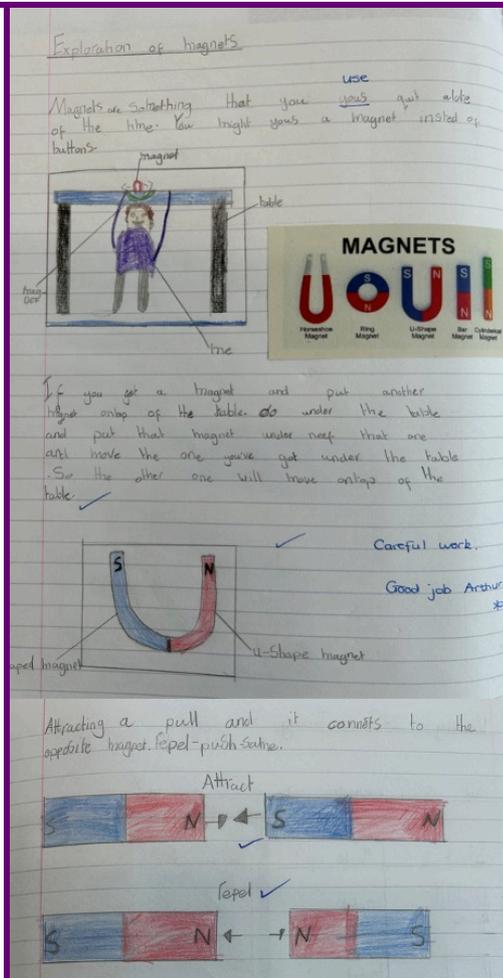


FORCES

In Mrs Bastow's class, the children developed an investigation to find which material created the most friction. They worked in groups to set up their own work station which included a ramp, a car, rulers and a range of different road surfaces. They had to predict which material would cause the most friction, carry out the investigation and record the results. It needed a lot of careful planning and accurate measuring which some children found challenging. There was lots of collaborative learning and problem solving skills involved.



They also did a lot of magnet exploration and found out lots of facts.



ANCIENT EGYPT

Mrs Bastow's class have really enjoyed studying Ancient Egypt. Thousands of years ago, pharaohs and people of wealth such as priests and scribes wore highly decorated collars to show their power and importance. They were decorated with beads and jewels as well as natural objects and applique.

The children have designed and made their own Egyptian collars using felt as a base with applique, stitching patterns and embellishments as the decorative layer. They created some fantastic designs with beautiful sewing skills.

Charlie said, "I am so proud of my work because I didn't think I could sew and it looks really good."

The class has also completed dance lessons inspired by the past. The children worked in pairs to produce a sequence of freeze frames depicting an object or action which they had learned about in their history lessons, with the second lesson focusing on pyramids, and with each freeze frame depicting a job required in the building of the pyramids. For each session, the children worked as a group and performed their dances to the rest of the class who had to work out which event or object they were creating in their freeze frames. They did a great job creating their own sequences and all performed confidently.



DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

Year 5 & 6 have been busy designing and making cars. They have learned lots of new skills and have worked with a range of tools, sawing, drilling and soldering.



FRIENDS OF SCHOOL

The next meeting of the Friends of School is on Monday 9th March, 2:15pm, at Reeth School.

It will be a good opportunity to finalise plans for future fundraising events over the remainder of the school year, and particularly the Big Breakfast on Saturday 14th March.

Following the success of the last Big Breakfast, we look forward to welcoming family, friends and community members.

Full details here. See you there! →



BIG BREAKFAST

SATURDAY 14TH MARCH 2026

9:00AM - 12PM

Gunnerside Village Hall

FULL ENGLISH BREAKFAST - TOAST AND DRINK £10.50

SMALL PORTION - £7.50

OTHER OPTIONS ALSO AVAILABLE

PLEASE NOTE IT IS CASH ONLY.

ALL PROCEEDS IN AID OF FRIENDS OF REETH AND GUNNERSIDE SCHOOLS

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS – SECOND HALF OF SPRING TERM

We are pleased to be able to offer a number of after school clubs for pupils after the half term break. Sessions will start in the second week back (week beginning 2nd March) and will run for four weeks through to Easter.

Day and time	Location	Staff	Year groups	Club
Mondays 3:30pm – 4:30pm	Reeth	John Clark	Y1 & Y2	Tennis
Mondays 3:30pm – 4:30pm	Reeth	Janet Seymour	Rec, Y1 & Y2	Dance
Tuesdays 3:30pm – 4:30pm	Gunnerside	John Clark	Y3 to Y6	Tennis

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Feb	Mon 23 rd	School re opens & swimming starts for some KS2 pupils (5 week block)
	Wed 25 th	Morning cluster skipping event at Catterick Leisure Centre for Y1&2
	Fri 27 th	Swimming starts for Y1&2 pupils (5 week block)
Mar	Wed 4 th	Archery, Curling and Boccia for some Y5&6 pupils (am), Richmond School
	Thur 5 th	World Book Day
	Mon 9 th	Friends of School meeting, Reeth School, 2:15pm
	Thur 12 th	Y3&4 woodland study, Snaizeholme
	Sat 14 th	Friends of School Big Breakfast, Gunnerside Village Hall, 9am-12pm
	Thur 19 th	Cluster Tennis at Reeth MUGA for some Y3&4 pupils
	Tues 24 th	Elizabeth Bedford reading assembly at Reeth with KS1
	Wed 25 th	Easter Service, Gunnerside Chapel, 9:30am, Rec to Y6
	Thur 26 th	Elizabeth Bedford reading assembly at Gunnerside with KS2
	Fri 27 th	School closes for Easter
Apr	Mon 13 th	Staff training day
	Tues 14 th	School reopens
	Wed 29 th	Friends of School – Bags2School (textiles recycling) collection, Reeth School, 9am

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 st June 2026
2	Optional KS1 tests administered during May 2026
1	Phonics tests during week commencing Monday 8th June 2026