



Kilham C of E Primary School

www.kilhamschool.co.uk



"Encourage one another and build each other up." (Thessalonians 5.11)

NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER 2026

THIS WEEK OUR CHRISTIAN FOCUS IS : ENCOURAGING ONE ANOTHER

A Settled and Positive Start to the Year

We are delighted to share that the children continue to have made a settled and productive start to the school year. Across the classes, pupils are showing real perseverance and a positive attitude to their learning, applying the principles of having a *rainbow brain* and embracing a *growth mindset*. It has been wonderful to see them tackling challenges with determination and enthusiasm.

Children across the school have also been making the most of the recent good weather by enjoying the latest additions to our OPAL outdoor provision which includes our new scooter provision and wet play area.



OPAL Parent Open Session – Wednesday 7th October

A reminder to all our parents and carers that we are holding our OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) Parent Open Session on Wednesday 7th October, from 12.15pm–1.00pm.

We would love you to come along over the lunchtime period and spend some quality play time with your child while exploring our fantastic OPAL resources.

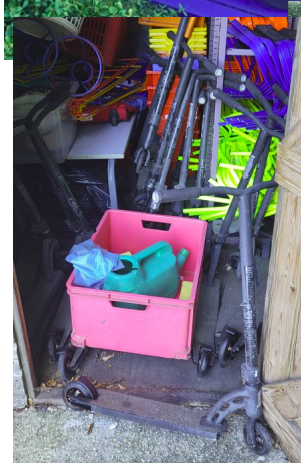
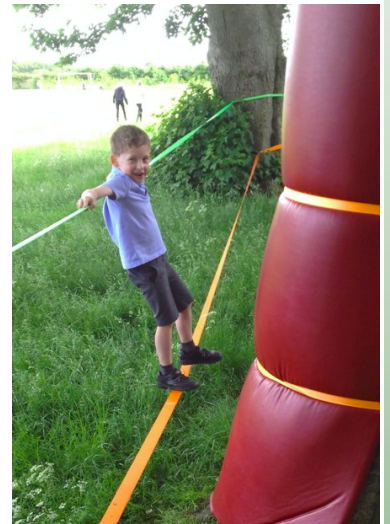
You can have a go at:

- Our new scooters
- The wet play area
- Our mud kitchen
- Box and tyre play

- The slack line
- Our den-building area
- Our original mining area

This is a great opportunity to see OPAL in action, have some fun with your child and discover how we are developing our outdoor play opportunities at Kilham. We hope to see lots of you there – come along, get involved and enjoy some quality play time with your child!

Wednesday 7th October | 12.15pm–1.00pm



A Message from Mr Palmer

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to share with you personally that, following a great deal of careful consideration, I have made the very difficult decision to take early retirement from my position as Headteacher of Kilham C of E Primary School at the end of August 2027. This has not been an easy decision. There are both personal and professional reasons behind it, but I feel that this is the right time for me and the right time for the school to begin a new chapter.

It has been an enormous privilege to lead Kilham C of E Primary School. I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved together, particularly the recent building work, the development of our new Rainbow Room, and the changes we have made to our curriculum. I believe these developments leave the school in a strong position for the future and give us even greater capacity to support our children. The Rainbow Room, along with aspects of our OPAL programme, are developments I am especially proud to leave behind as part of my legacy at the school, and I know they will continue to benefit our children for many years to come.

There are also significant changes ahead for primary education nationally including the new OFSTED framework. The Government is progressing proposals to reform Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) support. At the same time, the Curriculum and Assessment Review is leading towards changes to what and how children learn in primary schools. The Government has said it will develop the new curriculum following the review, with implementation changes expected over the coming years.

These changes will provide a significant challenge and opportunity for schools, and I am confident that Kilham is well placed to embrace them. I will continue to work closely with staff, governors, and our families during my remaining time to ensure the school continues to move forward positively and that the transition to the school's next headteacher is smooth.

