

6th October 2025



Kirkstall Valley Primary School

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Diary Dates

Monday 6th October
Y6 Bikeability

Thursday 9th October
Happy Kids Yoga Year 2

Friday 10th October
World Mental Health Day

Tuesday 14th October
First in-person parents' evening

Dear Kirkstall Valley Primary School Families,

How are you? I hope this newsletter finds you well!

Lots going on in school at the moment which is just how we like it!

When I'm around and about in the community during out of school times such as weekends, I sometimes am lucky enough to bump into past pupils/families. I had just such an experience on Sunday and was so delighted to catch up with a now-Year 8 pupil and hear about how brilliantly he is doing at High School. We never stop wondering and caring about the pupils we teach!

If ever you want to get in touch, please don't hesitate to do so – my door is always open.

Best wishes,

Phil Robertson – Headteacher

Attendance to date:

YR – 96%

Year 1 – 96%

Year 2 – 97%

Year 3 – 97.8% 🏆

Year 4 – 93.2%

Year 5 – 96.8%

Year 6 – 97.3%

Poetry Day

Thursday saw the whole school take part in a day of poetry for National Poetry Day. Thanks to Mrs. Bridges in Y6 for all her organisation! Children were learning to recite some poetry by Joshua Seigal and also creating some poetry of their own in the afternoon. Audio recordings of some of the recitals will be made available to you soon!

School = **96.4%** (Target = 96%)

PE Kit Change reminder

As per the communications sent out last week, please remember that children should now come to school in PE kits on the days they have PE in school.

Year Group	PE Days	Additional Notes
Reception	Thursday	
Year 1	Tuesday and Thursday	
Year 2	Tuesday and Thursday	
Year 3	Monday and Friday	
Year 4	Monday	Please Note: Year 4 children attend swimming lessons on Wednesday and should wear their normal school uniform on this day.
Year 5	Wednesday and Thursday	
Year 6	Wednesday and Friday	

Assembly Music

In Assembly this week we have listened to a variety of artists including Nina Simone, Vivaldi (The Four Seasons) and The Fresh Prince of Bel Air (an eclectic mix!)

Upper KS2 History Workshop

Huge thanks to Simon (Year 5 parent) who is giving up his time this morning to talk to children about World War II (their current History topic). Simon is a keen historian and has worked for education outreach organisations in the past and agreed to come and share some of his knowledge. I have just walked through the hall and you could hear a pin drop!

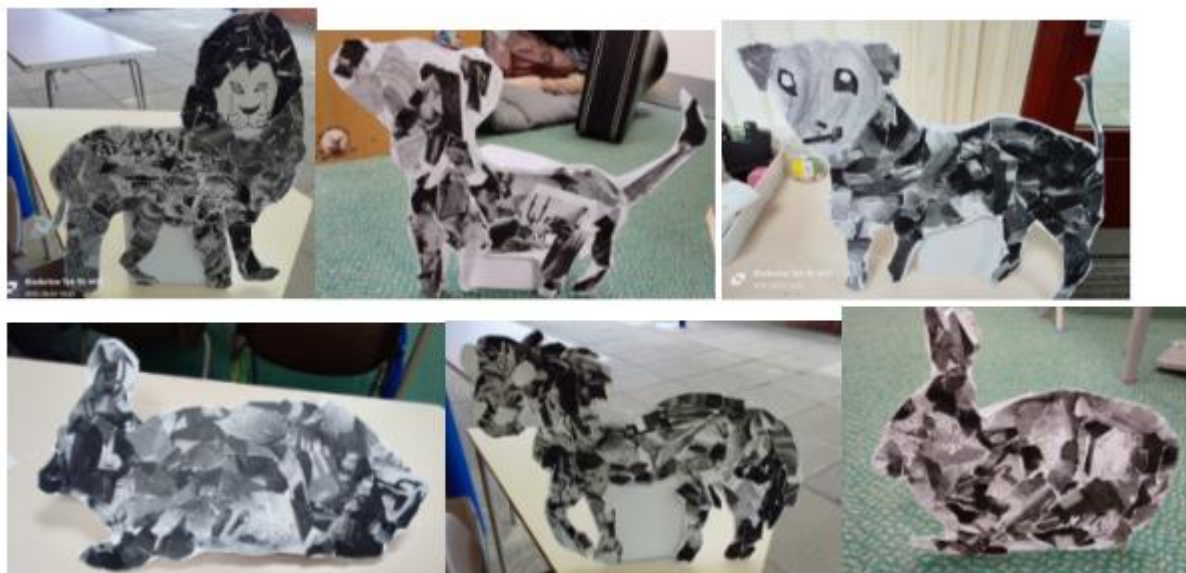
Bikeability

Every year, KVPS works with Cycle North to provide cycle training to children in Year 6. We feel that every child should have the opportunity to learn to ride or improve their skills on a bike. Cycling is such an important pursuit to me personally and I am so glad that so many children get to develop these important skills.



