

Final Newsletter 25-26



Kirkstall Valley Primary School

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Diary Dates

Wednesday 15th July
Oliver with a Twist for Y5 Families

Friday 17th July pm
Y6 Leavers' Assembly

Friday 17th July
Break for Summer

Dear Kirkstall Valley Primary School Families,

How are you? I hope this newsletter finds you and your family well.

Well this is it! The final newsletter of the 25-26 academic year! It has passed so quickly yet at the same time has contained so much! I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for being part of our school family. It is my absolute privilege to serve such a supportive community.

I wish you all a wonderful summer break and look forward to seeing you in September. To those families leaving us, we will miss you! Please know that once you are a member of the KVPS family, you are always a member of the KVPS family! Keep in touch and all the very best.

Have a great last week ahead ☺

Best wishes,

Phil Robertson - Headteacher

Donate a book!

Our library is a wonderful place but it takes a lot of time and money to keep it looking so good. If ever you felt like donating a book, you can do so via our local partner, Truman Books in Farsley. The new wishlist link is up and running: <https://trumanbooks.co.uk/recommended-reads-for-kirkstall-valley>

Final Attendance:

YR – 94.1%

Year 1 – 95.4%

Year 2 – 95.5%

Year 3 – 92.2%

Year 4 – 91.1%

Year 5 – 93.9%

Year 6 – 95.6% 🏆

School = **93.9%** - (Target = 96%)

A Year to be Incredibly Proud Of

As we reach the end of another academic year, it is the perfect time to look back and reflect on everything we have achieved together. Whilst the past twelve months have undoubtedly presented us with a few challenges along the way, it has overwhelmingly been a year defined by its brilliant successes. Of course, a major highlight for us all was our recent OFSTED inspection; securing such a positive outcome was a wonderful success for our school. However, whilst it is always lovely to receive that external validation, an inspection is only ever a tiny snapshot of our journey. It represents just one small part of the incredible things we achieve every single day as a school community.

For me, the true measure of our school's success is found in the everyday moments. It is the absolute privilege of watching our pupils grow, develop, and flourish over the year. It is seeing the incredible **Courage** of a once-shy child confidently blasting out a song on stage in front of all their peers. It is the joy of watching children master tricky new skills, consolidate their learning, and forge beautiful, supportive friendships that will last a lifetime. Whether we are giving children exciting new opportunities to represent the school outside the classroom, or eagerly listening to them share their amazing weekend passions and home activities, these are the moments that truly matter.

What makes Kirkstall Valley so incredibly special is our community. It has been an honour to welcome wonderful new children and their families to our school from the four corners of the earth, adding to the rich, vibrant, and **Respectful** family we have here. None of this, of course, would be possible without our phenomenal staff team. I am incredibly fortunate to work alongside a group of dedicated professionals who show unwavering **Commitment** and give 100% of themselves to the children every single day. Seeing our whole community come together, supporting one another with such genuine **Compassion**, is the most rousing, uplifting reminder of exactly why we do what we do. Thank you all for a truly phenomenal year!

Farewell to Our Brilliant Year 6s!

As we prepare to close the doors on another academic year, I must dedicate a very special section of this newsletter to our wonderful Year 6 leavers. They have been a simply fantastic cohort to have leading the school, consistently filling the corridors and classrooms with their boundless energy, wonderful sense of humour, and genuine enthusiasm for learning. It has been an absolute privilege to watch them grow into the remarkable, kind-hearted young people they are today.

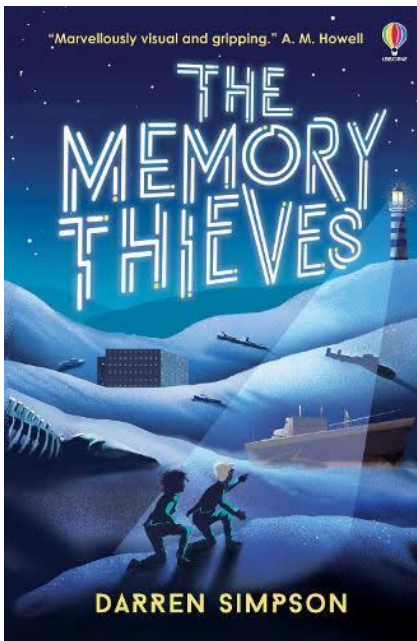
While it is always incredibly hard to say goodbye, and I know the whole staff team and I will genuinely miss each and every one of them, I also know without a shadow of a doubt that they are absolutely **Ready** for the exciting transition to high school. They have shown such tremendous **Courage** and **Commitment** during their time at Kirkstall Valley, and they leave us with a brilliant foundation for the future. I want to wish them all every possible success and

happiness as they embark on this next great adventure. Please do come back and visit us—we cannot wait to hear all about the amazing things you go on to achieve!