I have given this notice with a long lead time quite deliberately, so that our very experienced governing body, with support from members of the Local Education Authority, has every opportunity to conduct a thorough search and find the right person to lead Kilham into the future. I feel confident that this extended timescale will allow them to find a new headteacher who can build on what we have achieved together and take the school on to even greater achievements.

Finally, I want to say a huge thank you to the staff, parents and carers of Kilham. Your support, encouragement and involvement in school life over the years have meant a great deal to me. Whether it has been supporting school events, helping with fundraising, encouraging your children in their learning, or simply being there for the school community, your contribution has helped make Kilham the special school it is.

I still have a full year ahead of me at Kilham, and I am very much looking forward to continuing to work with our wonderful children, staff, governors and families. There is still plenty to achieve, and I intend to approach the coming year with the same enthusiasm and commitment as every year.

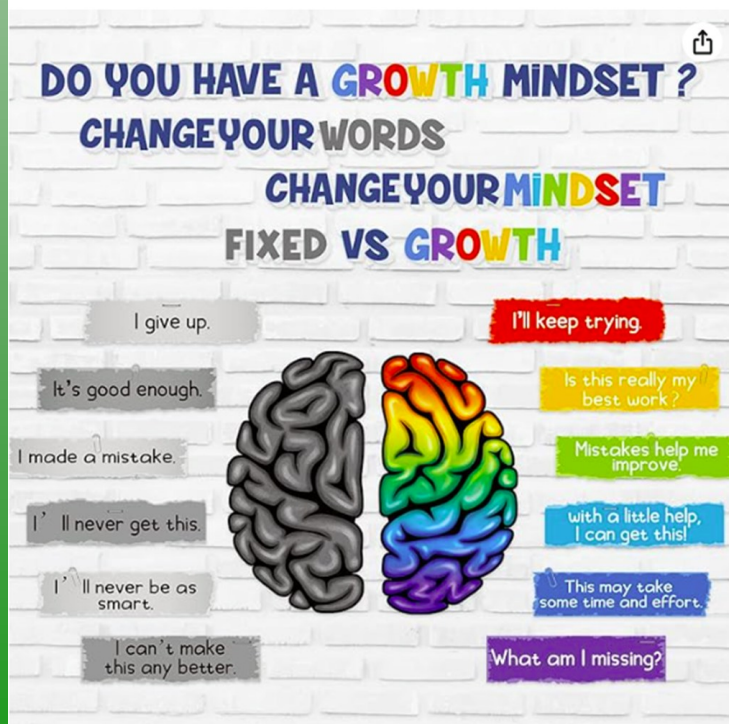
Thank you for your support, friendship and confidence in me over the years. It has been a privilege to be your Headteacher.

Mr R Palmer
Headteacher
Kilham C of E Primary School

Growth Mindset—Rainbow brain

Well done to the children below who have received a growth mindset certificate over the last two weeks by embracing some of the principles below.

- **Mistakes help me learn** – when I get something wrong, it's a chance to grow my brain.
- **I can't do it... yet** – adding "yet" reminds me that with practice I will improve.
- **Challenges make me stronger** – hard work helps me get better at new things.
- **Effort matters** – the more I try, the more progress I make.
- **I can learn from others** – feedback, advice, and ideas help me to grow.



Sporting News

Cross Country Success for Kilham!

A big well done to the 11 Kilham children pictured below who took part in the Driffeld Cluster Cross Country event on Monday evening at Driffeld Town Cricket Club.

Around 80 children from local schools competed across four races on a beautiful late-summer evening. The children all showed fantastic determination, enthusiasm and sportsmanship, and we are very proud of everyone who took part.

A special congratulations to the five children from Kilham who finished in the top 10 of their races and have qualified for the East Riding of Yorkshire Cross Country Finals at Hornsea School on Tuesday 20th October.

More information, including the exact location and arrangements for the finals, will be shared with their parents nearer the date.

Thank you to all the parents, grandparents and siblings who came along to support the children, and to everyone who helped make the event such a success.

Well done, Kilham! We are very proud of you! Thanks PTFA for the amazing new kit.



House captains and Sports leaders.

