
24th November 2025



Kirkstall Valley Primary School

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Dear Kirkstall Valley Primary School Families,

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

I've been enjoying learning some BSL this week for our Language of the Month. On Friday, we were lucky to have a BSL sign interpreter visit us. What a fascinating job she has! She signs for all kinds of events and activities. She was telling the children that she had signed for many bands at big concerts and festivals including Deftones, Korn, Busted and many other bands the children had never heard of!

Have you been taught any BSL by your children yet?!

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



Diary Dates

Tuesday 25th November
SEND Coffee Morning

Tuesday 25th November
Autumn Fayre after school

Tuesday 2nd December
Mini First Aid Y1,2,3

Thursday 11th December
Christmas jumper and dinner day

Friday 19th December
End of term

Attendance to date:

YR – 94.8%

Year 1 – 94.7%

Year 2 – 95.4% 🏆

Year 3 – 93.4%

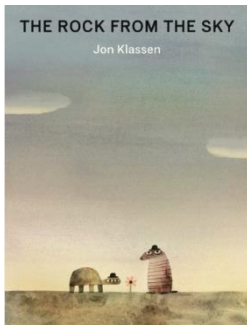
Year 4 – 92.8%

Year 5 – 94.7%

Year 6 – 95.3%

School = **94.4%** (Target = 96%)

Robertson Recommends



It's not just chapter books I love, but also picture books. There's nothing I love better than a Reading Assembly where I can share a great book with the children. These are always books which are available in our library.

One of absolute favourites is *The Rock from the Sky* by Jon Klassen. It's hilarious and such a great book to read out loud.

The Rock from the Sky is a collection of five interconnected, deadpan vignettes featuring a turtle, an armadillo, and a snake. In classic Klassen style, the tension revolves around impending doom that the characters are largely oblivious to.

The story opens with the turtle standing in a specific spot because "it is a good spot." The armadillo has a bad feeling about that spot and suggests moving. After some stubborn back-and-forth, the turtle eventually moves, and seconds later, a massive rock crushes the spot where he was just standing.

From there, the narrative explores themes of fate, stubbornness, and the randomness of the universe. The characters navigate near-misses, imagine a futuristic alien creature (which turns out to be real), and watch a sunset, all while the massive rock sits ominously in the background. It is a meditation on luck and the importance of listening to your gut (or your friends), told with minimalist art and maximum tension – and tonnes of humour! **Why not ask your child to select this book on their next library session and bring it home to share?! I guarantee you'll love it!**

Spotlight on Learning

Year 2



Year 2 are having a fantastic half term, and we are incredibly proud of their exemplary behaviour during our recent trip to the cinema. The children represented the school beautifully. They showed kindness, respect, and curiosity throughout the visit. Their enthusiasm made the experience both enjoyable and memorable.

Back in the classroom, Year 2 continue to impress us with their motivation and engagement in learning. In English, the children are beginning to innovate their own versions of the well-loved wishing narrative *The Elves and the Shoemaker*. They have been exploring new characters, settings, and magical twists, showing wonderful creativity and growing confidence in their writing.

Excitement is also building as the children rehearse for this year's festive play, *Bethlehem Bake-Off*. Year 2 are working hard to learn their lines, songs, and actions, and we can already see their bright personalities shining through. We can't wait to share their hard work and talent with you soon!

SEND Coffee Morning

Please join us **tomorrow morning** from 08:45 for our termly SEND Coffee Morning. As well as the usual chance to catch up, we will be diving into the **Leeds Local Offer**. For those unaware, this is the central hub for all SEND services, activities, and support groups across Leeds, but it can be tricky to navigate. We will be sharing tips on how to find exactly what you need for your family—from local clubs to specialist advice. It is a great chance to ask questions and demystify the system over a biscuit and a brew. We look forward to seeing you there.

Autumn Fayre

Join us for the **Kirkstall Valley Primary School Autumn Fayre on Tuesday, 25th November starting at 3:15 PM!** We warmly invite all families, friends, and members of the community to celebrate the season with us. There'll be a variety of festive stalls, games, and activities, including tempting treats, craft sales, and opportunities to win prizes. It's a wonderful chance to support the school, catch up with other families, and enjoy a vibrant afternoon of fun and community spirit right after school finishes. We look forward to seeing you there!

Assembly Music

In Assembly, current artists have been **The Beatles and Chopin.**

Lifelong Learning – A personal note!