Thank you Miss Conway!

At the end of this year, we will be saying farewell to Miss Conway as she moves on to take up a position in another school. On behalf of the school, I'd like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you for her work over the years and in particular the expertise, patience and **commitment** she has shown to speech and language work at KVPS. We wish her all the very best in her next chapter!

Robertson Recommends a Summer Read: *The Memory Thieves* by Darren Simpson



As we reach the very last week of the academic year and the children prepare to head off to make wonderful new memories over the long summer break, my final book recommendation is fittingly all about the power of our past! My pick for this week is the brilliant and gripping *The Memory Thieves* by Darren Simpson.

The story is set on an extraordinary, mysterious island sanctuary known as Elsewhere. It is a place where people are taken to have their difficult or painful memories completely wiped away. The main character, a boy named Cyan, has lived on the island for years and is perfectly content—until he begins to discover strange warning signs and starts to remember things he shouldn't. What follows is a thrilling, fast-paced adventure as Cyan begins to question the strict rules of the island and sets out to uncover the hidden truth about Elsewhere and who he really is.

It is an incredibly thought-provoking and exciting read that perfectly demonstrates our school value of **Courage**. Cyan has to be remarkably brave to face the unknown, challenge the world around him, and learn that our memories—even the tricky ones—are exactly what shape us. It is an absolutely fantastic page-turner and the perfect summer read for our Key Stage 2 children to get completely lost in over the holidays!

Important Update: Free School Meals are Changing

Great news for our school community! The government is expanding Free School Meals from September 2026.

- What is changing? The previous household income cap is being removed for families on Universal Credit. Every household receiving Universal Credit will now qualify for free meals, regardless of their working hours or earnings.
- Why apply? Even if your child currently gets automatic free meals in Reception, Year 1, or Year 2, formally applying through the new criteria unlocks crucial extra funding for our school. This money directly pays for extra staff, resources, and clubs.

- What you need to do: **A letter has now been sent** explaining exactly what you need to do to apply under the new rules.

Important Dates

- **Wednesday 15th July:** Year 5 – Production Oliver with a Twist 1:30
- **Thursday 16th July:** Reception fun afternoon
- **Thursday 16th July:** Nursery graduation from 1.30.
- **Friday 17th July:** 1:45pm – Leavers' Assembly for Y6 Families
- **Friday 17th July:** Break up for Summer

Swimming

As we begin looking ahead to the next academic year and planning our curriculum, I want to make you aware of an upcoming change to our school swimming provision. Historically, we have been very fortunate to offer swimming lessons for a full academic year. However, due to a combination of increasing timetable pressures across the wider curriculum and ongoing funding constraints, we will now be offering these sessions for half a year instead. Moving forward, all school swimming lessons will take place during the first half of Year 3. Please be assured that while the timeframe is shorter, our **Commitment** to ensuring the children receive high-quality, focused instruction to build their water confidence and safety skills remains as strong as ever.

Wraparound Care for September

As we finalise our preparations for the new academic year, we are currently organising our wraparound care provision for September. If your family requires a place in our before or after-school clubs for the upcoming term, please do get in touch with the school office as soon as possible. Spaces can fill up incredibly quickly, and we want to ensure we have everything in place and are completely **Ready** to support our families when the children return. You can reach the office team via email or a quick phone call to secure your spot or discuss your requirements for the year ahead!

Calling All Library Books!

With just a few days left, it is urgent that we get our wonderful school library organised and ready for September.

Please could I kindly ask all families to have a really good hunt around at home over the next few days—under beds, tucked on bookshelves, or hiding at the bottom of school bags—for any Kirkstall Valley library books. We need to collect them all back in so that we can take a full inventory, repair any tired copies, and prepare the shelves for the new academic year.

