

Reeth and Gunnerside Schools



Newsletter 1 Spring Term 2026

LOOKING AHEAD, LOOKING FORWARDS

We hope that you have had a restful holiday and that your child has enjoyed being back in school and getting started on new projects. We find that the spring term is a key time for pupil progress, and our assemblies have focused on making the most of the opportunity for learning in each lesson of each day. We've been talking about challenging ourselves, benefitting from short term wins, and looking ahead to our longer term hopes and dreams. As part of this, we've been exploring different careers, and have arranged some visits from community members. Next Friday, Thomas Barningham is going to talk about his work with British Antarctic Survey and in February David Tinsley is meeting with pupils to talk about his work with the Royal Navy. We are hoping to explore a diverse range of careers over the coming term, and if you would be willing to talk with pupils about what you do, please do let us know.

We look forward to discussing your child's progress at parent meetings in week four of the term. Meetings will be available either in person or by telephone and full can be booked through SchoolPing. If you have any queries, or need any help making the booking, please contact the school office. Working together (home and school) is really important to us and if at any time you would like to discuss your child's progress, we are very happy to arrange follow up meetings – please just ask the school office.

Thank you, and best wishes for the year ahead.

G. Stainsby

Gordon Stainsby, Headteacher
Thursday 15th January

GOOD BEHAVIOUR CERTIFICATES

Congratulations to the children below that have received good behaviour certificates recently. Well done!

BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD
Eli Atkinson, Brooke Thompson, Charlie Sunter, Harry Calvert, Eliza Guy, Rose Clarkson, Ben Guy, Viv Wilby	Albie Gredziak, Louis Francis, Lucy Wearmouth, Chloe Calvert	Charlie Dunworth, Sam Clarkson, Rose Calvert, Marianne Skinner, Arthur Holliday, Leo Atkinson-Iesini, Nancy Livingstone-Owen

EARLY YEARS

The early years children have been enjoying the beautiful story *Here Comes Jack Frost* by the linocut artist Kazuno Kohara. The story is about Jack Frost who comes to play with a lonely boy through the winter. They have lots of fun, but one day, the boy spots a snowdrop flowering, and the spell of winter is broken. This lovely story has inspired some super writing and creative pastel drawings, using the limited colour palette of the book.



YEAR 1 & 2

Miss Codman's class has made a great start with their study of weather and of polar regions. Each morning, pupils take turns to check the weather station, and provide a weather report for the rest of the class. Pupils now have good understanding of thermometers, rain gauges and wind vanes.

The class has also been learning about emperor penguins. Inspired by the book *The Emperor's Egg*, they have completed some fantastic written work. We are really impressed! Everyone is looking forward to Thomas talking about his work in Antarctica next week, and have lots of questions to ask about what it is like there.



Thermometer

The thermometer's job is to tell you if it is hot or cold we measure the temperature in Celsius.

Rain gauge

A rain gauge catches rain drops and tells you how much it has rained.

Wind vane

A wind vane tells you if the wind is blowing north south east or west.

The weather today is cold, icy and there was a little breeze. The temperature is 2°C. There was 4ml of rain. The wind was blowing from the north.

Monday 12th January

Emperor penguins

This report will tell you lots of amazing facts about Emperor penguins.

What do Emperor penguins look like?

Emperor penguins are a bird but they have flippers instead of wings. They are tall as a six year old girl or boy and they are 115 cm tall. They have black webbed feet to help them not slip on the ice.

They have a black back and a little yellow on their chests. They have claws that are sharp so they can get a grip on the ice. They have holes on their back to help them breathe.

Where do Emperor penguins live?

Emperor penguins live in Antarctica part of the Southern Hemisphere and it is surrounded by something called Southern Ocean. It is the driest, windiest and coldest place on earth. It hasn't rained or snowed in the past 2 million years! Can you believe that the coldest time on Antarctica is ~~over~~ there are a lot of ice, icebergs and some water.

What do Emperor penguins eat?

Emperor penguins eat fish, squid and krill all around the Antarctica Southern Ocean. Fish, squid and krill all live in the Ocean.

What do Emperor penguins do?

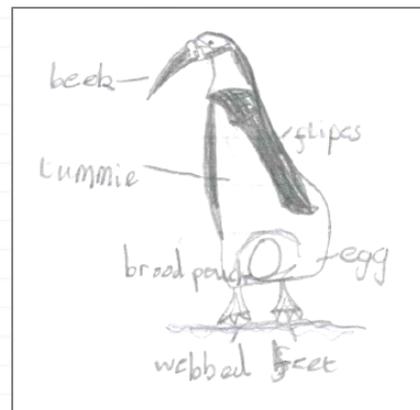
Emperor penguins slide on their tummies because if they wanted to travel a long way they wouldn't waddle all the way their so they would have to slide on their tummies. They also have water proof flippers and webbed feet so they could swim really fast. And sharp claws to grip the ice is really good so they don't slide off the ice.

How do Emperor penguins care for their babies?

The female lays one egg in May and she secretly passes it to the male. Then the male snuggles it into the brood pouch. Did you know that the male can't drop the egg because if he does the chick might die. So the female goes off for two months. Once hatching has hatched it is hungry so the male feeds it with a special liquid the chick can eat. Once the female is back she vomits into its mouth. The male lets the female have a go at looking after the chick. And the male goes to eat.

Interesting facts.

Did you know that penguins in the wild live for 20 years and in a zoo they live for 50 years? Emperor penguins grow as tall as a six year old? A group of penguins are a colony. Penguins huddle to keep them warm in the winter?



YEAR 3 & 4

Mrs Bastow's class has started their new project on Ancient Egypt. The children are enjoying this fascinating topic and have learned a lot already.

