



Thirsk Community Primary School

Autumn term newsletter

Dear Thirsk Community Primary School Families,

As we approach the end of another transformative term, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the remarkable achievements and experiences our school community has shared. Our commitment to providing an ambitious, compassionate, and inclusive educational journey continues to shine through in every aspect of school life.

This term has been rich with extraordinary opportunities for our pupils. Our sporting endeavours have been particularly noteworthy, with pupils representing our school values across various competitions. Year 6 pupils demonstrated remarkable growth through their Crucial Crew visit and Bikeability programme, while our whole school engaged in comprehensive CPR training - an initiative that underscores our dedication to practical, life-saving skills.

Our commitment to experiential learning was evident in the Year 5 trip to Sutton Bank, where pupils explored and connected with local history. We've also expanded our community connections through the launch of the Giggle and Grow playgroup, welcoming more families into our school ecosystem.

Moments of intergenerational learning and compassion were beautifully exemplified during our Bedtime Story morning, where older pupils read to younger ones - a heartwarming display of nurturing relationships within our school. Our extensive after-school club programme, including Glee, Rugby, and Karate clubs, continues to provide diverse opportunities for pupil engagement and development.

The KS1 and EYFS nativities were particularly memorable, showcasing the ambitious spirit of our pupils. These performances, alongside delightful PTA events like the movie night and Tea with the Grinch, have enriched our school community.

I am immensely proud to share some significant achievements this term. We have been awarded the Early Years Healthy Schools award and the Dingley's Promise award for inclusion, recognising our unwavering commitment to supporting pupils with SEND in Early Years. Our staff's dedication to delivering an exceptional curriculum has been instrumental in the remarkable progress our pupils have made.

With a heavy heart, we bid farewell to Mrs Kaufman, thanking her for her invaluable contributions to our school. We look forward to welcoming Miss Sunderland, who will teach the Year 1/2 class from January. We also will be welcoming Miss Jones, who will be joining the EYFS team.

We will also be seeing Mr. Mountford stepping down as our Chair of Governors. Mr. Mountford has served the school fantastically and though he will be stepping down as the Chair, he will continue to be a valued member of our Governing Body. Mrs. Greenway, one of our existing Governors, who is a very experienced ex-Headteacher, will be taking up the role as Co-Chair alongside Miss Deuchars, who is also an existing Governor. Our continued improvement in attendance is a testament to the collaborative support of our entire school community. This improvement has been acknowledged by both our Governors and the Local Authority, something I am very proud of.

Looking ahead, we will reopen to pupils on Tuesday 6th January. For those needing support during the holiday period, please consult our website or the notice board at the main school entrance for useful contact information and guidance.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for all of your continued support and I wish you all a very merry Christmas and happy new year.

Jake Harrison

Headteacher





FROM ALL THE STAFF WE WISH
YOU ALL A HAPPY AND
HEALTHY CHRISTMAS. SEE YOU
IN 2026!!!!

Fundraising

A huge thank you for the support and donations that we receive from parents and families throughout the year . This term we have held a number of events and the donations have been gratefully received.

Poppy Appeal £87.50

Children in Need £ 118.57

Christmas Jumper day £

PTA neon disco £520

PTA tea with The Grinch £200 profit

Harvest festival donations



ATTENDANCE THIS YEAR IS

93%



Nursery News

This half term our topic has been sparkles, smiles and celebrations.

We have been learning about the different celebrations such as Diwali, the festival of light as well as Christmas and bonfire and poppy day, it helped us understanding that not all families have the same traditions and gave us the opportunity to talk about people and things that are important to us.

We have been working on our gross and fine motor skills. Lots of climbing, crawling and balancing outside to really work those muscles as well as threading and busy busses to work our fingers getting them ready for writing.

We had a day of fun in the snow which helped us learn about how to keep warm when outside and how our outdoor change in different weathers.

In phonics we have started to introduce picture cards and initial sounds which the children have really enjoyed learning about, playing listening games to identify the first sound.

