

EVENTS AT THORNHILL PARK SCHOOL

MONTH	THEME / ACTIVITIES
1st – 30th April	Autism Awareness Month
1st – 30th April	Mathematics Awareness Month
11th April	Easter Fete
11th April	Half Term Ends
29th April	New Term Begins
5th May	Bank Holiday Monday
8th May	VE Day
17th May	High Cup Nick Hike
21st May	World Day for Cultural Diversity
23rd May	Half Term Ends
3rd June	New Half Term Begins

**north east
autism society**

Thornhill Park School

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THE VOICE

of Thornhill Park School

NEWSLETTER | May 2025

'WORKING TOGETHER TO INSPIRE, SUPPORT, CELEBRATE AND EQUIP AUTISTIC AND NEURODIVERGENT PEOPLE TO FULFIL THEIR POTENTIAL IN LIFE'

EASTER TIME AT THORNHILL PARK SCHOOL



Equality and
Diversity

MAIN NEWS — EMSWORTH SITE

EASTER FETE 2025

For our Easter Fete this year we had various stalls set up by each class. Sixth form made bunny sweet cups, Faberge egg plant pots and painted pebbles with various designs. Class 2 made scrunchies, Easter activity book packs and chocolate bunnies. Class 1 made bracelets, keyrings, Easter cards and even had a tombola!

Also there was a dessert spread available to all learners, staff, parents and carers which consisted of various desserts including Victoria Sponge, Scones, Easter Egg Cheese-cakes and so much more.

The tombola was a big hit, especially with the learners. The Easter Fete was very enjoyable for everyone and was a great success.



Overall, the Easter Fete raised £310.75 which is excellent!



MAIN NEWS — PORTLAND SITE

EASTER AT THORNHILL PARK SCHOOL

At Portland site there was lots of Easter activities which included a visit from the easter bunny who brought an egg for every learner, an easter bonnet competition, an easter egg hunt around school and each class participated in the easter performance. The learners performed songs and showed off their talents in front of parents and carers and the winners of the best bonnet competition were awarded certificates and an egg. A great way to start the easter holidays!



MAIN NEWS — EMSWORTH SITE

WE WANT YOUR IDEAS FOR THE POST-EASTER MENU!

As we get ready for the new term after the Easter holidays, Noelle is looking to refresh our menu and would love to hear from you! Whether you're craving something light and fresh, comfort food with a twist, or something with an international flair, we want your input. Here's how you can help:

- What dishes or meals would you love to see on the menu after the Easter holidays?
- Are there any seasonal ingredients you'd like us to feature?
- Have a favorite snack or treat you'd like to suggest?

Deadline to give Noelle suggestions is Wednesday 7th May.

EVENT NEWS

PORTLAND SITE/EMSWORTH SITE — EASTER PHOTOS



EVENT NEWS

CELEBRATING WORLD BOOK DAY AT THORNHILL PARK SCHOOL

Thornhill Park enjoyed celebrating World Book Day. Staff and pupils dressed up, and pupils took part in a hidden book cover hunt.



PORTLAND SITE — MOON CLASS

WILDLIFE WONDERS

For World Wildlife Day, pupils in Moon Class engaged in some animal inspired arts and crafts.

They watched part of a David Attenborough documentary to help with ideas and then created some African silhouette art, depicting some of the scenes they had witnessed.

The pupils worked as a team to fill their paper, allocating roles to suit their skillsets.



PORTLAND SITE — MOON CLASS

Growing plants at Thornhill Park School

To start their science topic of growing plants, pupils from Moon Class explored the different parts of a plant with a special focus on the roots.

To add a practical element to their learning, the pupils planted a set of beans in a clear jar so they can monitor how a plant grows from a seed.



PORTLAND SITE — RAINBOW CLASS

Exploring Jewish Tradition

This week, Rainbow Class have been exploring Jewish traditions. They have learned about the Star of David and what each point of the star means, then they have made their own star shape with sticks. They have also explored the Dreidel as well as taste testing challah bread.



PORTLAND SITE — RAINBOW CLASS

MAKING PANCAKES

This week, Rainbow have been making pancakes. They took a plate, added a pancake and squeezed sauce and added fruit. They then tasted their pancakes.

Their book of the week has been Mr. Wolf's Pancakes, which teaches the importance of sharing with your peers and helping others.



