

LOTHERSDALE FRIDAY NEWS

ISSUE 33

12th June 2026



This Week

We have had a productive second week of term, with phonics screening, writing assessments and multiplication checks taking place. The children have approached everything with confidence, using their skills as **'stash away squirrels'** to draw on and apply all the knowledge they have gathered over the year – something we are incredibly proud to see.

We hope you enjoy this Friday News Special, dedicated to Winston Plowes, our Poet in Residence. Winston has worked in school for three years and is an integral part of our school team. He has contributed significantly to the prioritisation of the arts in school and the children all gain so much from their sessions with him. We are extremely grateful for all that he brings to the curriculum and school culture - thank you, Winston!

Mrs Tyson

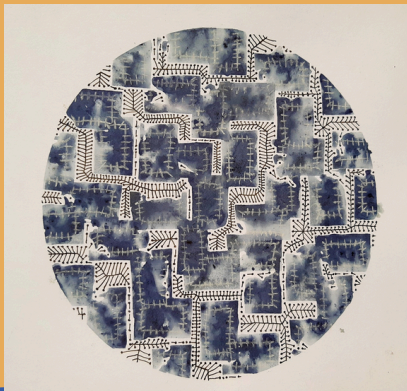
Mr Winston – Friday Feature

Mrs Tyson invited me to Lothersdale Community School in 2023, and I immediately knew that this was going to be a different appointment when I saw a cow from her office window! Since then, it's been nearly three really rewarding years of being a part of the teaching team, delivering lessons connected to my two passions of creative writing and nature art.

I grew up on the edge of the North Yorkshire Moors in Pickering in the 70s and despite having other careers, including PhD research assistant in engineering at Manchester University and an entertainer, I have always been a poet and artist throughout my life. Over the past ten years or so, I have taught poetry and art in hundreds of schools. They are two subjects that often don't have answers, that make us think and help us learn who we are and connect us to the world beyond the classroom.

I can't speak more highly of the dedicated staff at Lothersdale who have all welcomed me so warmly and trusted me with their pupils where the emphasis in my lessons is always on learning through having fun. But that doesn't mean we don't work hard and do our best to produce imaginative and thoughtful work, which continues to surprise me every visit where I have to negotiate an assault course of questions and high fives to get through the playground.

My nature art (land art) lessons for whole classes and in our after school club provide pupils with a chance to 'plug in' to something different and more 'real', in a world where young people are becoming increasingly pressured by social media and the digital world. Each week we strengthen our connections with the marvels of nature, all the time experimenting and learning that in nature, like in life, there are some things that we can't control and that resilience and perseverance are important attributes.



Our creative writing lessons cover all forms of writing from the letter to the list, from micro fiction to the surreal and experimental.

Following our 'Magnificent Me' theme, which looked at who we are and where we live, we are now focussing on bringing things to life with our writing and imaginations in 'Exciting Writing'. During every visit I hope to prove that writing really can be a fun and rewarding experience whatever your ability.

I have included some Images of my recent nature art, plus a link to an interview with BBC Look North here –

[BBC – Mr Winston – Look North](#)

My most recent publications include Telephones, Love Hearts & Jellyfish, Electric Press (2016), Tales from the Tachograph with Gaia Holmes, Calder Valley Poetry (2017) and First of All I Wrote your Name, Stairwell Books (2025) and I have a new anthology with Calder Valley Press schedules for 2026/7.

It's hard to decide on a poem to share here from such a diverse range of material but I have chosen something I wrote recently and that talks about nature and I hope it might mean something to you...



Heaven Pulls Earth into its Arms

**The breath of the wind
sings the stones to sleep
and they dream of heft and press
and being embedded
in soft wet clay.**