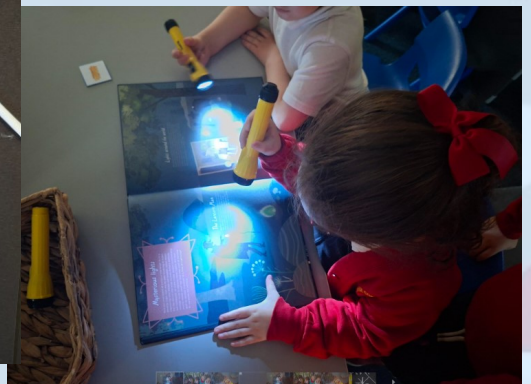
We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and can't wait to hear all about it when we return

Miss Wood and Miss Manson



Reception News

This half term we have continued with our theme of Special Stories. We have looked at stories that mean something special to groups of people. We have read the story of Rama and Sita, and learnt about Diwali. We read the beautiful picture book *Confetti*, which enabled us to talk about weddings, christenings and birthdays. Finally, we have read the Nativity Story, as we have prepared for our Nativity Christmas Songs. The children have learnt the focus words; Celebration, Tradition and Community. Our circle times have focused on similarities and differences between how these events are celebrated. We reached the conclusion that they all have special food, and that they all include some sort of light, be that fireworks or candles.



Roseberry Class

This term year 1 and 2 have made a fabulous start to their phonics, reading, writing and maths. Their handwriting has improved immensely, with daily focus and pure determination.

In writing the children have developed their recall skills, used 'grow the code' for spellings and increased their pace. In maths, everyone is securely using counters, tens frames a rekenrek and numicon. They use them to fully understand numbers, how they are formed and to solve calculations. The children are the best class in school when explaining which jobs use maths skills.

Finally, and most importantly, has been the time, effort and ambition the children put into their Nativity, which I'm sure you will agree was a delight to watch. Learning 10 songs, Makaton sign language and lines seemed like a huge task, but they smashed it out of the park. I am going to miss this spectacular class, each and every one of them make it worth while coming in on those dark, wet and dismal days. I can't wait to hear about their progress not only for the rest of this year , but all the way to year 6.

Merry Christmas everyone.

Mrs Kaufman



Year 3/4 SCAFELL

This autumn term has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know the Year 3/4 class and celebrate the enthusiasm they bring to learning each day. The children have settled in brilliantly, showing compassion towards one another, welcoming everyone into the classroom, and supporting their peers as they learn together.

In English, we have enjoyed exploring stories such as *Paddington* and *Something Fishy*, which have inspired thoughtful discussions, creative writing, and a growing love of reading. Across the wider curriculum, the children have shown great ambition as they tackled lots of exciting new learning in history and geography, developing their understanding of the world and the people who live in it.

DT lessons have been a real highlight, with the children tasting a range of foods and learning to talk about flavours and preferences respectfully. In RE, we have explored new learning about different religions, encouraging inclusion by exploring and valuing beliefs and traditions that may be different from their own.

It has been a pleasure getting to know such a thoughtful, curious, and ambitious group of children this term, and I am very proud of the progress they have made

Miss Botherway

Year 5 SNOWDON

What a busy half term this has been! Year 5 have been working so hard throughout it! In reading, we have finished Narnia, which all of the children thoroughly enjoyed! We have then read 'The Island', by Armin Greder. We used this to do some fantastic drama about being washed up on an island, which then inspired our writing. In maths, they have worked at their multiplication and division and are now learning all about fractions. They have also really enjoyed their swimming lessons, where all of them work so hard!

In the afternoons, we have finished our Geography work about the Alps. The children finished the unit by making some beautiful booklets informing people about what they can do in the Alps. In History, we have just finished learning about the Maya. We spent a lot of time looking at the end of the Maya civilisation and how this could have happened. They loved looking at different sources and types of evidence and making claims about this.

Our PSHE has all been centred around Health and Well-being, which has led to some very interesting conversations about how to keep both mentally and physically healthy. In RE, we have been learning about the 5 Pillars of Islam and starting to compare this to other religions. In French, we have been looking at the Solar System, and last week the children created their own planet, and wrote sentences to describe it! A highlight for Year 5, has been their Art with Mr C. They have created some brilliant instillation art and taken fantastic photos to display these.





Year 6 BEN NEVIS

Year 6 have shown our school values of ambition, compassion and inclusion in everything they've taken on this term.

