
29th September 2025



Kirkstall Valley Primary School

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Dear Kirkstall Valley Primary School Families,

I won't pretend that last past week was anything less than challenging. From unexpected hiccups to the everyday pressures we all face, it's certainly tested our reserves.

However, as I reflect on last week in school, my abiding feeling is one of immense privilege. It is a genuine honour to lead this school and to work alongside such a dedicated staff team, but most importantly, to be part of the community that helps your children flourish every single day. Seeing their bright ideas, their determination, and their sheer joy in learning truly puts everything into perspective.

Thank you for your continued support, especially when the week gets tough – as it inevitably can do for all of us. We look forward to a fantastic, perhaps slightly calmer, week ahead!

Best wishes,

Phil Robertson – Headteacher

Our Inclusive School

At KVPS, our core mission is to create a nurturing and inclusive environment where every child can thrive and reach their full potential. From time to time, we have children within our school community who require extra support to manage their emotions and behaviours. This can sometimes lead to behaviours that don't meet our usual expectations, and we acknowledge that this may occasionally impact other children. Please be

The small school with a big heart



Diary Dates

Thursday 2nd October
Come Read and Numbot Y2 08:30

Thursday 2nd October
NHS Hearing Screening Year 1

Monday 6th October
Y6 Bikeability

Thursday 9th October
Happy Kids Yoga Year 2

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%

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

assured that our staff are highly skilled and committed to supporting every child's individual needs whilst also ensuring that disruption is kept to an absolute minimum. We believe that by working together and striving to be the most inclusive school possible, we teach all of our pupils the vital values of compassion, patience, and understanding. Thank you for your continued support in helping us build a community where every child is valued and celebrated.

Spotlight on Learning

Year 4



Year 4s have been enjoying their art this week, exploring still life. With inspiration from French artist Paul Cezanne, they have learned that everyday objects can be brought to life with a detailed drawing. The pupils have learned different shading techniques, and drawn incredible looking apples.



Great British Roast Menu – Everyone's Welcome!

We're excited to offer a special dinner menu on 2nd October 2025, and everyone is welcome to come along and give it a try!

The cost is £3 for children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 who are not eligible for free school meals. For children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, the meal is free.

Football in school

We have two sessions per day for our older (Y4, 5, 6) children and one session per day for our younger children to play football in school. These games promote on-pitch leadership from all children and seek to instill in children KVPS values in sport (courage, compassion and commitment) as well as our rules of safe, ready and respectful. Football can be a high octane competitive game and we want all of our children to be able to access the sport in safe and fun way. We will be adding players of the week certificates in our Special Assemblies on Fridays for children who have consistently shown these values.

Special Assemblies

Speaking of special assemblies, just a word on how these work. Teachers and other members of staff nominate children each week from their classes. If your child is up for an award, I'll send you an in-app message on Arbor on Thursday and invite you along to the assembly the following day from 2:35pm. Even more reasons to have downloaded the app!

Tech She Can



Year 5s were lucky to take part in the Tech She Can workshop this week. Technology is shaping our future, and it's important for children to see the wide range of careers it offers and how it can benefit society. Fran will be working with Class 5 throughout the year. Our first lesson, Tech for Sustainable Transport, included a hands-on task using indi sphero robots. The children showed great problem-solving skills and are excited for the next session.

More about STEM below!



STEM Assembly

Throughout the year, Mrs Bridges from Year 6 will be leading Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) assemblies on a Monday. She will be talking about the STEM characteristics below and each week linking these to a 'STEM hero'! These might be people who work in STEM jobs now, or STEM heroes from the past. Today's hero is [Katherine Johnson](#) and the characteristic is **self-motivated**.

collaborative open-minded committed communicator creative curious hard-working imaginative logical observant organised passionate patient resilient self-motivated

Did you know...?

Social Media



Here are the minimum sign-up ages for some of the most popular social media platforms in the UK:

- **Facebook:** 13
- **Instagram:** 13
- **TikTok:** 13
- **Snapchat:** 13
- **WhatsApp:** 13 (in the UK, or 16 in some other countries)
- **X (formerly Twitter):** 13
- **YouTube:** There is no minimum age to *watch* content, but users must be **13** to create an account, upload videos, or comment.

NHS Hearing Screening

On Thursday 2nd October, routine hearing checks will be carried out in school by NHS staff for Year 1 pupils. This helps identify any early hearing issues and supports children's learning and development.

Focus on

Chess Club



Chess is an exceptional tool for child development, offering a wealth of benefits that extend beyond the chessboard. It is a fantastic way to improve critical thinking, problem-solving, and concentration, as it requires players to plan moves ahead and anticipate their opponent's strategy. By playing, children learn to think logically and to understand the consequences of their actions. It also teaches them resilience and good sportpersonship, as they learn to win and lose gracefully. These skills are invaluable and can significantly enhance academic performance across various subjects. We are delighted to have a very active chess club for pupils from Year 4 and up, which meets every Wednesday after school in the Family Room.

European Languages Day

We had a fantastic time celebrating European Language Day this past Friday! It was a vibrant day of discovery as our classes immersed themselves in seven different languages: Italian, French, German, Dutch, Romanian, Portuguese, and Makaton. The children thoroughly enjoyed the practical activities, from counting and greetings to learning new songs. The day culminated in a superb whole-school assembly where each class proudly performed a new song or poem they had learned. The confidence and enthusiasm on display as the children showcased their new skills were brilliant, reflecting a truly successful day of linguistic and cultural exploration across the school.

Meet Your Governors



Cath Scanlon – Co-opted Governor



I'm currently a Year 6 teacher, UKS2 and Science Lead. I have worked in education for the past 17 years in a variety of settings across Leeds and in all year groups from Reception upwards.

I am local to the area and previously attended Kirkstall Primary and Middle School as they were previously known. This is my first governor role but I am very much looking forward to supporting the school.



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