

---

# 15<sup>th</sup> June 2026

---



## Kirkstall Valley Primary School

Argie Road, Leeds LS4 2QZ

www.kirkstallvalley.org.uk T: 0113 887 8982

---

Dear Kirkstall Valley Primary School Families,

How are you? I hope this newsletter finds you well and that you all enjoyed a wonderful, restful May half-term break.

If you are a football fan, I hope you are enjoying the World Cup. As a Scotland supporter, it's been nice to see Scotland placed above Brazil in the group table (although I realise this is fleeting!).

Thanks to those of you who came to see the Science Show on Friday. It sounded like lots of fun! Hopefully it might have inspired some of our children (and adults?) to pursue a career in science.

Loads going on in school – if you want to talk to me about anything, come and have a chat.

Please note, I have added the 26/27 academic calendar to the bottom of this newsletter for your information.

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>

---



### Diary Dates

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June  
Year 6 Safety visit to Leeds Railway Station

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June  
Summer Fayre

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June  
Whole School Screen Free Day

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July  
Transition Morning

### Attendance to date:

YR – 94.2% ↓

Year 1 – 95.3% ↑

Year 2 – 95.4% ↓

Year 3 – 92.3% ↓

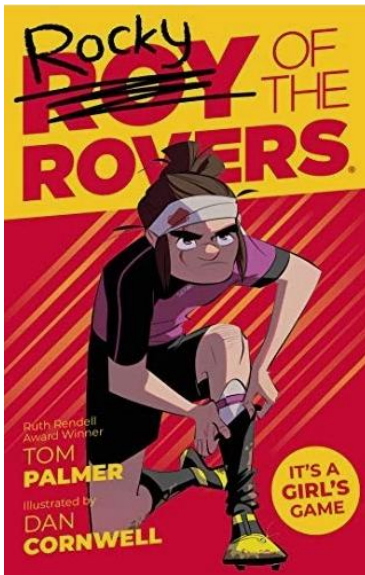
Year 4 – 91.4% ↑

Year 5 – 94.0% ↓

Year 6 – 95.6% ↓ 👑

School = 94% - (Target = 96%)

## Robertson Recommends: Roy of the Rovers - Rocky



I thought it was only fitting to choose a sports-themed read for this week! I have chosen *Roy of the Rovers: Rocky* by the brilliant children's author, Tom Palmer.

The story focuses on Rocky Race, the younger sister of the famous Melchester Rovers striker, Roy. While her brother is making headlines and living the dream, Rocky is just as passionate and talented, but she faces a frustrating uphill battle trying to find a dedicated girls' team to play for. She has to watch from the sidelines while desperately wanting to be in the thick of the action herself. Despite the setbacks and the lack of equal opportunities, her love for the beautiful game never wavers.

It is an incredibly inspiring read that perfectly showcases our school values of Courage and Commitment. Rocky has to show immense determination to carve out her own path, overcome the hurdles in her way, and prove that football truly is a game for absolutely everyone. Tom Palmer is incredibly skilled at writing fast-paced, accessible stories that grip reluctant readers, making this an absolute must-read for any of our football-mad children in Key Stage 2!

## 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: **Please keep an eye out for correspondence** which will be coming out this week explaining exactly what you need to do to apply under the new rules.

## Headingley and Kirkstall Combined Schools Band

I had the absolute pleasure of accompanying our musicians who play in the school Headingley and Kirkstall Combined Schools Band on Thursday as they played for an audience at Kirkstall St Stephen's Primary School. The hall was packed for the children as they confidently performed four pieces: Furiosa, Wallace and Gromit, Star Wars and (my favourite!) The Final Countdown! They played brilliantly and I know Mrs Braithwaite who leads the band was very proud indeed.

On Saturday the band will play at the Headingley Youth Music Festival and everyone is most welcome to come along and watch them and the many other music talents on display on the day. Hopefully see you there!

## Coast to Coast: The Next Chapter



Now that the dust has settled on the incredible journey to Whitby, my thoughts have inevitably turned toward the next challenge in aid of Parkinson's UK!

I am completely determined to keep my current level of fitness ticking over throughout the summer months. I plan to get plenty of miles in while navigating the roads and enjoying the sunshine during our family holiday to Crete, which should certainly help keep my legs moving and maintain the momentum.

Looking ahead to next year, I am excited to commit to an even bigger bike-based challenge with an even more ambitious fundraising target. I haven't yet decided exactly what that journey will look like, so if anyone in our wonderful

school community has any suggestions for an epic cycling route, I am very much open to ideas! Until then, please do watch this space!

Thank you so much to everyone who has supported the fundraising for Parkinson's UK. If you would like to contribute you are still able to do so for a week or so. My page is here: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/phil-robertson-2>.



## Lifelong Learning

A bit of a refresher this week as it's been a while since I gave this my proper attention.