I wanted to share a brief personal update to highlight the importance of lifelong learning. I have recently completed my MSc in Leadership and Management, graduating with a distinction. We frequently speak to the children about the value of commitment and the importance of challenging oneself, so it felt right to practice what we preach. Being back in the position of a 'student'—with deadlines and homework!—has been a wonderful reminder that education doesn't stop when you leave the classroom. I look forward to using what I have learned to continue supporting our school community.

Start Time

Please can I respectfully remind families that the school start time is **08:45**? This is the time which lessons begin and important learning is reviewed so it is essential that children are in school and ready to learn **by this time**. Please help us by having children ready to enter school at **08:40**. Thank you ☺

Did you know...?

School History



Did you know that KVPS has a long and rich history?

In 1904, the Kirkstall Road Infants School, now known as Kirkstall Valley Primary School, opened its doors on Kirkstall Road in Leeds, with the headteacher, Miss Mary Blackburn, adopting the Maria Montessori educational method. The larger Kirkstall Middle School also opened that year, creating a classic Victorian structure with

separate entrances, playgrounds, and lessons for boys and girls, though both were mixed-sex schools. Lessons focused on the 3Rs, and boys were taught woodwork while girls learned needlework and home economics.



The MindMate Leaders have worked incredibly hard sharing information for Anti-Bullying Week. Using the national theme '*Power for Good*', the leaders have explored how each of us can help create a kinder, safer school community by making thoughtful choices every day.

Drawing on key messages from this year's Anti-Bullying materials, the leaders have shared what bullying really means, explaining to pupils that bullying is *repeated, intentional behaviour* that can take many forms, including unkind words, leaving others out and physical harm. They have emphasised how these behaviours can make others feel sad, worried, or alone, and why it's so important that we all work together to prevent them.

Throughout the week, our MindMate Leaders have been championing the idea, "Power for Good," encouraging every child to:

- **Be a buddy** by choosing kindness, including others, and treating everyone with respect.
- **Speak up for others** by telling a trusted adult when they see or experience unkind or unsafe behaviour.
- **Be courageous** by standing together and supporting others who may be feeling upset or left out.
- **Celebrate small acts of kindness**, recognising that even a smile, a kind word, or an invitation to play can make a big difference.

Attendance



I cannot stress enough that every single school day matters. Primary education is cumulative; it is like building a wall where every lesson is a brick that supports the next. When a child misses a Monday, the maths concept taught on Tuesday becomes shaky, and by Wednesday, they can feel lost and anxious. Attendance is not simply about obeying rules or hitting targets; it is about **commitment** to one's own potential. We work incredibly hard to design a curriculum that flows seamlessly, but we need your children here to experience it. Please, help us to help them keep those foundations strong—every day counts.

Our Language of the Month: British Sign Language (BSL)

It's been a great start to our current Language of the Month (BSL) so I thought I'd leave the below in this week's newsletter to encourage you to take part at home!

Why not try these 5 basic BSL signs at home?:

English Word	How to Sign (BSL)
Hello	Place a flat hand near your temple and move it outwards in a short wave/salute motion.
Thank You	Place the fingertips of a flat hand on your chin, then move the hand outwards and slightly down.
Please	Rub the palm of a flat hand in a circle on your chest.
Good	Place your dominant hand's fingertips on your chin, then bring the hand down into the palm of your non-dominant hand.
Again	Place the fingertips of your dominant hand into the palm of your non-dominant hand. Move your dominant hand up and tap the fingertips back into the palm.

Meet Your Governors	 Ashley Lund
	<p>I am delighted to have the role of Associate Governor at KVPS. For me, this role is about ensuring that the decisions we make at a strategic level are always rooted in the reality of what works best for our children and staff.</p> <p>Having served as Deputy Headteacher here for the last three years, I have a deep affection for this school. I also bring prior experience as a governor at another primary school, so I understand the vital role that strong governance plays in driving standards. It is a privilege to serve this community, and I look forward to using my experience to help KVPS continue to thrive.</p>



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	Friday	1 May	2026	Tuesday	5 May	2026
Summer mid-term	Friday	22 May	2026	Monday	1 June	2026
Summer break	Friday	17 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
Monday	<u>20 July</u>	2026
Tuesday	<u>21 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 come to school in PE clothes on days they have PE