PORTLAND SITE — MOON CLASS

EVACUEE WORLD WAR 2

Moon Class have been learning about the Second World War. The class have shown a keen interest in learning about how children went to the countryside for safety. In art, they have been making ration books, suitcases with labels. They are learning and understanding about how the war can affect living conditions. Next week they will be making gas masks in art.



RAINBOW CLASS — PLANTING SUNFLOWERS IN NATURE SCHOOL

This week, Rainbow have been planting sunflowers!

They learned about planting flowers through listening to the story 'Flora's Flower'. They then planted sunflower seeds in pots, which they will water and watch grow.

Rainbow also learned about the life cycle of a flower, starting from its beginning as a seed to when it blooms.

They sorted images of the life cycle stages into the correct order, then stuck them in their Nature School books.



PORTLAND SITE — SUN AND SKY CLASS

SUPERHEROES!

This term Sun and Sky classes have been learning about superheroes.

As part of this term's topic, they have enjoyed dressing up and using role play to develop friendships and build on team work during outdoor learning. They have also been designing their own capes and costumes as part of their Design Technology module.

Soon, both classes will be learning and exploring 'superheroes' in their own local community and exploring what characteristics someone may need to become a 'hero'.



EMSWORTH SITE

ENERGY-SAVING WEEK

Class 1 have been exploring ways to save energy as part of energy saving week, including using solar powered energy sources and shared transport to minimise emissions.

They have also been exploring ways they can personally save energy such as switching off games consoles, turning off taps and making food that doesn't require cooking.

In cookery Class 1 made healthy choices of foods that we don't need to cook. These include wraps, sandwiches and vegetable sticks and dips. In literacy, they discussed what energy saving is and created posters to share what they have learnt.



VISIT TO WASHINGTON WETLAND CENTRE - HAYDN

The schools favourite young ornithologist enjoyed a day at Washington Wetland Centre.

Haydn was able to track and spot different bird species on the day as well as finding time for a nice cup of tea.



EMSWORTH SITE

WORK EXPERIENCE AT LOVE AMELIA — ZAK

Work experience—Love Amelia

At my work experience I help clean the toys and getting stuff from peoples car. Is was mostly paw patrol and Duplo toys. One of the bags was full to the brim with Duplo, so I grabbed some wipes and cleaned every single brick one by one.

After that I went to the Alexa and asked it to play some Hollywood Undead, then I started cleaning more products. When some people would come to drop somethings of I would help them get boxes from out of the car.

After all of that it was lunchtime and I left at 1:00pm, I had a great time this week and I am looking forward to going back.



EMSWORTH SITE

Kiera's Amazing Fundraising Journey

Kiera decided that she wanted to do some fundraising, to raise money for the Teenage and Young Adult cancer ward in Newcastle Freeman hospital. Kiera understood by raising money for the ward that the money would go straight to help the patients and not be distributed anywhere else.

Kiera came up with a plan to walk a mile everyday in October.

Kiera began her journey and committed to at least a mile a day but in actual fact Kiera did more than this on a daily basis she would complete at least two mile come rain or shine!

Kiera raised a huge £250!



She then visited the hospital with her staff and met up with some lovely nurses who work on the ward, they showed Kiera the games room which had a pool table, dart board and juke box and photos of the activities some of the patients had been up to whilst getting treatment in the ward. Next we visited the common room which had a tv, kitchen and lots of food from Greggs for the patients to help themselves to.

One of the nurses Danielle explained to Kiera exactly where the money would go she said that it will treat the patients to have day trips and do activities they wouldn't normally be able to do with their family and friends. And will help buy anything that is needed for the ward!

Kiera was very proud of herself and so are all of her staff! Amazing effort and a credit to the school.

EMSWORTH SITE

END OF EASTER TERM TRIP

At Thornhill Park School, our sixth form decided as a class they would like to visit Ocean Beach Pleasure Park in South Shields for their end of term trip.

