

# MOORTHORPE NEWS - FEB 2026

January can feel like the longest month ever – for children as well as adults plus the wet, miserable weather hasn't helped. As part of our One Life programme, we are focussing on being resilient. We know life has its ups and downs for us all and we recognise we are resilient and we can 'bounce back' especially if we are supported and have caring friendships. We have celebrated this in our golden assemblies.

## CALM SPACE

We have been completely overwhelmed by the generosity of our school community and the wider community in setting up this calm, inviting space where our children can regulate their emotions. Thank you so much for all the generous donations including one from the director of Virtuenity Ltd, a company based in Pontefract who produce sensory toys and other products – see their website: <https://www.virtuenity.com/>

## HOME/SCHOOL AGREEMENT

For a successful school we need a strong partnership between home and school which means staff, parents/carers and pupils all working together. Please take the time to discuss this with your child(ren) then sign and return it to school, thank you.

## PARENTS EVENING

This is planned for Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March from 3.30-7pm. Please keep the date free as these home/school appointments are so important to ensure we work together to support your child(ren) to be happy, successful learners. If you are unable to make that evening, speak to the class teacher and they will do their best to arrange another time.

## NATIONAL YEAR OF READING

Reading is one of the greatest gifts you can give your child. Reading to/with them is so important in building their vocabulary, their imagination, their confidence with words, their ability to sit with a story and think – it doesn't need to be for long, just ten minutes per day can make such a difference. Visit your local library, swap books with friends or pop into the parents' waiting area from 4th Feb until 9th Feb ... The **Book Fair** is returning to Moorthorpe so you can buy a book and help school get free books too! More details coming on dojo. We are also updating our **Word Millionaire Scheme** a little this year, looking to celebrate the smaller milestones leading up to the grand total of 1,000,000 words! This will be launched with the children as part of the National Year of Reading. There will be bookmarks for 250,000 words, book tokens to celebrate 500,000 words and then our usual reward trip to Waterstones and Costa for our Word Millionaires. This runs alongside many other rewards we already use to celebrate reading in school such as stickers, certificates and 'star readers' celebrated on our classroom displays.

## VISITS

This week both Y6 and Y4 have visited the Yorkshire Museum completely free of charge. As Educational Visits Leader, Mrs Norman is doing her best to source funding for trips or find some at a reduced cost to help parents. I am also looking forward to Young Voices which is an amazing experience – our pupils love performing as part of a huge choir!

## PARENTS IN SCHOOL

Please see the diary dates below. More dates will be added in due course. As always, keep a close eye on our school and class dojo pages for updates plus our school website for curriculum documents, policies and other information.

Best wishes, Deborah Birdsall  
**DATES FOR THE DIARY**

### **February 2026**

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> – Y5 bikeability (bikes and helmets provided for those who do not have them)  
Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> – Book fair arriving in school, access to the fair from 4<sup>th</sup> until the 9<sup>th</sup> February  
Mon 9<sup>th</sup> – Young Voices  
Wed 11<sup>th</sup> – Y5 Samba concert for parents/carers 2:30pm  
Fri 13<sup>th</sup> – Ball skills tournament at MCC for selected teams from Y4, Y2, Y6  
**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> – Break up for half term**  
**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> – SCHOOL CLOSED FOR INSET DAY**

### **March 2026**

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> – World Book Day (Dress up)  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> – Red Nose Day (Wear red!)  
Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> – Parents Evening 3.30-7pm  
**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> - School closes at 3.10pm for the Easter holiday**

### **April 2026**

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> – school reopens**

### **May 2026**

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> – Bank holiday SCHOOL CLOSED**  
Year 6 SATs Week – Monday 11th – Friday 15th May  
**Friday 22nd - School closes at 3.10pm for Whitsun holiday**

### **June 2026**

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> – School reopens**  
Year 4 Multiplication Check – Week commencing 1<sup>st</sup> June  
Year 1 Phonics screening – Week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> June  
Friday 26<sup>th</sup> - SPORTS DAY Y1-Y6

### **July 2026**

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> - Foundation stage sports morning (nursery and reception)  
Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> – Y6 leavers concert (after school – details to follow)  
Wednesday 15th – Nursery graduation  
Wednesday 15th – Y6 Prom (after school details to follow)  
Friday 17<sup>th</sup> – Leavers assembly, rewards assembly  
Close for the summer break – Friday 17th July at 3.10pm.  
Inset Day – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July

*We are still waiting to arrange one further INSET day, which we will inform you of as soon as we can book our training.*

THE DESIGNATED CHILD PROTECTION OFFICER AND SENIOR PERSON FOR  
SAFEGUARDING IS MRS DEBORAH BIRDSALL, THE DEPUTY CHILD PROTECTION OFFICERS  
ARE MRS SHAUNA APPLEYARD, MRS LINDSEY GRACE AND MRS STEPHANIE FIELD