Following a staff vote the children below have been chosen to take on the role of house captains and sports leaders at Kilham C of E Primary School. During their time at Kilham School these children have represented the school in a huge range of sports and have worked with younger children in school to help prepare them for competitions and events. The Sports leaders will work with Mr Palmer this year to organise events, prepare children to have the correct kit and play in our inter school competitions



School Council and OPAL team and Eco Committee

Congratulations to the children below who have been voted on either the School Council or Eco Committee by their peers—over the coming year they will help Mr Palmer to improve the school and our OPAL provision and support the local and wider world. Children in the Eco committee will help the school improve and update it's climate action plan and deliver projects to reduce our carbon footprint.

School Council and OPAL team 2026 2027



Eco committee 2026—2027

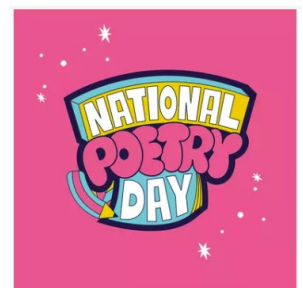
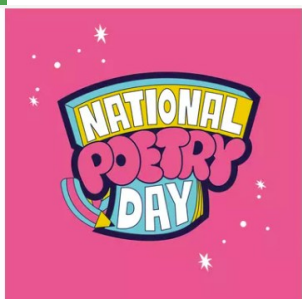


National Poetry day

Thursday 1st of October is National Poetry Day and children will be celebrating this day by taking part in poetry based activities in their classrooms.

We are asking pupils to share their favourite poems (this includes nursery rhymes) and so if it they have a favourite one at home, this could be brought in written down or in a book (if this will help them remember it).

Staff will also be sharing their favourite poems with the pupils during the day.



Love in a Shoebox Appeal 2026–2027

Kilham C of E Primary School warmly invites families to join us in supporting the **Jacob's Well Appeal** through our annual *Love in a Shoebox* project.

Why take part?

By filling a shoebox with small gifts and essentials, we can show kindness and bring joy to children and families living in difficult circumstances across the world. Each shoebox is a symbol of love, care, and hope from our community here in Kilham.

What can go in a shoebox?

- **Toys & games:** small dolls, cars, balls, puzzles, skipping ropes, soft toys
- **School supplies:** pencils, pens, crayons, notebooks, sharpeners, rulers
- **Clothing & accessories:** hats, scarves, gloves, socks, hair accessories
- **Toiletries:** toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, flannels, combs, shampoo
- **Other useful items:** candles, plasters, sewing kits

(Please avoid war-related toys, sharp objects, liquids, medicines, or perishable food.)

How to take part

- Fill and wrap a shoebox in festive paper (lid and base wrapped separately).
- Return shoeboxes to Kilham C of E Primary School or All Saints Church, Kilham.
- All shoeboxes will be blessed at a special service at All Saints Church on Sunday 29th November at 11am.
- All shoe boxes will be collected from school on Friday 27th November.

Together, we can make a difference and spread love this Christmas season. Thank you for your generosity and kindness.



Love in a Shoebox 2026

All Saints' Church & Kilham School

Join our community in sending small gift items in a shoebox for some of the world's poorest children via the Jacob's Well, Beverley.

Shoebox gift ideas

Write

Pencils/pens
Crayons, stickers
Paper/notebooks
Colouring books
Sharpeners &

Wash

Soap (wrapped)
Hairbrush
Flannel
Toothbrush
Toothpaste
Facecloth
Hand gel

Wear

Socks
Underwear
Hat
Scarf
Gloves
Flip flops

Wow

Cuddly toy
Calculator, Sewing kit
Small musical instrument
small toys, wallet/purse
Play jewellery
Wind-up/solar torch

Please do not include: sweets, medicines or money.

Please wrap the box and lid separately; & label noting the age of the intended child.

Bring to All Saints' or Kilham School by Fri 27th Nov

Shoeboxes will be blessed at All Saints, Kilham 11am service on Sun 29th Nov.



