



Spring 2026 Term Dates

28-01-26 Young Voices at Sheffield Utilita arena
28-01-26 330-500pm Donut Church at the Hub
06-02-26 NSPCC Number Day Whole school (number accessory not non uniform)
06-02-26 Walk to School day #3
12-02-26 1400-1500pm EYFS Curriculum Workshop & open afternoon
13-02-26 School closes normal time for February half term break

FEBRUARY HALF TERM

23-02-26 School reopens normal time to all
0840am KS2
0850am EYFS & KS1
02 & 03-03-26 Yr6 Group 1 Bikeability—Info to follow
04 & 05-03-26 Yr6 Group 2 Bikeability—Info to follow
05-03-26 1400-1520pm Yr4 Yr5 Yr6 Internet safety chat & Open afternoon
09 & 10-26 Yr6 Group 3 Bikeability—Info to follow
13-03-26 Walk to School day #4
20-03-26 Mini reports due to be issued to parents
w/c 24-03-26 Parents evenings - info to follow
25-03-26 330-500pm Donut Church at the Hub
27-03-26 School closes normal time for Easter holidays



13-04-26 School reopens normal time to all
0840am KS2
0850am EYFS & KS1
04-05-26 Bank Holiday - school closed

Knaresborough St John's Newsletter

Tel : 01423 863265

Headteacher : Mr A Hope

Email : admin@ksjprimarieschool.org

Website : www.ksjprimarieschool.org

Class 9 have made a brilliant start back to school after the holidays. As their new teacher, it has been wonderful to get to know the children and see just how kind, enthusiastic and hardworking they are. I have been particularly impressed with their creative writing inspired by *The Wind in the Wall*. The children have shown great imagination and confidence in their descriptive writing. One such example was written by Emma, who vividly described the Duke's Manor House:



The Duke's manor is a jagged jungle full of ghosts and ghouls. Once people go in, they never come out. All you can see is a single piece of fruit perched atop the castle-like building. Every night, a light flickers, along with one person's soul, gruesomely gobbled up by the supposed fruit of the Gods. If you ever receive an invitation, read the small print first. Once it turns dark, the blood-curdling shrieks begin - but at 12:01am, everything falls silent...

The **Lego Club** had a brilliant week full of creativity and teamwork! The children had lots of fun building amazing models, sharing ideas, and proudly showing off their colourful creations.

Picture 1: a clever football stadium &
Picture 2: a fantastic marble run

Please see photos attached to this newsletter

The children of **Class 1 and Class 2** had a lovely time making bird feeders last week. They really enjoyed helping the birds during the cold weather and were excited to spot feathered visitors during playtime and learning time
Photo attached to this newsletter

TRUST
1290

WISDOM
1272

HOPE
963

PEACE
1756

The last two weeks in school have been superb with the children really showing their desire to work hard and improve. I have been able to continue working with a variety of classes with their maths and it is wonderful to see the children excited about the improvements they have made!

I would like to highlight the great work that Josie is doing in our school kitchen. Every day, she brings a smile, some 90's/early 2000's music during the cooking process and a true passion to provide our children with the best food possible. We see her go above and beyond for the children and their dietary needs to ensure everyone has a good lunch before the afternoon lessons. Josie, we are so grateful that you are our school cook!

Our new website has been made live and we are now working on it to ensure everything is up to date. We know that it is not perfect yet, so please contact the school office if you are unsure of everything. WE hope to have all dates, forms and staffing updated over the next couple of weeks.

Please know that the teachers are always available to discuss any questions or concerns that you have. You can either catch them at the start or end of the day or make an appointment with them that suits you both.

Best wishes
Mr A Hope

Sport

In school we always like to hear about and celebrate sporting



achievements that are happening at clubs that you might attend after school or on a weekend. Please do share these with us and if you would like, you can even have a spot in our celebration assembly to tell the whole school about how much of a superstar you are!

This week in Science, **Y3 and 4** have started to learn about the digestive system. We had a disgustingly fun Science lesson which involved an investigation about what happens in our mouth, oesophagus, stomach, small and large intestines! There were lots of "ewwwwww" and "bleugh" moments but it was so lovely to hear the children talking about it long after the session had ended! Please ask your child about it and see how much they can remember.

