



To the friends and families of Forest Moor School,

As we come to the end of the autumn term, it feels like a good moment to pause and reflect on the progress made across Forest Moor. Autumn 2 has been busy and demanding, but it has also been purposeful. The routines, expectations, and relationships established earlier in the year have continued to hold firm, and the school feels calmer, more settled, and clearer in its direction.

This consistency has mattered. It has allowed pupils to feel safe, staff to work with confidence, and learning to deepen. As Christmas approaches, the break is well deserved, but there is also a genuine sense that we are ready for the next phase. January feels like an opportunity to build further on strong foundations, with renewed clarity and confidence.

A significant development this term has been the continued evolution of our Key Stage 4 offer. Preparation for adulthood is further developing as we look to initially embed three clear vocational pathways: Hair and Beauty, Personal Training and Sport, and Kitchen and Café. These pathways are central to the KS4 curriculum and reflect our belief that education at this stage should combine qualifications with real responsibility, purpose, and community connection.

Through the Hair and Beauty pathway, pupils have begun working with local care homes, providing free manicures and basic treatments. This has helped pupils develop professionalism, confidence, and pride in representing Forest Moor within the wider community. The opening of our Kitchen and Café has been another important step. KS4 pupils have been providing free food for younger pupils, building links with local food banks, and working towards opening the café to the local community in the future. The Personal Training and Sport pathway has focused on leadership and positive role modelling, with pupils supporting younger peers and developing links with Active North Yorkshire, strengthening confidence, responsibility, and teamwork.

Across all three pathways, pupils are developing independence, self-belief, and a clearer understanding of how their learning connects to life beyond school.

In Key Stage 3, this term has been about access. Clear routines and consistent teaching have supported engagement on site, while carefully planned off-site opportunities have allowed pupils to apply learning in different contexts. These experiences have supported regulation, independence, and confidence, helping pupils re-engage with learning in a way that feels meaningful and achievable.

In Key Stage 2, the focus as we move towards Christmas is firmly on what comes next. Over the Christmas period, we will be making changes to the learning environment, including the development of new and improved sensory spaces. These changes are designed to support regulation and readiness for learning and

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will sit alongside the strong routines already embedded in KS2 classrooms. There is a real sense of anticipation around these developments and a positive, fresh start to the spring term.

There are also a small number of staffing updates to share. Serena Porter has recently left her role as SENDCo at Forest Moor, and we would like to thank her for her contribution to the school and wish her well in her next steps.

In Serena's absence, Natalie Sargeson joined Forest Moor in October and has already been working closely with staff, pupils, and families. From January, Natalie will continue with us as SENDCo on secondment for the remainder of the school year. Natalie brings a wealth of experience, and her work to date has already begun to strengthen our SEND provision. Natalie has shared the following introduction:

"I am delighted to introduce myself as the new SENCo at Forest Moor School, joining the team on secondment for the remainder of the school year. I have transitioned from The Forest School in Knaresborough, a generic SEND school where I spent 16 rewarding years. I bring with me experience and skills in supporting ASD, ADHD, Communication and Interaction difficulties, behaviour, and safeguarding. I am incredibly excited to be part of the Forest Moor journey as we develop the school's provisions to ensure that all our pupils' needs are being met. I look forward to working alongside you all to support our young people."

At the end of this term, we also say goodbye to Sarah Kerr, Francesca Quinn and Luke Flanagan, who will be leaving Forest Moor. We thank them for their contribution and wish them every success in the future.

In the new year, we will welcome our new staff: Nicky O'Sullivan, Lara Macfarlane and Bailey Isaac-Thomas. This term we have welcomed Ella Oxtoby, Kate French and Daniella MacKenzie. We are really looking forward to seeing them develop and progress as part of our school team.

Before closing, it is important to say a genuine well done to our pupils. This term has asked a lot of them, and they have shown resilience, determination, and effort. Progress at Forest Moor is often steady rather than dramatic, but it is meaningful and hard-won. Below, each Key Stage has provided an overview of what they have been learning, experiencing and developing in their respective areas.

Lastly, as we approach Christmas, I would like to wish all of our young people and those that they hold dear a restful and positive break.

We look forward to seeing you all again for the start of a new term on Monday 5th January 2026.

Kind regards,



Alec Scott  
Vice Principal  
Forest Moor School

## **Key Stage 2: Autumn Term Review**

### *Celebrating a Term of Curiosity, Growth, and Achievement*

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As the Autumn Term concludes, we would like to celebrate the incredible energy and focus shown by our students. It has been a rewarding term filled with academic progress and hands-on discovery. Here are our highlights:

#### **Core Subjects: Maths & English**

- **Mastering Numeracy:** Our focus was on addition and subtraction. Students secured their confidence in mental strategies and formal written methods. We mastered the concept of 'exchanging' with multi-digit numbers and applied these skills to complex word problems.
- **Traditional Tales with a Twist:** In English, students analyzed classic fairy tales before writing their own subversive versions. Every child successfully published an imaginative narrative, showcasing great progress in descriptive language, persuasive letter writing, and news reporting.

#### **History & Geography: Ancient Worlds**

We explored two fascinating civilizations, placing them on a global timeline:

- **Ancient Egypt:** Students investigated life along the Nile, the power of Pharaohs, and the process of mummification. A highlight was decoding and writing names in hieroglyphs.
- **The Shang Dynasty:** Upper KS2 explored Bronze Age China, focusing on ritual vessels and oracle bones, comparing early Chinese script to Egyptian writing.