Get Involved | Jacob's Well Appeal
jacobswellappeal.org

<https://jacobswellappeal.org/>



MacMillan Coffee Afternoon

Once again I have been amazed by the generosity of our local community – during our MacMillan coffee afternoon we raised £671.25 to support the great work of this charity which we couldn't have achieved without all of the buns and cakes donated by parents. It was wonderful to see so many parents and grandparents and I think that you will all agree that the Year 5 and 6 children were a credit to the school and their parents. They did a great job running stalls, selling cakes and serving parents teas and coffees. The PTFA worked closely with Miss Hobson organising the event – thank you to all of the members of the PTFA who supported the event. They do an amazing job raising funds for the school, if you are keen to help out or get involved please contact the PTFA via their Facebook page, they are always looking for more volunteers.



Kilham C of E Primary School Conker Championship—5th October 2026

As autumn settles across East Yorkshire many children at Kilham C of E Primary School have been bringing bags full of conkers to school to show their teachers. We all admire a beautiful conker but parents of a certain age may also remember using these beauties to play the game "conkers". So from 5th October 2026 our school will hold our very own "Kilham School Conker Championship". Children across the school will have the game rules explained to them in a conker assembly and a team of year 6 pupils will help to drill and string conkers so that competing could begin.

During the week-long championship, children will have fun on the main playground playing "conkers" with friends and against teachers. We hope that many parents will support their children with practice sessions at home and secret tips like "bake them in the oven". We hope that the children who play have a fantastic time, and make memories that will last a lifetime.



Class 1 News

We have had a wonderful first few weeks at school! We are so proud of how well everybody has settled in.

We have kick started our 'Let's Explore' topic by reading 'We're Going On A Bear Hunt' by Michael Rosen. We have enjoyed drawing maps of where the family went and followed it up with a nature hunt on the field to find 'swishy swashy' grass and 'thick oozy' mud! We have also enjoyed getting going with phonics and beginning to explore rhyming, blending and our first few sounds. In maths we have been focusing on repeated patterns, sorting objects and number recognition. The children have really enjoyed getting stuck in and we are very impressed.

We are looking forward to another fun filled few weeks!



The Year 6 Key Stage 2 SATs in 2027 will take place from **Monday 10 May to Thursday 13 May 2027**, according to the [GOV.UK Primary Assessments Guidance](#). 

2027 SATs Timetable

- **Monday 10 May 2027:** English grammar, punctuation and spelling (SPaG) Papers 1 and 2
- **Tuesday 11 May 2027:** English reading
- **Wednesday 12 May 2027:** Mathematics Papers 1 (Arithmetic) and 2 (Reasoning)
- **Thursday 13 May 2027:** Mathematics Paper 3 (Reasoning) 

Harvest Festival Foodbank donations.

During our Worship assemblies next week our children will be thinking about the Christian value of compassion and what it means to be a compassionate person. We will learn about the work of local East Yorkshire Foodbanks and the 27,000 people in our community who are struggling to feed themselves and their children. As part of our work across the school on taking action when we see injustice, our children have been asked to donate food to our local food bank in Driffield

Love Driffield Food bank and Community Hub supports people in Driffield and the surrounding Wolds with emergency food and wider practical support. It also operates as a community hub, providing things such as warm spaces, community activities and access to other support services.

Useful foods to donate

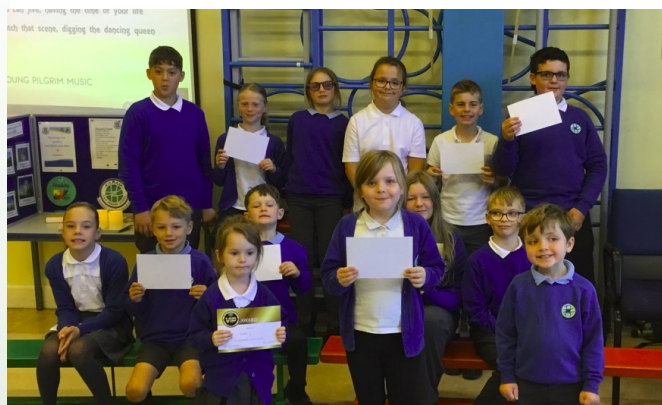
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Tinned and packet foods	Breakfast and drinks	Other useful items
• Tinned soup • Tinned stews • Baked beans • Tinned vegetables • Tinned fish – tuna, sardines, etc. • Tinned meat • Tinned fruit • Rice • Steam puddings • Pasta • Pasta sauces	• Breakfast cereals • Tea • Coffee • Sugar • Long-life milk • Fruit squash • Fruit juice	• Biscuits • Crackers • Jam • Tinned custard and other long-life puddings • Instant meals • Cooking sauces