IMPORTANT-Reporting Absences

If your child is unable to attend school for any reason, please ensure that you notify the school office as your first point of contact. The office will then communicate the absence to the relevant teachers and staff. Directly informing teachers should be avoided, as this may delay the proper recording and management of attendance.
You can report absence by leaving a voicemail (01423 863 265 Option 1) or by emailing
admin@ksjprimarieschool.org or a.nelson@ksjprimarieschool.org

Y6 Bikeability Course

Our **Y6 children** will be bringing a letter home this week to sign up for Bikeability. We only have a limited number of spaces for this, so the first 30 reply slips will be chosen. Bikeability is heavily subsidised, but there is a small cost of £10 per child for the cost of the cycling instructors. This will be added to ParentPay once we have the final list of children.
If you have any questions, then please contact the school office. Many thanks

IMPORTANT

We ask **all** Parents and Carers to park and act respectfully when using roads surrounding the school at drop off and collection times. Please **DO NOT** park on private driveways or obstruct access for local residents.
Thank you!

Spring 2026 Menus

The new 3 week set of menus can be found attached to the newsletter. These are also available on the school website under the 'Parents Information' heading. If you would like a print out of the menu to pop on the fridge please email Mrs Nelson on a.nelson@ksjprimarieschool.org





FAO Mr Hope
Headteacher
Knaresborough St Johns C of E Primary School
Stockwell Road
Knaresborough
HG5 0JN

06th January 2028

Dear Mr Hope and all the staff and pupils of Knaresborough St John's Primary School

Thank you so much for the very welcome hamper filled with lovely things, which we received last month, just before Christmas.

We really appreciate such thoughtful donations, as Christmas can be an incredibly challenging time of year for the people we help. Please pass our thanks to all your generous children and give them our assurance that all their gifts were shared amongst and greatly valued by both our residents and our Day Centre chef who cooks and serves a main course and dessert for around 40 drop in clients each weekday lunchtime.

We know how much each item was appreciated and enjoyed - and that to receive a few special treats bestowed a very special festive blessing to all our Harrogate Homeless Project community. You each gave much more than kind and caring gifts; you delivered a message of hope and reminded those who are struggling that they are not alone, and that compassion can change lives.

Do let me know if there is ever an opportunity to offer my thanks in person. There is so much misunderstanding about homelessness and I am always delighted to receive an invitation to speak within a school assembly or to a Key Stage 2 year group aligned to your PSHE curriculum objectives.

I can be contacted on my mobile number 07708 920017 or by email: marian@hhphostel.org

With many grateful thanks again

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marian".

Marian Farrar
Business & Community Partnerships



HARROGATE HOMELESS PROJECT LTD

HOSTEL: 1 BEDFORD STREET, HARROGATE, HG1 1ED
SPRINGERDALE, LOWER HALL WALKLEY COURT, BEDFORD STREET, HARROGATE HG1 1PW
TEL: 01422 32084
EMAIL: CONTACT@HHPHOSTEL.ORG
WEBSITE: WWW.HARROGATE-HOMELESS-PROJECT.ORG.UK
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1043871 REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 06505418

Friends of the Honey Bee Newsletter

Vol. 9 Winter Term 2026



Happy New year!

While classrooms come buzzing back to life after the festive period, nature is moving at a gentler pace in our frosty gardens, where many insects remain in a state of winter diapause - a state of dormancy, similar to hibernation in mammals. Yet change is on the horizon. With each passing day growing noticeably longer, the first hints of warmth will soon coax bees and other insects back into activity, ready to fill our surroundings with movement, colour and sound once again. For beekeepers, this is the time of year to get organised and prepare for the upcoming season. In this edition, we explore what this seasonal shift means for honey bees and solitary bees, as well as the learning opportunities ahead.

Have your pupils engaged in any environmentally focused projects or activities? We would love to see the results and share ideas! schools.officer@bbka.org.uk



What's Happening in the Hive?