'Instead of a pillow, they slept on a wooden headrest.' Lucy

'Instead of money and coins they used grain to trade.' Marianne

'They dug holes to keep their food cool in the high temperatures of the hot desert. Raife

'Rich people would eat figs, meat and vegetables.' Holly

'The Great Sphinx guards the Pyramids of Giza. It has the body of a lion and the head of a human.' Charlie

'Jobs included merchants, builders, doctors and farmers.' Charlotte

'When the Nile flooded they had a festival called Wafaa El-Nil.' Evie

'Egyptians started work when they were 12.' Phoebe

'Egyptians thought that cats were gods and that the cats could see spirits.' Seth

'When the pharaoh died he was placed in a massive tomb in a sarcophagus.' Chloe

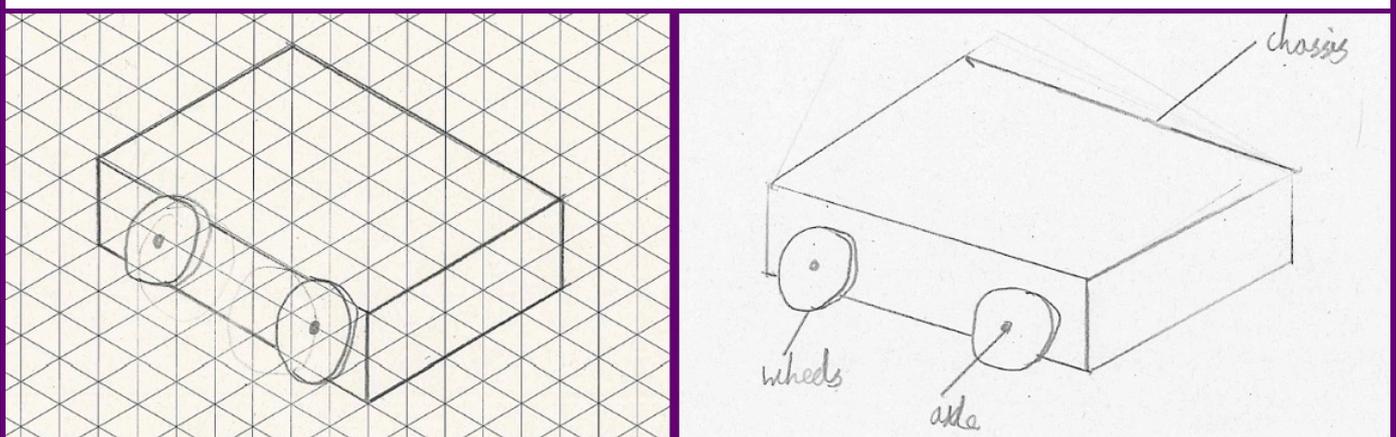
'They didn't have proper ovens - instead they had a hole in the wall with a fire in it.' Ruby

'The tomb of Tutankhamun was Valley of the Kings in 1922.' Arthur



YEAR 5 & 6

Mrs Kiernan's class has started their design technology project, building cars powered by electricity. Yesterday, pupils learned about the chassis, axles and wheels of a vehicle by exploring designs used by toy makers and in real vehicles like a Land Rover. The class went on to record their learning, using isometric paper to help them learn to draw in 3 dimensions before having a go with plain paper.



CURRICULUM INFORMATION

An overview of your child's learning this half-term is being sent to you by SchoolPing today. We hope this information will be useful for you in supporting your child with their learning journey. More detailed curriculum information is available on our school website.

GARDEN STORE – FREE TO A NEW HOME

One of our plastic storage sheds has reached the end of its useable life as a playtime equipment store. The front doors no longer attach, but it could still work as a log store or for garden storage.

It's available now, free of charge, and we can deliver it to your home if that is helpful. If you would like it, please contact the school office.



CHRISTMAS MARKET

Thanks to everyone that contributed to our Christmas Market. The event was very successful and we received some super feedback from visitors that were impressed by the quality of the products that pupils had developed and their sales skills. We certainly have some entrepreneurs in the making! We raised £700 for Cancer Research – a tremendous achievement. We awarded prizes to three stall holders, kindly donated by Tabby Chen-Robinson.

Maximum profit – Daniel Calvert

Most eye catching stall – Arlo Johnson

Most innovative idea – Luke Williams, Robbie Wearmouth and Jacob Coates



CHRISTINGLE

Thank you to all those who joined us and who gave donations to the Children's Society at our Christingle event. We raised over £200.



UKULELE SESSIONS

We're pleased to let you know that ukulele sessions have started again for pupils in KS2. We have a record number of pupils interested, and recommend a little practice each day to maintain progress and enjoyment. Pupils involved need to bring their ukulele each Tuesday for the lunchtime club.



EXTRA TIME CLUB

The EC Church in Reeth is offering a club for KS2 pupils on Wednesdays from 6pm to 7:30pm. Games and craft activities will be offered initially and we'll let you know of any special events. Please see the flyer for full details.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Jan	Wed 21 st	Dental survey for pupils aged 5 in Rec and Y1
	Fri 23 rd	Thomas Barningham visiting for assemblies at both schools
	Wed 28 th	KS2 collective worship team to lead prayer space activity for younger pupils at Reeth
Feb	Fri 6 th	Y5 science transition morning at Richmond School
		David Tinsley visiting for assemblies at both schools
	Wed 11 th	An introduction to Lent, Gunnerside Chapel, 9:30am, Rec to Y6
	Fri 13 th	School closes for half term
	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 25 th	Easter Service, Gunnerside Chapel, 9:30am, Rec to Y6
	Fri 27 th	School closes for Easter

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