Please bring food into school over the next couple of weeks ready to be blessed at the harvest service on Friday 9th October 2026.

*So Lord, please open my eyes. Please let me see those around me that need my **compassion**. Compel me to listen to them, to hear their needs. Give me the heart to be interested in their troubles and provide me with the means to help them.*

This week's VIP Award winners

Well done to our VIP award winners for the last two weeks. Many of them have been chosen because they have been encouraging staff and other pupils and others have been working hard. The children enjoyed receiving their certificates and wrist bands and having their photo in the newsletter.



Thank you to all of the parents who came along to our “secret squirrel assembly “ it was lovely to have parents in the building celebrating their children’s achievements.

Reading Rockets - “You have to be in it to win it!”

Please keep listening to your child read at home at least 5 times a week for 10 mins so they develop a love for reading and get involved in our Reading Rocket challenge.

Well done to all of the children in Class 4 who have achieved a rolling reading average total of 9.3 which is a fantastic. This week the children in Class 2 were the most improved.

class	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Most improved	Rolling total
Cl 1	3.0	2.8							5.8
Cl 2	2.8	3.5							6.2
Cl 3	4.0	3.7							7.7
Cl 4	4.7	4.6							9.3

Have a lovely weekend

Mr R M Palmer

R. M. Palmer

Head teacher

1. Encourage your child to read

Reading helps your child's wellbeing, develops imagination and has educational benefits too. Just a few minutes a day can have a big impact on children of all ages.

2. Read aloud regularly

Try to read to your child every day. It's a special time to snuggle up and enjoy a story. Stories matter and children love re-reading them and poring over the pictures. Try adding funny voices to bring characters to life.

3. Encourage reading choice

Give children lots of opportunities to read different things in their own time - it doesn't just have to be books. There's fiction, non-fiction, poetry, comics, magazines, recipes and much more. Try leaving interesting reading material in different places around the home and see who picks it up.

4. Read together

Choose a favourite time to read together as a family and enjoy it. This might be everyone reading the same book together, reading different things at the same time, or getting your children to read to each other. This time spent reading together can be relaxing for all.

5. Create a comfortable environment

Make a calm, comfortable place for your family to relax and read independently - or together.

6. Make use of your local library

Libraries in England are open so visit them when you're able to and explore all sorts of reading ideas. Local libraries also offer brilliant online materials, including audiobooks and ebooks to borrow. See Libraries Connected for more digital library services and resources.

7. Talk about books

This is a great way to make connections, develop understanding and make reading even more enjoyable. Start by discussing the front cover and talking about what it reveals and suggests the book could be about. Then talk about what you've been reading and share ideas. You could discuss something that happened that surprised you, or something new that you found out. You could talk about how the book makes you feel and whether it reminds you of anything.

8. Bring reading to life

You could try cooking a recipe you've read together. Would you recommend it to a friend? Alternatively, play a game where you pretend to be the characters in a book, or discuss an interesting article you've read.

9. Make reading active

Play games that involve making connections between pictures, objects and words, such as reading about an object and finding similar things in your home. You could organise treasure hunts related to what you're reading. Try creating your child's very own book by using photos from your day and adding captions.