#### **Science & PE: Body and Motion**

- **Science:** We delved into biology, investigating animal adaptations and food chains. Students also mastered the human skeleton, learning to name major bones and explaining how muscle pairs facilitate movement.
- **PE (Football with Leeds United):** Working with specialist coaches, students refined their dribbling and passing. Beyond the sport, this partnership emphasized sportsmanship, discipline, and teamwork.

#### **Enrichment: Forest School**

Our outdoor learning focused on primitive survival skills. Students mastered safety protocols for fire management, using ferrocerium rods to light contained fires. This hands-on science lesson culminated in a well-deserved treat of toasted marshmallows and s'mores!

Looking Ahead Thank you for your continued support with homework and reading. The children are well-prepared for the challenges of the Spring Term. We wish you all a restful and joyful holiday break.

T. 01423 779232 E. [admin@forestmoor.org.uk](mailto:admin@forestmoor.org.uk)

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The Key Stage 2 Team

### **Key Stage 3: Autumn Term Review**

#### **Building Resilience, Practical Skills, and Academic Excellence**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This Autumn term has been a period of intensive growth across Key Stage 3. Our curriculum continues to balance core academic content with vital life skills and vocational understanding. Here are the highlights from across our classes:

#### **Class Highlights**

- Oak Class: Mastering Self-Regulation Students engaged in vital work on emotional regulation. By identifying personal triggers and intensities of feeling, each pupil designed their own framework for managing emotions. This foundational work is key to building the personal resilience needed for lifelong learning.
- Chestnut Class: Industry & Innovation Blending History with Digital Skills, students investigated the British Industrial Revolution. They then transitioned to Chromebooks to design and model their own innovative industries, synthesizing historical knowledge with modern entrepreneurial thinking.
- Beech Class: Applied Numeracy & Craft Maths was brought to life through the creation of large-scale Snakes and Ladders board games, reinforcing calculation and logic. The term concluded with cultural engagement through the design and creation of handmade seasonal decorations.
- Blackthorn Class: Social Capital & Experience Focusing on SEMH (Social, Emotional, and Mental Health) skills, students practiced perseverance at the Harrogate Climbing Wall and developed social etiquette during museum visits. These real-world trips are essential for building self-esteem and community confidence.

#### **Vocational & Practical Learning: Food Technology**

Across all of KS3, students developed independence in the kitchen. They mastered a variety of complex dishes, ranging from savory meals like Mac 'n' Cheese and Sausage Ragu to baking staples such as Ginger Biscuits and Brownies. These sessions provide crucial vocational experience and practical life skills.

Additionally, the unexpected November snowfall provided a wonderful opportunity for communal outdoor play, fostering a sense of shared joy across the Key Stage.

#### **Looking Ahead**

As we conclude this productive term, we celebrate the significant academic and social progress made by every student. We look forward to the new term with a continued focus on resilience, curiosity, and holistic well-being.

We wish you a restful winter break.

## **KS4 Curriculum Development and Review**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This half-term has marked a significant shift in the KS4 curriculum at Forest Moor. Previously, the curriculum relied heavily on a traditional, exam-led model. For many of our pupils - who may have experienced disrupted education, trauma, high levels of anxiety, or challenges with emotional regulation - this approach created barriers to engagement rather than opportunities for success.

Evidence from SEMH and specialist education highlights the importance of predictable routines, strong relationships, and practical learning opportunities in reducing anxiety and building confidence. In response, we have introduced a more vocational, college-style curriculum model, where learning is rooted in real, purposeful tasks.

KS4 pupils now follow one of three vocational pathways:

### **Hair and Beauty**

The Hair and Beauty pathway combines daily on-site salon practical sessions with theory lessons. Pupils also engage in community-based learning through regular visits to a local care home, including an extended placement each Friday morning. Alongside this, pupils study BTEC Introductory Hair and Beauty units, developing both technical skills and professional behaviours.

### **Café and Kitchen (Hospitality)**

The Café and Kitchen pathway focuses on practical hospitality skills. Pupils take part in daily kitchen production, including baking, food preparation, and hot food service. They run a café service for staff and pupils and are developing community partnerships through food redistribution projects. A full production and service session takes place each Friday morning. Pupils study BTEC Introductory Vocational Studies (Hospitality units) alongside this practical work.

### **Personal Training and Sport**

The Personal Training and Sport pathway centres on fitness, coaching, and leadership. Pupils participate in practical training sessions supported by theory lessons covering anatomy, training principles, and coaching skills. Community coaching placements take place weekly, with a strong emphasis on leadership development during Friday sessions. Pupils work towards BTEC Introductory Sport units as part of this pathway.

## **Core Learning and Personal Development**

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All KS4 pupils continue to access daily English and Mathematics lessons, alongside personal learning development, ensuring that core academic skills and wider personal growth remain central to their education.

This revised KS4 offer was introduced during the final week of November and continues to develop as new equipment is installed and facilities are expanded. Early signs are positive, and we are confident that this approach will lead to increased engagement, enjoyment, and improved outcomes for our pupils.

We hope you all have a wonderful break.

The Key Stage 4 Team