## Lost Property: A Helpful Uniform Reminder

As the weather starts to warm up and the children naturally begin taking off their school jumpers and cardigans during playtimes and outdoor activities, our lost property pile can grow rather rapidly! To help us reunite misplaced items with their rightful owners as quickly as possible, please could I kindly ask that all items of school uniform, PE kits, and outerwear are clearly labelled with your child's first name and surname. When every blue jumper and cardigan looks identical, a quick scribble with a permanent laundry marker or a simple stick-on label makes a world of difference. It not only saves our staff team valuable time at the end of the day, but it also saves families the unnecessary expense and frustration of replacing missing clothing. Thank you so much for your cooperation with this!

## Special Assemblies

If your child is up for an award at one of our special assemblies, I will send an invite by email on a Thursday. Please do check your emails (including junk folders).



We have been very busy in Nursery, enjoying lots of new and exciting activities. This term, our focus is "The Farm." The children have loved learning about different farm animals, where they live, the sounds they make, and how the farmer cares for them. Next, we will be exploring different jobs on the farm, types of farms, and big farm machinery.

Alongside our farm topic, we are looking after some caterpillars and learning about their life - cycle. The children watched carefully as they made their cocoons, and we are now eagerly waiting for them to emerge as butterflies. To support this, we have been reading *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. The children really enjoyed the story, and we have been tasting the different healthy fruits from the book to encourage good eating habits from an early age.

Looking ahead, we are excited for our upcoming Nursery Graduation and our trip to Kirkstall Valley Farm, which will be a wonderful way to finish our year together.

Well done to all our Nursery children for showing such fantastic curiosity this term!

### Assembly Focus: Language of the Month - Japanese

This morning, we gathered together for a fantastic assembly to introduce our brand new Language of the Month: Japanese! The children were absolutely brilliant at having a go at some new greetings and learning a little bit about the rich culture and traditions of Japan. Exploring different languages is always such a wonderful way to broaden our horizons and foster a sense of curiosity about the wider world—and it ties in perfectly with our 'Did You Know?' fact this week! I am thoroughly looking forward to hearing the children enthusiastically practising their 'Konnichiwa's and 'Arigatou's in the corridors and on the playground over the coming weeks.

### Music of the Week: Joep Beving

For our assembly music last week, we took a slightly different, much more tranquil approach by listening to the beautiful piano compositions of Joep Beving.

As we navigate this final, incredibly busy half-term of the academic year—filled with trips, transition preparations, and excitement for the summer—it is so important to find moments of calm. Joep Beving's contemporary, minimalist piano music provided exactly that. It was wonderful to see the children enter the hall and immediately respond to the soothing, gentle melodies, taking a collective breath and enjoying a peaceful moment of reflection before we started our day.

It served as a brilliant reminder to the children that amidst all the hustle, bustle, and excitement of school life, taking time to find a little quiet focus can help us all feel truly **Ready** for the challenges and learning ahead!

## Did you know...?

### The World Cup Champions of Respect!



With the summer of football upon us, this week's fact takes a look at the biggest tournament of them all: the World Cup. But instead of focusing on goal-scoring records, this fact is all about one of our core school values!

Did you know that during recent World Cups, the Japanese national team and their fans became famous across the globe not just for their footballing skills, but for their incredible manners?

After every single match, regardless of whether they experienced a joyful win or a heartbreaking loss, the Japanese fans stayed behind in the stadium to help the cleaning staff pick up rubbish from the stands. Meanwhile, the players made sure to leave their dressing room absolutely spotless, even leaving behind thank-you notes for the host nation!

This is a phenomenal, real-world example of our school value of being Respectful. It serves as a brilliant reminder to the children that true champions aren't just defined by their talent on the pitch, but by how they treat their environment and the people around them, win or lose!

### Summer Fayre



Our **world-famous\* Summer Fayre** will be taking place again on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June straight after school. If you'd like to win a tombola prize, try your luck on a variety of stalls or soak the Headteacher with soggy sponges, then do come along!

\* I told my Dad about it and he lives in America.

# Focus on



Arts Leaders are busy preparing for the exciting return of **Kirkstall's Got Talent**, taking place on Friday 10th July. Auditions are beginning this week and pupils have the chance to showcase their amazing skills, from singing and dancing to magic, comedy and much more, with their class. Ticket information for the main show on Friday 10th July will be shared soon.

## 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.



## 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!

**SENDCO** (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Co-ordinator) You might see this acronym on our website or hear it mentioned in meetings. Our SENDCO is a dedicated teacher who holds the vital responsibility of coordinating the provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) within the school. They work incredibly closely with class teachers, parents, and external specialists to ensure that every single child has the tailored support, environment, and resources they need to thrive and reach their full potential.

**MTC** (Multiplication Tables Check) As we are currently in June, parents of Year 4 children might have heard this acronym recently! The MTC is a short, statutory assessment that children take nationwide around this time of year. It is a quick, on-screen check to see how fluently children can recall their times tables up to 12 x 12. Just like the Phonics Screening Check, we keep it very low-pressure for the children—it simply helps us identify who might need a little extra support with their maths fluency as they move into the upper school.

Every day, every single person:



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



**Kirkstall Valley Primary School**

Argie Road  
LEEDS  
LS4 2QZ

Tel: 0113 8878982

Fax: 0113 2306186

Email: [info@kirkstallvalley.org.uk](mailto: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