In the wild, honey bees create hives in trees or other suitable spaces. Beehives are designed to replicate wild hives while enabling beekeepers to inspect the colony. [Click here to learn more about beekeeping.](#)

January: Honey bees do not hibernate; instead, they form a tight cluster and generate heat with their flight muscles, keeping the hive between 32 – 35°C. This constant effort requires bees to eat through the stored honey. Beekeepers should monitor hive weight regularly and offer supplementary feed if stores run low.

February: Bees might be seen making cleansing flights to release waste outside the hive, preventing contamination and disease inside the colony, especially after long periods indoors. On warmer days worker bees might be seen foraging on early flowering plants.

March: Beekeepers can start making inspections for adequate stores and healthy bees when temperatures rise above 12°C. Pollen brought in by foragers indicates that the queen is laying again.

April: As the colony begins to expand and rapidly fill the hive with pollen and nectar, beekeepers carry out regular inspections to ensure there's plenty of room for continued growth, and to minimise the risk of swarming - a nuisance for beekeepers and possibly their neighbours!

Who's That Bee?

In Britain we have only one species of honey bee, but around 270 species of other bees! They are wild and many live solitary lives. This year we are following the: Patchwork Leaf-Cutter Bee, *Megachile centuncularis*.



Patchwork Leaf-Cutter Bee

Throughout the winter the Patchwork Leaf-Cutter Bee remains in larval form, tucked in a nest made from leaves inside hollow stems, dead wood or old walls.

The larvae will have fed on the food left by the female bee in autumn, spun a cocoon and pupated. They then overwinter in a state of diapause and emerge in spring as temperatures reach over 20°C.



Honey bee on Hellebore

Gardening for Insects

- Leave dead stems and leaf piles throughout winter. If desired, tidy this when spring arrives, taking care not to disturb hibernating insects. [More info here.](#)
- Deep containers that collect rainwater can trap insects so cover them, empty often, and provide escape ramps similar to a [bee watering station](#).
- Begin planning your wildlife friendly garden and start sowing seeds indoors. [Information on plants for pollinators can be found here.](#)

Does your school have a wildlife garden or any features for insects? Please share with us!

Protecting Pollinators

Honey bees are pollinating insects, alongside at least 1,600 other insects in the UK.

Pollination is an essential ecosystem service. Three quarters of crops grown in the UK require insect pollination.

Pollinating insects are in rapid decline, many factors contribute to this such as:

Anyomony

As climate change intensifies, plants are found to be adjusting their seasonal timings four times faster than insects in response to changing environmental conditions. Throwing key interactions like pollination out of synch.

Invasive non-native species
Invasive species, such as Yellow Legged Asian Hornet, can compete with, predate, or spread disease among native species. This can disrupt ecosystems and the services they provide, an important topic when discussing species interactions and interdependencies.

These issues affect all native wildlife, see the [State of Nature Report](#) for more information.

Keeping bees at your school

Beekkeeping can be a great benefit to schools and can have a huge impact on pupils. It takes a lot of planning and is best done with an experienced beekeeper.

This is a great time of year to find local beekeeper and begin discussing the potential to keep bees at your school!



Become a Beekeeper



BBKA Beacon Schools

BBKA Beacon School status is awarded to those schools who demonstrate sustained best practice in beekkeeping and apiculture. We currently have three Beacon schools: [Ashbroke School](#), [Oakgrove School](#) & [Southend High School for Boys](#). For more information contact: schools.officer@bbka.org.uk

World Wildlife Day: 3rd March

A global celebration of the world's wild animals and plants brings a chance to discuss plant life cycles, pollination and the role that bees play. Leading to discussions about animal adaptations or where food comes from and other ecosystem services. Find pollination activities at [BBKA](#) and [BBC Teach](#).



Bees in the Curriculum

Yellow-legged Asian Hornet Awareness



Earth Day: 22nd April

A day for raising awareness and support for environmental protection. Pupils could study pollination and threats to bees in groups and present to the class as a way to introduce environmental campaigns which support honey bees and other insects in the UK. Resources to [celebrate this day](#) and [ways to connect with nature](#).