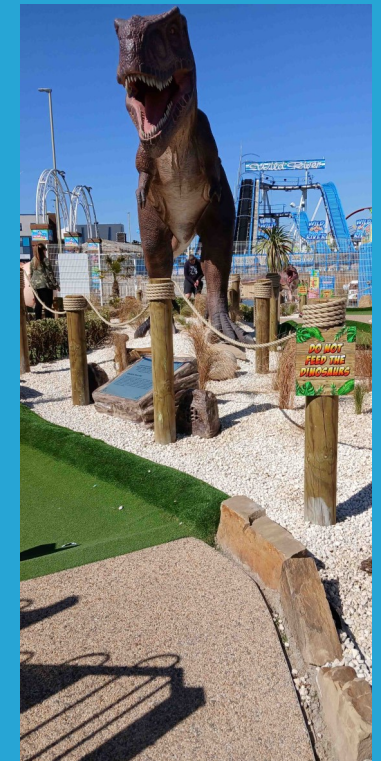


After dinner, all the learners decided what they would like to do, with Josh playing mini golf, and Ben, Ocean and Zak playing on the arcades.

On our walk back to the bus station, we looked in various shops, with Zak taking the lead on which charity shops are the best to visit.

As a group, we got the number 24 bus to South Shields bus station and walked to Ocean Beach Pleasure Park, looking at the different shops and sights during our walk.

When we arrived at the beach, we had a look at the different activities available, such as bowling, mini golf and the arcades. After having a look around the beach, we decided to have our lunch. Some learners brought their own packed lunch, with others having dinner from Greggs or getting fish and chips.

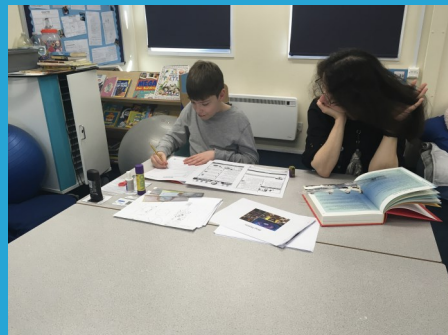


CULTURE CAPITAL

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

As part of Women's History month, the pupils have explored Florence Nightingale's innovations on hygiene. To achieve this, they listened to a lesson on Florence, including her history and her famous actions before engaging in a comprehension task to test their ability to learn and recall information.

Once the lesson was complete, the pupils watched a video highlighting another heroic nurse Mary Seacole to explore another key figure who was given less attention at the time.



CULTURE CAPITAL

THE SPECTACULAR YEAR OF THE SNAKE

Pupils from Moon class have been exploring the Lunar New Year. They have watched the ceremonies occurring in China and have looked at how they can create art work and related to the Year of the Snake.

The pupils have developed their fine motor skills through the creation of a series of paper snakes to decorate the classroom. This has allowed them to practise following instructions, and working as part of a team to produce the different fans needed to complete their snakes.



DAYS OUT AT SCHOOL

CHARLIE TRAVELS TO THE TOWN

Charlie showed fantastic communication by using his pecs board to ask if he could go out on the public bus. Charlie was asked if he'd like to go to the museum to see the fish and he said yes by using gestures. Charlie walked to the local bus stop and put his arms out to stop the bus. Once on the bus, Charlie found his seat and enjoyed the journey to town.

When he was in the museum, Charlie led the way to the fish and sat himself down to watch them swim. Charlie spent a while watching the fish feeling calm and relaxed. Charlie enjoyed his break in Greggs before leaving town. Charlie showed staff what he wanted and paid for his cake himself.

Charlie used his pecs board and told us he was ready to go back onto the public bus. Charlie paid the driver for his bus fare with minimal support and used Makaton to say thank you to the driver before finding a seat.



TIME TO CELEBRATE!

JOSEPH'S ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Joseph has showed amazing commitment in school learning new Makaton and developing more confidence in communication. When out shopping Joseph has been able to communicate by using shopping lists and Makaton to ask for help and complete the transaction at the till using sentence strips, developing his independence with communication and removing the communication barrier that Joseph may have struggled with previously.

Joseph has also visited different places which he hasn't previously been to, and he has been so happy to do this!

Joseph has also been enjoying bike riding at Hetton lakes and just recently Joseph has tried to pedal a 2-wheel bike independently!



We are all so proud of the hard work and determination Joseph shows and we can't wait to see in the future how many more goals Joseph will achieve! Very well done Joseph!

DAYS OUT AT SCHOOL

PAIGE'S WALK TO SEABURN

Paige enjoyed walking to Fulwell last week which was a new area for her to visit. Because of this Paige then asked if she could have a walk to another new area so chose Seaburn.

Paige walked from school all the way to Seaburn. She had to cross some busy roads but demonstrated great knowledge and road safety. Once we arrived at Seaburn Paige shouted "I did it!" We then began walking towards Morrisons. Paige smiled as she walked along the beach posing for a few photos in front of the sea!