Their ambitious approach to learning was clear as they immersed themselves in *Holes*, crafting powerful descriptive writing that conveyed real emotion and creating play scripts that explored the complex power hierarchies at Camp Green Lake.

In maths, they demonstrated determination and ambition by strengthening their foundations in the four operations, with improved arithmetic results reflecting their hard work.

Inclusion and curiosity shone through in science, where they became mini "Carl Linnaeuses", working collaboratively to classify living things.

Our PSHE focus has allowed pupils to show compassion—whether through developing their own mental-health podcast, learning essential skills with the NHS Decider programme, or supporting one another during the Crucial Crew trip.

Beyond the classroom, they have embraced opportunities such as sports competitions and showed real perseverance and ambition during our swimming sessions.

Overall, it has been a term that truly reflects the values we are proud to uphold.

Mrs Kirkman

REMEMBRANCE DAY

We would like to say a big thank you to Hayden for representing our school and taking part in the Remembrance parade on Sunday and laying our wreath.

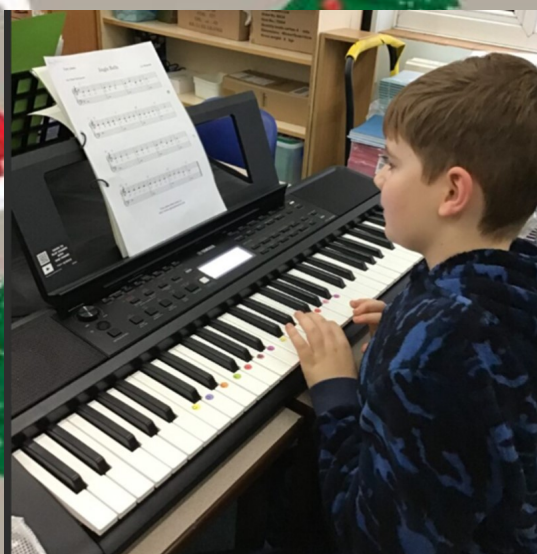
Hayden was compassionate and respectful and it took a lot of confidence to do this with such a big crowd gathered.



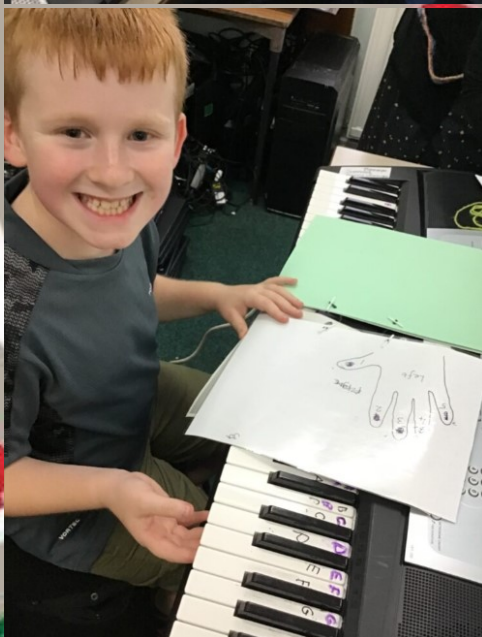
Wraparound Care News

WAC News - Autumn Term This term we have welcomed back old and new faces to both clubs, this has been great to see as we enjoy seeing you all. Our Breakfast Club starts at 7.30am and we provide them with a breakfast which consists of various cereal, toast, bagels, fresh fruit and yoghurt and from here we then take them into school for 8.40am. We also offer this as a non breakfast club which starts at 8.15am where pupils can play before school starts. Our After School Club runs from 3.15/3.20pm and we have one that runs until 4.20pm and one that runs until 6pm. When the pupils come up to the unit, we provide them with a snack and drink which contains fruit and then for those pupils whom stay on past 4.20pm we provide them with a light snack tea. In September, the unit became known as "Bright Starts", a name that Mr Harrison gave the unit as we also welcomed Giggle & Grow playgroup to join our unit a few times a week and the community cafe once a term. Over the course of this term, our pupils have been using imaginative play- dressing up as superheroes, princesses, astronauts, dinosaurs and more. Another popular choice has been the cars and wooden train tracks, along with the magnetic toys and wooden blocks to help build garages and homes. We have done some arts and crafts, painting paper plates to make a whole christmas tree, using our glitter paintsticks to decorate paperchain's for the TCP christmas tree at the Methodist church (christmas tree festival) as well as decorating leaves with lentils & pulses. Our pupils have enjoyed the fine motor activities that Giggle & Grow have left for us to use, these include trimming Santa's beard, putting blocks onto the wire to make christmas lights, playing with snow and more. We have seen in December the return of our elf Sparkles, who has not been as mischievous as previous years but still done bits for everyone to enjoy within the unit. I think the favourite was the '6,7' ones. We would like to thank you all for your support and wish you all the best for Christmas and look forward to seeing you all on our return.