10. Engage your child in reading in a way that suits them

You know your child best and you'll know the best times for your child to read. If they have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) then short, creative activities may be the way to get them most interested. If English is an additional language, encourage reading in a child's first language, as well as in English. What matters most is

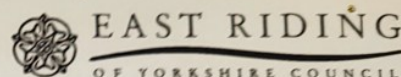


**WE LOVE
READING**



Term dates 2026—2027. We are discussing the 2027—2028 term dates at the headteachers cluster meeting on Wednesday 30th September then information will be posted on the newsletter and the school website.

SCHOOL TERM DATES - STANDARD PATTERN OF DATES 2026 - 2027 ACADEMIC YEAR



AUTUMN TERM 2026																									
	August					September					October					November					December				
Monday	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28	5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30	7	14	21	28			
Tuesday	4	11	18	25		8	15	22	29	6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24		8	15	22	29			
Wednesday	5	12	19	26		9	16	23	30	7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25		9	16	23	30			
Thursday	6	13	20	27		10	17	24		8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26		10	17	24	31			
Friday	7	14	21	28		11	18	25		9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27		11	18	25				
Saturday	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28	5	12	19	26			
Sunday	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	29	6	13	20	27			

SPRING TERM 2027																								
	January					February					March					April								
Monday	4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22		1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26					
Tuesday	5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23		2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27					
Wednesday	6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24		3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28					
Thursday	7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25		4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29				
Friday	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26	5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30					
Saturday	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24						
Sunday	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28	7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25						

Autumn	35	70	195
	35		
Spring	25	50	
	25		
Summer	39	75	
	36		
School Holiday			
Bank Holiday			

SUMMER TERM 2027																
	May					June					July					
Monday	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28		5	12	19	26		
Tuesday	4	11	18	25		8	15	22	29		6	13	20	27		
Wednesday	5	12	19	26		9	16	23	30		7	14	21	28		
Thursday	6	13	20	27		10	17	24			8	15	22	29		
Friday	7	14	21	28		11	18	25			9	16	23	30		
Saturday	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26		3	10	17	24	31	
Sunday	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27		4	11	18	25		

These term dates are for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools in East Riding of Yorkshire.

Schools can set five non-contact days when the school will be closed to pupils.

① Training days school closed to children.

Dates for the Diary

September

21.09.2026	Y3 & Y4 Swimming (2/5)
21.09.2026	KS2 Cross Country, Drifffield Cricket Club 4-5pm
25.09.2026	MacMillan Coffee Afternoon 1.45-3pm
28.09.2026	Y3 & Y4 Swimming (3/5)
29.09.2026	Y5/Y6 Mixed Football 4-5.30pm Drifffield School Astro

October

05.10.2026	Y3 & Y4 Swimming (4/5)
06.10.2026	KS2 Girls Football 4-5.30pm Drifffield School Astro
07.10.2026	OPAL—parents session in school with children 12.15 pm 1.00 pm
09.10.2026	Harvest Festival at All Saints Church 2pm (Whole School)
10.10.2026	KS1 Cross Country 10-11am Drifffield Junior School
12.10.2026	Y3 & Y4 Swimming (5/5)
14.10.2026	Parents' Evening 3.40-6.30pm
15.10.2026	Parents' Evening 3.40-6.30pm
21.10.2026	KS2 Hockey 4-5.30pm Drifffield School Astro
23.10.2026	Break Up

November

02.11.2026	Back to School
04.11.2026	Individual Photographs
04.11.2026	Flu Vaccinations
09.11.2026 –	13.11.2026 DT Week
11.11.2026	Year 5 & Year 6 Remembrance at All Saints Church – 11am
27.11.2026	Non Uniform Day (Raffle/Tombola Prizes for Santa Sunday)

December

06.12.2026	Santa Sunday
10.12.2026	Christmas Lunch
W/C 14.12.2026	Christmas Jumper week (Children can wear Christmas Jumpers and Christmas Outfits all week)
15.12.2026	Nativity 2pm (Whole school event and all parents invited to attend)
17.12.2026	Nativity 2pm (Whole school event and all parents invited to attend)
18.12.2026	Break up for Christmas

January

04.01.2027	Training Day
05.01.2027	Children Back to School