Whilst at Seaburn Paige enjoyed having a walk around Morrisons as well as playing in the new park! Paige then walked back to school stopping at the shop for a well deserved drink and snack!

Well done Paige!!



DAYS OUT AT SCHOOL

COMMUNITY INCLUSION OUTINGS!

Lewis, from the Portland Site, has been accessing a range of activities out in the community as part of his school target, to access and experience new environments.

Lewis has taken part in a range of new activities in variety of environments, accessing activities such as tubing, eating lunch in a cafe, a visit to Santa and the arcades. Lewis has also been able to effectively implement his functional Maths lesson relating to handling money when accessing the community.

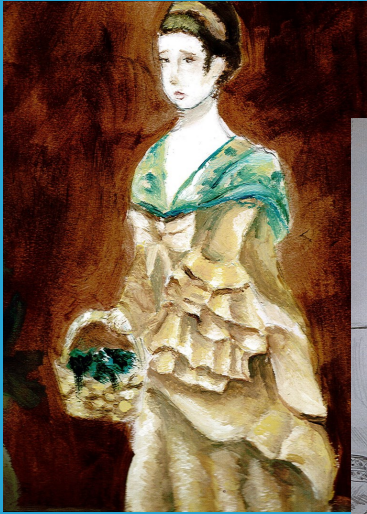
He had been increasing his skills and understanding, paying for his own items when visiting cafes and shops.

Well done Lewis!

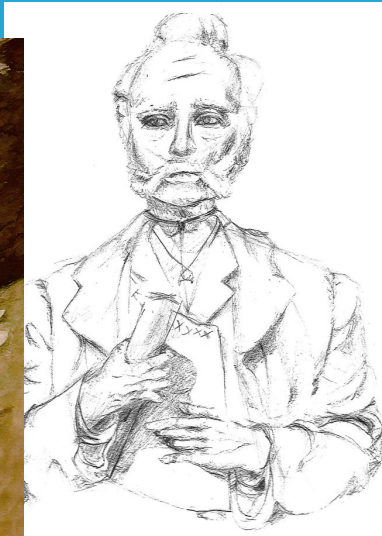


LEARNER ARTWORK

EMSWORTH SITE



Robyn Lewis —
Class 2



Rose Axton —
Class 2

LEARNER ARTWORK

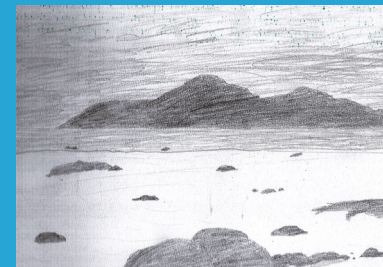
EMSWORTH SITE



Ocean Blakey —
Sixth Form



Elanor Forbes —
Class 2



Jacob Robinson
— Class 2



LEARNER STORIES

LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD GOES WRONG BY ELEANOR SHAW — CLASS 2

A poster on the school board advertised a play for Little Red Riding Hood.

The show was supposed to be Little Red Riding Hood but when it started it was Alice in Wonderland. The audience was in shock and thought they had gone to the wrong play.

On stage, Alice was visiting her Grandma but the Hulk appeared instead. In the next scene, the wolf chased the Mad Hatter with buckets of water and soaked the audience.

The audience thought the play was a laughingstock.

To be continued...



LEARNER STORIES

A MODERN TWIST BY PAIGE BETTS - CLASS 1

The weekend arrived and all I wanted to do was play on my phone.

My Mam said, “no phone” until my bedroom was tidied. This made me very sad. Just then my phone pinged with a message reading, “you’re granted one wish”. I was so angry; I wished Mam would disappear.

Suddenly, Mam vanished. I screamed, “I didn’t really mean it”.

I replied to the message begging Mam to come home.

A message came straight back saying, “be careful what you wish for”. Just then Mam came through the door saying, “you’ve still not tidied this room”.

LEARNER STORIES

WISHES HAVE CONSEQUENCES BY BEN SPURGATIS - SIXTH FORM

Stef wakes to a text from a stranger, “I grant you four wishes, but each wish carries a consequence.”

Stef replies. “For my first wish I would like endless Barbie Dolls from all around the World.” The stranger texts saying no one else will get to play with the dolls.