Please do not worry if a book has been kept at home a little longer than usual; there is absolutely no trouble at all! If you could just pop any school library books into your child's bag to be returned to their class teacher as soon as possible, we would be incredibly grateful. Thank you so much for your continued support!

Breakfast Club: Keeping Everyone Safe

As our breakfast club continues to be incredibly popular, I need to share a very important safeguarding reminder regarding morning drop-offs. Please could I kindly ask that all parents and carers physically accompany their children into the school building and hand them over directly to a member of the breakfast club team. We absolutely cannot have children walking into the school grounds or building by themselves in the morning. Our number one priority is ensuring that every single child is entirely **Safe** and accounted for from the very moment they arrive on site. Taking those few extra seconds to hand them over in person guarantees they are securely registered and ready for a great start to their day. Thank you so much for your complete cooperation and understanding with this vital procedure!

Staying Safe in the Sun: A final Hot Week Ahead this week...

As we look ahead to the forecast for next week, it seems like we might be facing more very hot weather! We are expecting some very hot and sunny days, so we need to work together to ensure all the children are prepared to safely enjoy their time outdoors.

Please could I kindly ask for your support with the following three summer essentials:

- **Water Bottles:** Please ensure your child comes to school with a clearly named, refillable water bottle. We will be reminding them to drink plenty of water and stay hydrated throughout the day.
- **Sun Hats:** A wide-brimmed hat or cap (named!) is vital for keeping the sun off their faces and necks during break times, lunchtimes, and outdoor PE lessons.
- **Sunscreen:** Please apply a high-factor, long-lasting sunscreen to your child *before* they leave the house in the morning.

We will, of course, be keeping a very close eye on the temperatures, ensuring the children make use of the (limited) shaded areas on the playground, and adapting our outdoor activities if it becomes too warm. Thank you so much for your help in keeping everyone cool, safe, and ready to learn!



In Design Technology this week, Y6 have designed, made and evaluated vegetable curries and chapattis. They were delicious! Some curries may have made it home; others were devoured at school. They demonstrated some excellent cooking skills and worked extremely well together in small groups.



Saturday's cycle



Just in case you're interested, I managed to get round the very hot and very hilly North Yorkshire cauldron on Saturday in just under seven hours (not quite Tour de France standards!). It has been a great year of cycling for me and has made me think a lot about our school values: **Courage**, **Compassion** (mostly for myself when tackling those steep inclines!!), and **Commitment**. I am really looking forward to riding in some different places over the summer. Have fun doing whatever it is you love doing over the holidays—I hope you all manage to get outside into nature as often as possible. It is so important!

Focus on	Digital Leaders
As we approach the final days of the term, I want to share a huge wrap-up and a massive thank you to our incredible student Digital Leaders! It has been absolutely fantastic to see our children stepping up and taking a proactive lead on such an essential area of modern school life. With technology moving so quickly, having peer-led support is incredibly powerful. Our Digital Leaders have worked tirelessly all year, sharing brilliant advice, giving up their time, and running sessions to help their classmates navigate the digital world responsibly. Their dedication has played a massive part in helping their peers keep completely Safe online, reminding everyone about the importance of privacy, kindness, and knowing when to take a break from screens. Empowering our pupils to lead these conversations not only builds their own leadership skills but creates a wonderful culture of trust across the school. Thank you, Digital Leaders—you have shown amazing Commitment to keeping our Kirkstall Valley community safe!	

Payments

A reminder that we no longer use ParentPay. All payments should be made through the Arbor app. Any issues with this please let the office know.

Year 6 SATs: An Important Update on Results

I am writing to share a brief update with our Year 6 families regarding the recent SATs assessments. We know that many of you, along with the children, are eagerly awaiting these outcomes. Unfortunately, there has been a delay in the release of the data this year, and the school will now not receive the final results until Thursday, 16th July.

Please be assured that despite this incredibly tight turnaround before the end of term, we have made a firm **Commitment** to ensuring that every single family receives their child's results before we break up for the summer holidays. We will work as quickly as possible to

process the information the moment it arrives, and we will keep you fully updated on exactly how and when these will be distributed next week. Thank you so much for your patience and understanding!