This term in Year 6, in History we are learning about World War 2. Our learning last week focused on 'conscription'. We were all given a different character - someone who was alive during the Second World War. Using the information we were given, we had to decide whether our character would have served in the armed forces, become a conscientious objector, stayed at home to join the war effort or stayed in their current job. Ask us about the different ways that people contributed to the war effort!

In Art, our Topic is '**2D Drawing to 3D sculptures**'. Our Unit started off looking at the Artist Lubaina Himid for inspiration. We then used the 'grid technique' to upscale images of animals to A2. After that, we used George Cruikshank's illustrations (Oliver Twist and Great Expectations) to make a collage. Here are some examples of our wonderful work. Well done Year 6!



In Music, for our hip-hop genre we have been composing our own music using Charanga on the Chromebooks to the sound track Fresh Prince of Bel Air.



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Governor Vacancy

Are you interested in supporting the work of the governing body at KVPS or would you like to find out some more information? We currently have one parent governor position available. If you would like to have an informal chat about this, please do get in touch.

Did you know...?

Reading with children



Did you know that reading aloud with your child is considered the single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading? Research shows this practice drastically boosts vocabulary and language skills, with children whose parents read just one book a day hearing nearly 300,000 more words by age five. Crucially, this benefit extends to children who have English as an Additional Language (EAL).

For EAL families, reading aloud in the home language is equally valid and powerful. Literacy skills, such as comprehension, critical thinking, and a love of stories, are developed in one language and easily transfer to another. When parents read a book fluently in their strongest language, it strengthens the parent-child bond, supports cognitive development, and validates the child's cultural and linguistic identity, all of which are a powerful foundation for learning English. This shared ritual is vital, whether the book is in English or your family's mother tongue.

Focus on

Mindmate Leaders



The Mindmate Leaders are proud to support the wellbeing of all pupils. Recently, they delivered an informative assembly on the importance of balanced lunchboxes and the benefits of healthy eating. In the assembly, they discussed how a variety of nutritious foods, such as fruits, vegetables, and whole grains, can help improve concentration, energy levels, and overall health. The assembly encouraged pupils to make thoughtful choices when packing their lunchboxes to ensure they are fueling their bodies and minds in the best possible way. We hope everyone takes these tips on board to feel their best every day.

Meet Your Governors

Adam Dimmock – Vice Chairperson



As the grandparent of a child at KVPS I have had the privilege of seeing first-hand the excellent work that the school does and the dedication of its staff who bring out the very best in each child. I have a background in business and finance and this helps me in my role of a School Governor, where I support with the monitoring of Finance, Health & Safety, and Buildings.



Safe



Ready



Respectful



Courage



Compassion



Commitment

School calendar academic year 2025-2026

Holiday	Schools close			Schools open		
Summer break				Tuesday	2 September	2025
Autumn mid-term	Friday	24 October	2025	Tuesday	4 November	2025
Christmas break	Friday	19 December	2025	Tuesday	6 January	2026
Spring mid-term	Friday	13 February	2026	Monday	23 February	2026
Easter break	Thursday	2 April	2026	Monday	20 April	2026
May Bank Holiday	Monday	4 May	2026	Tuesday	5 May	2026
Summer mid-term	Thursday	21 May	2026	Monday	1 June	2026
Summer break	Tuesday	21 July	2026			

Bank Holidays include

Christmas	25 & 26	December	2025
New Year's Day	1	January	2026
Good Friday	3	April	2026
Easter Monday	6	April	2026
May Day	4	May	2026
Spring Bank	25	May	2026
August	31	August	2026

Teacher Training Days - School Closed

Monday	<u>1 September</u>	2025
Monday	<u>3 November</u>	2025
Monday	<u>5 January</u>	2026
Friday	<u>22 May</u>	2026
Wed	<u>22 July</u>	2026



School uniform:



You can buy a new school jumper or a school cardigan at the office.



Or you can buy pre-used uniform that other families have given to school.



Pre-used uniform



A small book bag: £5.00



A large book bag: £7.00



Children change into sports clothes for their P.E. lesson