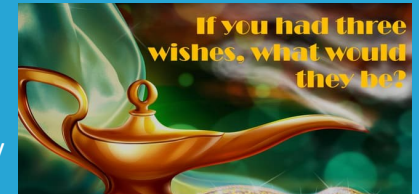
“For my second wish,” texts Stef, “I would like money.” The stranger replies warning, “a person may come knocking.”

Stef texts her third wish. “I would like some new fancy clothes.” The stranger replies with a warning, “the clothes will fall apart in one hour.”

Stef’s fourth wish, “I would like a new car.” The stranger warns the car will break down costing money to repair.

The offer of one more wish, to reverse Stef’s wishes.

That last wish, Stef decides, she is happy without wishes.



LEARNER STORIES

ANGELS ... BY ZAK MCLEAN - SIXTH FORM

After the blood bath of Judgment Day, the Angels came down from the heavens to slaughter the disease of sin that had plagued the Human Race for centuries. Rotting corpses litter the streets, their innards strung up around in holy or angelic symbols. The rusted ancient church bell chimes. An ear deafening scream and the sky a dark crimson mess fills with Angels in blood-stained outfits, razer long claws and a smile that can freeze your blood. As tears start rolling down your face, you realise it’s too late.....

COMPETITION TIME

VE DAY POSTER COMPETITION



Get involved in our VE Day Poster Competition! This is your chance to showcase your creativity while marking an important moment in history.

All entries must be submitted by Thursday 8th May, so don't miss the deadline. There is a £25 Shop the High Street Voucher for the winner.

We're excited to see your designs!

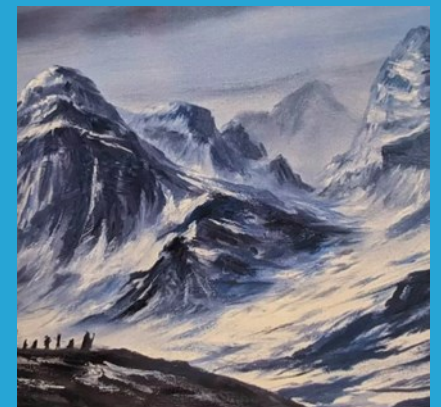
LEARNER REVIEW — MOVIE

THE HOBBIT AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY MOVIE REVIEW - ZAK MCLEAN (6TH FORM)



This epic tale follows the journey of Bilbo Baggins, a timid hobbit who is thrust into an adventure beyond his wildest dreams. Joined by a group of dwarves led by the fearless Thorin Oakenshield and the wise wizard Gandalf the Grey, Bilbo embarks on a quest to reclaim the lost kingdom of Erebor from the dragon Smaug.

The movie is responsible for making one of the best movie poem ever called Misty Mountains, who is sang by Geoff Castellucci or he dwarves of Thorin's Company in the movie. The poem explains how the dragon Smaug burned the city down, forcing the dwarfs the flee. Most of them were captured by Goblin King he killed the ones he captured in gruesome ways.

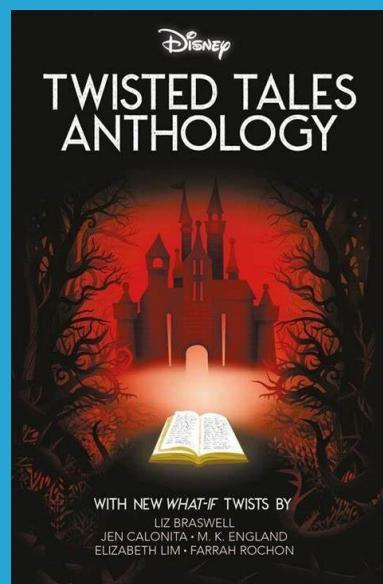


LEARNER REVIEWS — BOOKS

DISNEY TWISTED TALES ANTHOLOGY — ELANOR SHAW (CLASS 2)

Disney Twisted tales Anthology features new what if twists by Liz Braswell, Jen Calonita, M.K. England, Elizabeth Lim and Farrah Rochon.

This is a book about Disney film stories shortened with a different ending to the original story. Out of the 8 stories in this book so far I have read: A new dawn - What if Mufasa gave up his throne?, The journey home — What if Belle had her father's place at the fair? And Et Voilà — What Remy met Colette first?