Mrs Mountford and Mrs Almond



MUSIC LESSONS with NYCC Music



Dates for your Diary

Monday 5th January—School CLOSED— staff training day

Tuesday 6th January—School RE-OPENS

Friday 9h January—swimming tournament selected pupils

Thursday 15th January—CENSUS DAY Special lunch—Best of British

Thursday 22nd January—Cross Country tournament Y3-6 selected pupils

Friday 30th January— Young Voices Trip

Friday 13th February—School closes for half term (normal time)

	Mon-day	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thurs-day	Friday
Wit hin Sch ool			ECO CLUB Mrs Kennedy		
		KARATE CLUB Year 2-6 13th Jan – 10th Feb 3.20 – 4.20 Sensei James Collection from school office	T BALL (TCHOUKBALL) Year 3 & 4 14th Jan – 11th Feb 3.20 – 4.20 Mr Steel Collection from side gate	GLEE CLUB 3.20 4.00 For Young Voic- es Pupils 8th Jan - 29th Jan YV is 30 th Jan Collection from side gate	
		SCIENCE CLUB With Love Science Year 1-6 13th Jan – 10th Feb 3.20-4.20 5 sessions £30 Collection from side gate	ANIMAL CLUB With Aquatic Finatic 3.20 – 4.20 Year 1&2 7th & 14th Jan Year 3&4 21st & 28th Jan Year 5&6 5th & 11th Feb 2 sessions £16 Collec- tion from school office		

Sporting Events during Autumn Term

This term we have had a number of sporting events held at the high school

A great team of girls displaying some awesome talent and handling the games with focus and passion.

Another great performance from our year 5/6 Quicksticks hockey team, who also put on quite a show. Energetic spirit and teamwork is what it was all about!

Well done to everyone representing the school and our values .



QUICKSTICKS Y 5/6

MULTI SKILLS Y 1/2



QUICKSTICKS Y 3/4



GIRLS FOOTBALL Y 5/6



We raised £141.15.

**All thanks to your donations and
fab Pudsey inspired outfits**

Thank you!



Year 1 and 2 Trip to Thirsk Library



BEDTIME STORIES MORNING

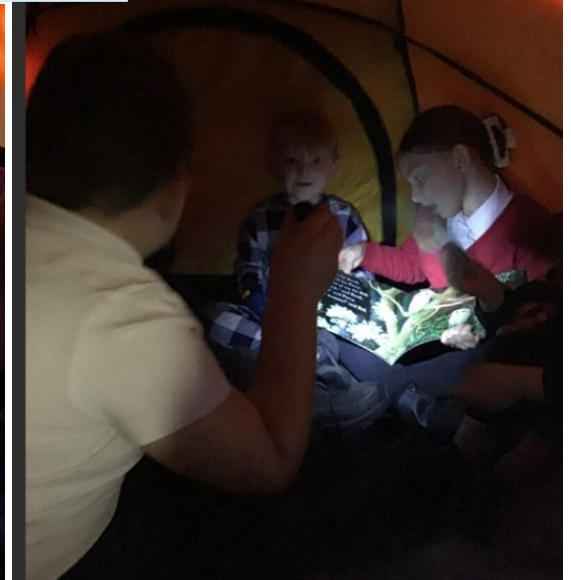
Recently we hosted our annual Bedtime Story Morning. A morning that celebrates the joy of reading, and especially the joy of being read to.

Our older children became a book buddy for our younger children. They shared stories in tents, dens, and around the campfire. We used torches, candles and sparkly lights, to make this an extra cosy event. At lunchtime, a Reception person said, "My brain is bursting with books!". A huge thank you to Mr Challenger who shared his tents with us. A special thank you to our older pupils for being such good role models, they really have inspired our younger children. Remember- children are never too old to be read aloud to- let the magic of reading live on!