**They are older than love
and some haven't seen the blue
for longer than time.**

**They go on – despite war
and disease and suffering
or perhaps because of it.**

**Like wishes nestled
in the pockets
of God's Sunday cardigan.**

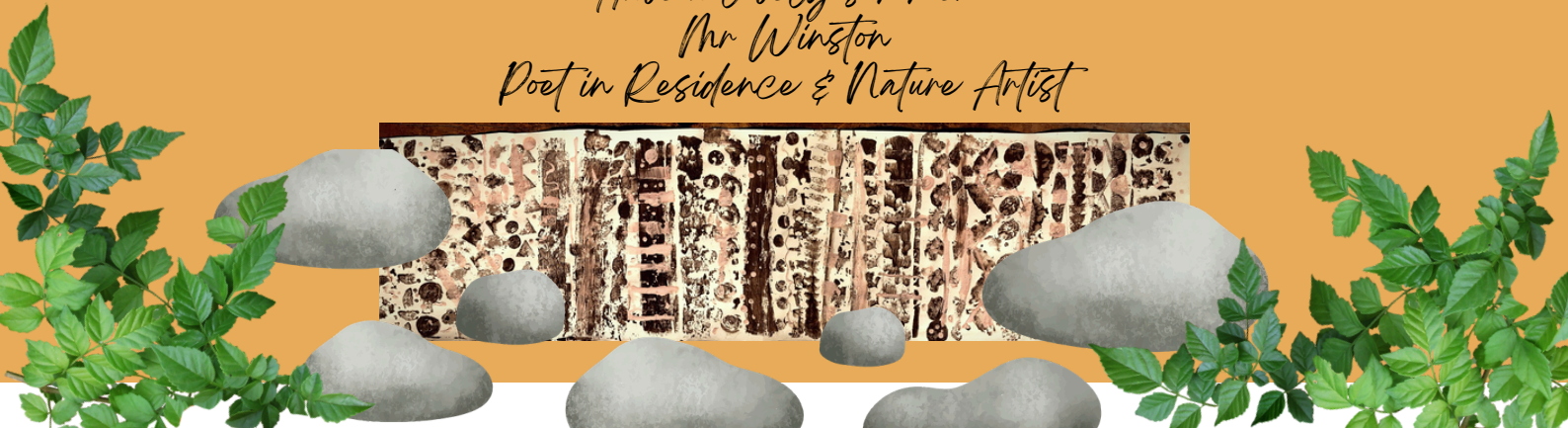
'Mr Winston has an incredibly vast imagination that he puts to very good use.'

'Mr Winston is the best teacher. He is amazing at land art and makes his lesson really fun.'



As I write this, I was reflecting on my final two visits to Lothersdale this academic year, where, with class 4, we explored the surrealist nonsense lyrics of The Beatles and musician Robyn Hitchcock (at their request). Whilst with class 3, we delved into the wholesome and reassuring list poems of Ralph Waldo Emerson. In after school club, we created an imaginary 'inventory of the land'.

*Have a lovely summer
Mr Winston
Poet in Residence & Nature Artist*



Sponsored Walk

We are excited to bring back our whole-school sponsored walk on **Thursday 18th June** after last year's fantastic success, which helped fund 32 new iPads for the school.

This year, we are raising money to improve our outdoor learning spaces and repair the trim trail. The walk will follow the Pennine Way, with a picnic at the top, and all children will receive a certificate, with special rewards for fundraising milestones.

Parents and carers are warmly invited to join us, and we kindly ask that attendance is confirmed via the online form:

<https://forms.office.com/e/kLrt7QREep>

For extra sponsorship forms please speak to the school office.

Thank you for your continued support—we look forward to another wonderful day together!

Workshops

We were pleased to welcome The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association into school for a special assembly, where pupils learned about the important work they do supporting people with sight loss.

Year 4 and Year 5 then took part in a hands-on workshop, exploring the challenges of visual impairment and learning how guide dogs are trained. It was an inspiring visit that encouraged empathy and understanding.



Lothersdale Lowdown

16th & 17th June 2026

Year 6 Bikeability – on site

17th June 2026

Nursery Open Evening – 4-5pm

Reception New Parents Evening – 5.30 – 6pm

18th June 2026

Sponsored Walk

22nd June 2026

Year 6 – Eshton Grange

26th June 2026

Non uniform – In aid of LSA Summer Fair Donations

2nd July 2026

Sports day

LSA Summer Fair – more info to follow

10th July 2026

Zoolab – Class 2 – on site

14th July 2026

Year 6 – Leavers Concert

15th July 2026

End of Year Discos

–EYFS – 6.00pm – 7.15pm

–KS2 – 7.30pm – 8.45pm

Lothersdale Legends

This weeks Lothersdale Legends are:

Class 1

Reception – **Billy**

Class 2

Year 1 – **Eddie**

Year 2 – **Leo**

Class 3

Year 3 – **Jude**

Year 4 – **Henry**

Class 4

Year 5 – **Tobin**

Year 6 – **Berkeley**



Well done also to this weeks:

Maths Ambassador – **Jude W**

Year 6 Award – **Bohdan Z**

who will be celebrated in class.