So far out of the stories I have read my favourite is Et Voilà, even though I haven't finished the story. In this short story, Remy has been looking for food whilst been chased by a cat and ended up finding food at a famous restaurant called Gustavo's. The cook found him nibbling on scraps of food and nearly kicked poor Remy out but she decided to keep him and found he was great at cooking and he is now cooking food on the cook's camping stove.

It is my favourite because I like how at first the cook didn't want him at first but decided to see what Remy could do and then because he was great at cooking she kept him.

It just goes to show that the cook was open minded about Remy being a rat and his ability to cook and that you should never judge a book by it's cover.

LEARNER RECIPES

ROCKY ROAD BY ZAK MCLEAN — SIXTH FORM

Ingredients

- 200g digestive biscuits
- (Rich Tea can also be used)
- 135g butter
- or margarine
- 200g dark chocolate
- (70% cocoa works best)
- 2-3 tbsp golden syrup
- 100g mini marshmallows
- (chopped regular marshmallows work too)
- icing sugar
- to dust
- Optional (up to 100g)
- raisins
- dried cranberries or any dried fruit
- nuts
- popcorn
- honeycomb
- broken into pieces

Method

Step 1

Grease and line an 18cm square brownie tin with baking paper.

Step 2

Place 200g digestive biscuits in a freezer bag and bash with a rolling pin or just the side of your fist until they're broken into a mixture of everything between dust and 50p-sized lumps. Set aside.

Step 3

In a large saucepan melt 135g butter or margarine, 200g dark chocolate and 2-3 tbsp golden syrup over a gentle heat stirring constantly until there are no or almost no more lumps of chocolate visible, then remove from the heat. Leave to cool.

Step 4

Take the biscuits, 100g mini marshmallows and up to 100g of additional ingredients (dried fruit, nuts, popcorn, honeycomb), if you like, and stir into the chocolate mixture until everything is completely covered.

Step 5

Tip the mixture into the lined baking tin, and spread it out to the corners. Chill for at least 2 hrs then dust with icing sugar and cut into 12 fingers.