Bedtime Stories



ROSEBERRY NATIVITY

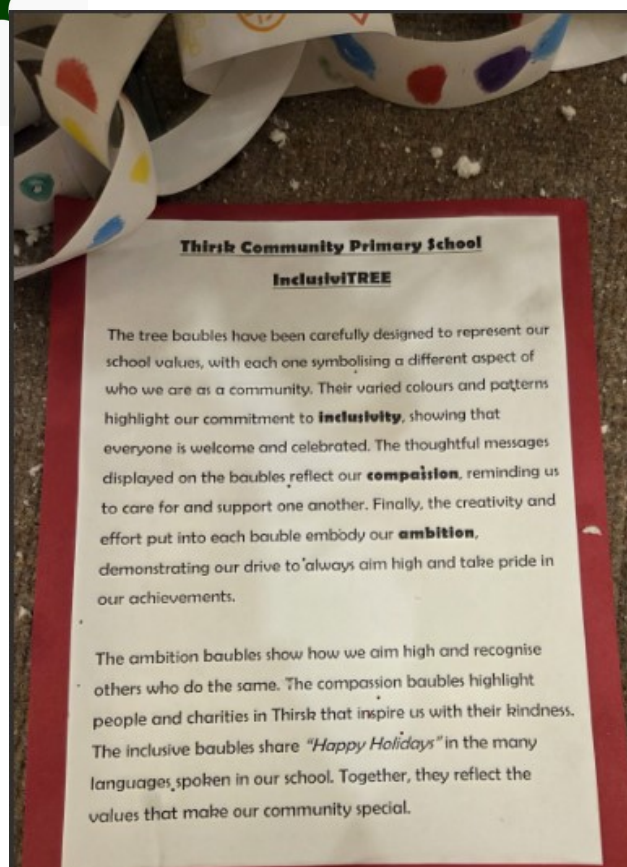
'THE DISGRUNTLED SNOWMAN

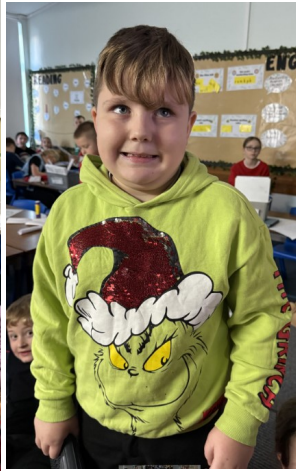




A big thank you to Mrs Mountford and Mrs Kirkman for working together with some of our pupils to decorate our InclusivITree for the Christmas tree festival at the Methodist church.

Our tree represents our school values and the decorations symbolise a different aspect of who we are within a community.





Christmas Jumper Day



Christmas craft Afternoon.



The Rotary Club Santa Run



We were very lucky to be invited to help

Santa as he came to visit the families and children in the Hambleton area.

Thank you for everyone who came to see us and support Thirsk Rotary club and Friends of Thirsk PTA.

Your kind donations amounted to over £200 to share between us.

Santa said his good list has suddenly got very long after meeting you all!!



EYFS NATIVITY



Well done EYFS!!! you smashed your Nativity!! what a lot of super stars!

There was also a visit from a jolly white
Bearded, red suit wearing man this week!!!
Can anyone guess who????