Please share updates and photos as well as feedback to: schools.officer@bbka.org.uk



TOGETHERNESS



An update on **WELLBEING FOR EVERY SCHOOL PARENT**

Your NHS learning space created by psychologists

December 2025

We're delighted to share some helpful resources for parents experiencing all the big emotions of growing children.

Togetherness the NHS emotional health digital learning hub funded in your area. Your family has **free access** to expert learning about childhood development, wellbeing, brain changes, and much more to help you to connect with your children.

Here's a quick round up of what we think is great on Togetherness to help your children thrive.

Getting along with family



Understanding your relationships

As seasonal festivities bring families together, it's normal to find some relationships more difficult than others. Learn more about how to get along well and care for your wellbeing by following this online learning pathway

[\(bitesize e-learning\)](#)

Help name those feelings



Feelings map: Free printable poster

Learning to name feelings is one of the first steps to finding healthy ways to manage big and tricky emotions. This poster comes from the **Understanding your child: from toddler to teenager** online pathway

[\(free downloadable resource\)](#)

Behaviour explained



Understanding your child: from toddler to teenager

Online learning journey to support your parenting with expert knowledge and practical ideas anytime, anywhere

[\(bitesize e-learning\)](#)

Healthy sleep habits



How is sleep connected to your child's confidence?

Health Visitor, Mary Rheeston, explains how sleep is a key part of building your child's confidence

[\(short video watch\)](#)

Vaccination choices



Navigating parental decisions: vaccinations and other health choices

The Health Visitor's advice

[\(five minute read\)](#)

New baby in the family?



Bonding with your baby in the first 6 months

Watch our short docu-film following the early life and brain development of baby Margot. Learn about how the first 6 months lay the foundations for lots of big life skills

[\(15 minute watch\)](#)

FREE ACCESS

You're receiving this update as your school is based in a free (pre-paid, funded) access area for togetherness.co.uk

Find the [Free Access Checker](#) in the pathway library to unlock free online learning that could change your relationship with your child for the better.

Evidence based - Created in the NHS - Private and available anytime, anywhere

Follow Togetherness on social media



TOGETHERNESS

www.togetherness.co.uk

0121 296 4448

togetherness@uhb.nhs.uk



Family February Fun



Join us for **FREE** family fun throughout the school holidays. Discover creative ways to support your child's learning both at home and in school through a variety of exciting craft activities.

All places must be booked and enrolled online - please feel free to contact our office if you are unable to do this, as enrolment is essential to access the sessions for free. Without prior enrolment, charges may apply.

Course	Date	Day	Time	Location
Family February Fun Whitby	16/02/2026	Monday	10:00 - 12:00	Whitby Library, Whitby
Family February Fun Ripon	16/02/2026	Monday	10:00 - 12:00	Ripon Library, Ripon
Family February Fun Catterick	16/02/2026	Monday	14:00 - 16:00	Catterick Library, Catterick
Family February Fun Scarborough	16/02/2026	Monday	14:00 - 16:00	Scarborough Library and Information Centre
Family Fun with Pancakes - Richmond	17/02/2026	Tuesday	10:00 - 12:00	Scout Hut, Richmond
Family February Fun Stokesley	17/02/2026	Tuesday	14:00 - 16:00	Stokesley Library, Stokesley
Family February Fun Norton	17/02/2026	Tuesday	14:00 - 16:00	Norton Hive Library, Norton
Family February Fun Knaresborough	18/02/2026	Wednesday	10:00 - 12:00	Knaresborough Library, Knaresborough
Family February Fun Skipton	18/02/2026	Wednesday	10:30 - 12:30	Skipton Library, Skipton
Family February Fun Selby	19/02/2026	Thursday	09:30 - 11:30	Selby Classroom, Selby
Family February Fun Harrogate	19/02/2026	Thursday	10:30 - 12:30	Harrogate Library, Harrogate
Family February Fun Filey	19/02/2026	Thursday	14:00 - 16:00	Filey Library, Filey
Family February Fun Thirsk	19/02/2026	Thursday	14:00 - 16:00	Thirsk Learning Resource Centre, Thirsk
Family February Fun Pickering	20/02/2026	Friday	10:00 - 12:00	Pickering Library, Pickering
Family February Fun Malton	20/02/2026	Friday	10:00 - 12:00	Malton Library, Malton
Family February Fun Northallerton	20/02/2026	Friday	10:30 - 12:30	Northallerton Library, Northallerton

01/26 78264059 1

www.northyorks.gov.uk/adultlearning
Tel: 01609 536 066
Email: AdultLearningService@northyorks.gov.uk



FEBRUARY ROCK CLIMBING



Our holiday climbing sessions are an ideal way for kids to get enjoying a new sport and meeting new people during the holidays. Activities including climbing and bouldering, it is an action-packed day.