Jargon Buster

We know that education is one of the worst institutions for using technical jargon and acronyms. In this section over the next term, I'll try and explain a few!

ARE (Age-Related Expectations) As you read through your child's end-of-year school report this week, you might spot the acronym 'ARE'. This simply stands for Age-Related Expectations. It is the national standard that the Department for Education expects a child to have reached by the end of their specific year group. If your child is described as 'working at ARE', it is brilliant news—it means they are right on track and achieving exactly what they should be for their age!

GD (Greater Depth) Following on from ARE, another term you might see on your child's end-of-year report or in their upcoming SATs results is 'GD', which stands for Greater Depth. If a child is working at Greater Depth, it means they have not only met the expected standard for their age group but have truly mastered it. They are able to confidently apply their knowledge to solve more complex problems, explain their reasoning clearly, and use their skills independently across different subjects. It shows an incredible amount of Commitment to their learning and proves they are absolutely Ready to tackle new challenges as they move up into their new classes!

Every day, every single person:



Safe



Ready



Respectful



Courage



Compassion



Commitment

Staffing 2026-27

Headteacher	Mr Phil Robertson		
Deputy Headteacher	Mr Ashley Lund		
Senior Leaders	Ms Rebecca Hague (School Business Manager)	Mrs Angela May (SENDCO)	Miss Toni Otley
	<u>Class teachers:</u>	<u>Teaching assistants</u>	<u>Learning support:</u>
Nursery	Mrs Harriet Whiting	Miss Lynn White Mrs Hanane Okhaya	
Reception	Miss Toni Otley	Mrs Naheed Shafiq Miss Marcia Knowles Miss Siobhan Devanny	Miss Nicole Barlow
Year 1	Ms Clare Piscicelli	Miss Jane McCloy Mrs Angela Draper	Mrs Louise Crossland
Year 2	Mr Ashley Lund Mrs Louise Ellis	Mrs Sandra Tordoff	Miss Rachel Blackburn Miss Leanne Thackray
Year 3	Mrs Katherine Gautrey Mrs Hannah Mason	Mrs Jackie Patterson	Mrs Leanne Collins Miss Marcia Knowles
Year 4	Mr Jamie Davies	Mrs Karen Lander	TBC Mr Nicholas Babatunde
Year 5	Mrs Fiona Passey	Mr Adam Baldock	
Year 6	Mrs Charlotte Bampton Mrs Claire Bridges	Mrs Andrea Dilucia Ms Wanda Selby Mrs Sandra Tordoff	TBC
HLTA	Mrs Sandra Tordoff Mrs Lisa Long		
Learning Mentor	Miss Sarah Wigglesworth		
Inclusion Team	Mrs Angela May	Ms Wanda Selby EAL	
Site & Network Manager	Mr Alan Phillips		
<u>Office Staff:</u>			
School Business Manager	Ms Rebecca Hague		
Administrative assistant	Mrs Laura Gledhill Mrs Azra Ali		



Kirkstall Valley Primary School

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Email: info@kirkstallvalley.org.uk

Head Teacher: Mr Phil Robertson
Chair of Governors: Mrs Colleen Jackson

School calendar academic year 2026-2027

Holiday	Schools close			Schools open		
Summer break				Wednesday 2 September	2026	
Autumn mid-term	Friday	23 October	2026	Tuesday 3 November	2026	
Christmas break	Friday	18 December	2026	Tuesday 5 January	2027	
Spring mid-term	Friday	12 February	2027	Monday 22 February	2027	
Easter break	Friday	2 April	2027	Monday 19 April	2027	
May Bank Holiday	Friday	30 April	2027	Tuesday 4 May	2027	
Summer mid-term	Thursday	27 May	2027	Monday 7 June	2027	
Summer break	Thursday	22 July	2027			

Bank Holidays include

Christmas	25 & 28	December	2026
New Year's Day	1	January	2027
Good Friday	26	March	2027
Easter Monday	29	March	2027
May Day	3	May	2027
Spring Bank	31	May	2027
August	30	August	2027

Teacher Training Days - School Closed

Tuesday	1 September	2026
Monday	2 November	2026
Monday	4 January	2027
Friday	28 May	2027
Friday	25 June	2027



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 come to school in PE clothes on days they have PE