PTA Tea With The Grinch Event



Spring term until w/c 24th FEB

	WEEK 1 w/c 6th Jan , 27th Jan	WEEK 2 w/c 13 Jan, 3rd feb	WEEK 3 W/c 20th Jan , 10th
M O N D A Y	Cheese Whirl (v) Baked baby potatoes Baked beans Crusty bread Tuna Sandwich Cheeset jacket potato PASTA POT – tomato and basil ***** Vg Chocolate Biscuit BarFresh Fruit or Yoghurt	V Pizza Potato wedges Peas & sweetcorn Egg mayo Sandwich Baked Bean Jacket potato ***** Chocolate Brownie Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt	Chicken Nuggets Diced Potatoes Vegetable sticks 50/50 Homebaked Bread Ham sandwich Cheese jacket potato ***** V Autumn Fruit Muffin Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt
T U E S D A Y	Chicken Korma 50/50 rice Cauli & Green Beans Naan Bread Cheese Sandwich Tuna jacket potato ***** V Autumn Crumble Sponge & Custard Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt	Curried Chicken Rice Carrots & Broccoli Crusty Bread Cheese sandwich Tuna jacket potato Tomato & Basil Pasta ***** V Sticky Toffee Pudding & Custard Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt	V Creamy Tomato Pasta Medley of veggies Homebaked Garlic Bread Tuna sandwich Baked bean jacket potato ***** Vg Iced Berry Bun Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt
W E D N E S D A Y	Sausage and Yorkshire pudding Roast potatoes, gravy Carrots & Broccoli Slice Wholemeal Bread Ham sandwich Baked Bean jacket potato ***** V Jelly & Ice-cream Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt	Minced Beef Pie Mashed Potatoes Medley of Veg & gravy Homebaked 50/50 bread Tuna sandwich Cheesy bean jacket potato ***** V Flapjack Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt	Roast Gammon, mashed potato, gra- vy, peas & sweetcorn Sliced wholemeal bread Cheese sandwich Tuna jacket potato Cheese Pasta Pot ***** Lemon drizzle cookie Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt
T H U R S D A Y	Spaghetti Bolognese Medley of vegetables Homebaked garlic flatbread Egg Mayo sandwich Cheese jacket potato **** V Cheese & Biscuit Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt	Pork Meatballs in a tomato sauce with pasta 50/50 rice Green beans & sweetcorn Homebaked Garlic bread Ham sandwich Cheese jacket potato PASTA POT – Tuna & sweetcorn ***** Jammy Shortbread Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt	Nacho Beef Bake Vegetable rice Carrots & Green Beans Tuna sandwich Cheese jacket potato Tomato & Basil Pot ***** V Chocolate Fudge Pudding with Va- nilla Sauce Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt
F R I D A Y	Harry Ramsdens battered fish Chips Peas & Sweetcorn Ketchup Homebaked 50/50 bread Cheese sandwich Baked Bean jacket potato ***** V Banoffee Mousse Pot Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt	Fish Star(Salmon) with Chips Peas & Carrots Ketchup Sliced wholemeal bread Cheese sandwich Cheese jacket potato Chocolate orange mousse cake Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt	Fish fingers Chips Mixed summer salad ketchup homemade sunflower seed bread Cheese sandwich Baked bean jacket potato PASTA POT – tomato & basil Oat cookie & cheese Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt



THE LITTLE GYM CAMPS

FOR CHILDREN AGED 3-12 YEARS

Our next camps are: 22nd December - 4th January

Scan below to learn more or contact: 01904 307404

york@thelittlegym.co.uk



THE Little
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Serious Fun.





WANT TO JOIN OUR SWIM CLUB ?

Thirsk White Horse Swim Team offers training and competition opportunities from local to national level. We are based at Thirsk and Sowerby Leisure Centre, and also have an open water squad who train locally and compete nationwide.

We welcome

- Swimmers from stage 6 onwards
- Any swimmer wishing to improve and compete
- Masters swimmers 18+



How to Swim

If you would like to join us please contact the club on
thirskswimteam@gmail.com

Want to volunteer ?



We need volunteers to help in the club.
Could this be you?

Find out more – www.thirskswimteam.co.uk



are excited to present...

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Breakfast included!

**Have the most
magical
Christmas Eve!**

December 24th
9.30am - 11.30am
Children: £19.95
Adult: £4.95

Enjoy breakfast with
Santa and a sack
load of Christmas fun!



- Meet and greet with Santa with photo opportunity
- A gift from Santa with every child's ticket
- Soft play
- Bacon or sausage sandwich with every child's and every adult's ticket
- Play games and lots of Christmas activities and fun throughout.

Go to: www.crazykingdom.co.uk--- book now 24th December



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FOOTBALL PITCH / SOFTPLAY / DELICIOUS FOOD

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EXPERIENCE IN NORTHALLERTON!**



**AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT
THIS FESTIVE HOLIDAY
PLEASE BOOK AHEAD**

**GO TO CRAZYKINGDOM.CO.UK
AND CLICK "BOOK YOUR VISIT"**

**Or scan
the QR
Code**