Holiday Session - £62.50 (7-17 years old)

Climbing Hub, Bradford: Tues-Fri, 10:00-16:30
The Big Depot, Leeds: Mon, Thurs & Fri, 9:30-16:00
Live for Today, Harrogate: Mon-Wed, 10:00-16:30

Childcare Vouchers accepted



Book online or contact us via email



WWW.MYEXPEDITIONROCKS.COM INFO@MYEXPEDITIONROCKS.COM

2026 KNARESBOROUGH TALENT SHOW

**Saturday 21st February 2026
at Frazer Theatre**

To enter scan the time you wish to perform at, select and purchase a performer ticket which includes one adult ticket. You can also purchase additional audience tickets at the same time.



**2.00PM
KS1&2**



**5.00PM
KS1&2**



**7.00PM
KS3**

It's Time To Shine

Enter Now!



A collaboration between Rabbit Head Productions Ltd and Yorkshire CREATE Ltd



KNARESBOROUGH CELTIC U11 GREENS Are looking for Players



- For Children Currently in Year 6 (Year 7 in September)
- Ideal for players already playing for a club.
- Friendly and competitive environment.
- Matches scheduled for Sundays.



**We train locally on Wednesday evening &
Saturday mornings.**

**For more information, please contact
Si - 07966560387 Dan - 07922688812**

FEBRUARY HOLIDAY CAMPS



LEEDS UNITED
FOUNDATION

CHARITY NUMBER: 1137703

5-12
YEARS OLD

MIXED SOCCER SCHOOLS

16TH - 19TH FEBRUARY

9:00AM - 3:00PM

KINGS JAMES HIGH SCHOOL, HG5 8EB
GRAMMAR SCHOOL AT LEEDS, LS17 8GS
GARFORTH ACADEMY, LS25 1LJ

Give your child the ultimate football experience with the Leeds United Foundation Soccer Schools - a programme that's rewarding, educational, and full of excitement for all ages and abilities.

Led by FA-qualified coaches, our sessions are packed with skill-building activities, small-sided games, and friendly competitions designed to boost confidence both on and off the pitch.

Every child is fully supervised by DBS-checked, first-aid-trained coaches, ensuring a safe, supportive, and positive environment throughout.

You can book per day or make the most of it with our full 4-day course. Perfect for kids who love football and want to learn the Leeds United way!

HOW TO BOOK:

EMAIL: soccer.schools@leedsunited.com
or scan the QR code.

SCAN HERE!



**SECURE
YOUR
CHILDS
PLACE
NOW!**

February Half Term at RIPON MUSEUMS



Saturday
14 February
Sunday - 22
February
2026

Ripon Workhouse Museum & Garden



Daily: **Make Your Own Match-Maker Theatre**
cut, colour and craft your own theatre

Daily: **Get To Work! Self-led family trail**

14th & 21st Feb: **The Master's Valentine's Card**

A Very Messy Storytelling Session 11:00am & 1:30pm

18th Feb: **Vile Victorian Valentine's Cards**

fun craft session 10:30am & 1:00pm

Ripon Prison & Police Museum

Daily: **Sketch The Suspect**
create a picture-perfect match



14th & 21st Feb: **Ripon Workhouse Theatre Group perform**

'Meet The Policeman' 11:30am, 1:30pm & 2:30pm

Ripon Courthouse Museum

Daily: **St Valentine's Generation Game**
a jury evidence game



info@riponmuseums.co.uk
WWW.RIPONMUSEUMS.CO.UK



Picture 1: a clever football stadium



Picture 2 : a fantastic marble run