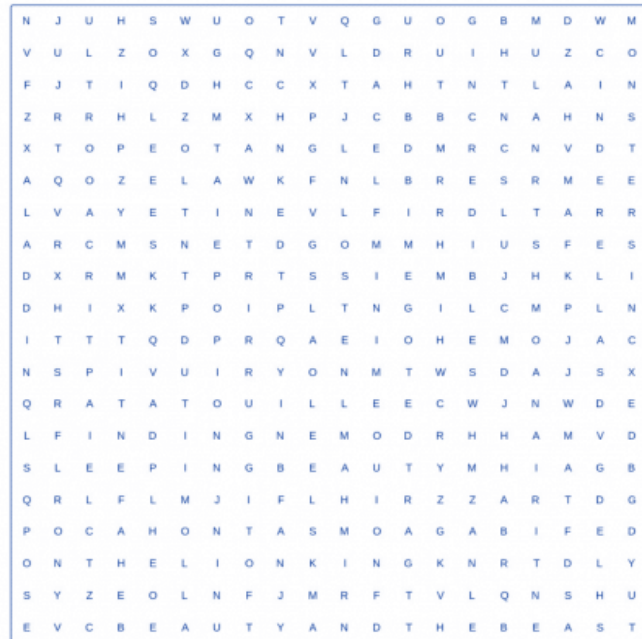


PUZZLES AND JOKES

DISNEY MOVIES WORD SEARCH



DISNEY MOVIES WORD SEARCH



The Little Mermaid
Tangled
Incredibles
The Lion King
Brave

Cinderella
Toy Story
Ratatouille
Moana

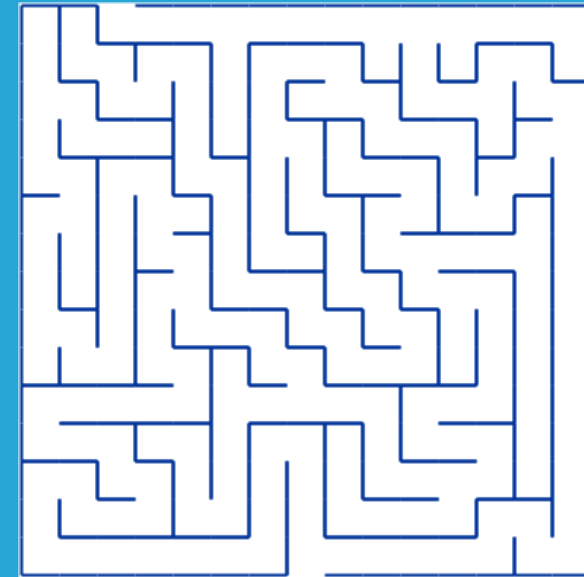
Frozen
Aladdin
UP
Lilo and Stitch

Mulan
Sleeping Beauty
Beauty and the Beast
Monsters Inc

Snow White
Peter Pan
Finding Nemo
Pocahontas

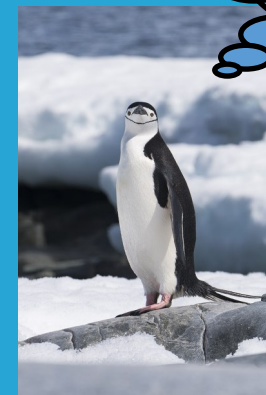
PUZZLES AND JOKES

ESCAPE THE MAZE



PUZZLES AND JOKES

JOKE OF THE MONTH



How does a penguin
build a house?

igloos it together!

SCHOOL IS OUT STORIES

CONCERTS — COURTNEY CARR

I have attended many concerts in the last three years and my favourites have got to have been Ed Sheeran at the Stadium of Light and James Arthur at Middlesbrough Riverside Stadium.

I have been to:

Ed Sheeran

Little mix

Dean Lewis X2

The vamps

Ella Henderson

Henry Moodie X2

James Arthur

Lucy Spraggan X2

Michael Aldag X3

Billy Lockett X2

Sigala

The Script

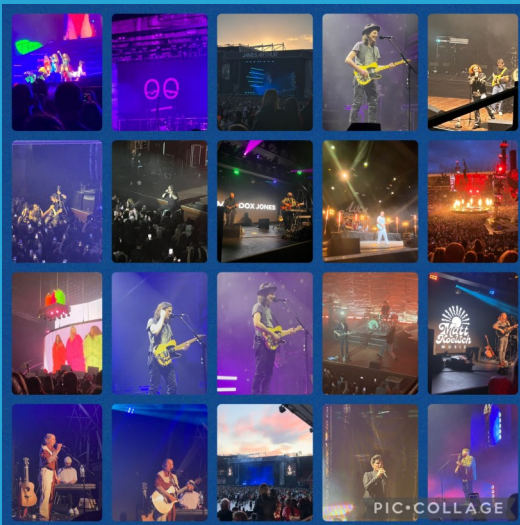
Tom walker

Maisie peters

James Bay

Maddox Jones X2

I have been to see many more artists too, but they were the support acts.



CEIAG—THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE

SOUTH TYNESIDE COLLEGE VISIT

Ben, a sixth former from Thornhill Park School, took part in a visit to South Tyneside College.



During Ben's visit he was given a tour of the college, including the areas for foundation learning.



He visited rooms such as, the sensory room, woodwork room, kitchen, where a cafe is run by students 3 days a week, along with the IT room.

Ben was even able to find some fish in the pond at the college. Ben enjoyed his visit to the college, telling his staff it's a really good college and he is interested in attending.



Ben was also happy to see photos of his friend, who attends South Tyneside College, during his visit.

CEIAG—THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE

FUTURE PATHWAYS

The Sixth Formers at Thornhill Park School had an incredible day at the Apprenticeship and Education Fair in Newcastle at the Civic Centre on Tuesday, February 11th, 2025!

Our students explored a range of career opportunities, met with top employers and educators, and discovered exciting apprenticeship programs across various industries. They even grabbed a few of the freebies on offer and got involved with the spinning wheel games and even trying on a hard hat from the Northern PowerGrid.

The event allowed them to network with professionals to learning about the latest career paths, it was a fantastic event to help shape their futures.

A huge thank you to all the exhibitors and career advisors for making this experience so valuable for our students! We can't wait to see where these opportunities take them.



SAFEGUARDING

SAFETY SUPERSTARS

Pupils from Moon Class explored different types of online scams as part of Safer Internet Day. Pupils were able to come up and describe their experiences on the internet while exploring some common scams as part of their whole class teaching.



The pupils then became Scam Detectives, using a whole class voting system to decide if the scenario in question was a scam or not. The pupils' were able to use the facts they had just learnt to justify their opinions and help them make deductions.

As an independent task at the end of the session, the pupils produced a PowerPoint featuring their five top tips for staying safe online.

