
13th October 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!

At the moment I am showing lots of families around school who are thinking of choose KVPS for their Reception child in 2026. This is one of my favourite jobs to do in school. I love showing the journey from children completely immersed in play at Nursery and Reception to children reasoning and challenging and building on each other's points in the older classes. I love talking about what makes KVPS a special place and about the diversity of children we are lucky enough to teach. I love talking about the wonderful community we are so proud to serve. It's such a big decision thinking about which school to send your child – particularly your first – but I know that KVPS is a place where children thrive.

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

Changes to lunch times and break times

From today, we are making some changes to our break and lunch times. Break times will now be split into Years 1,2,3 and 4,5,6 to allow children to have a bigger, less crowded area to play in. Similarly at lunch times, we will be organizing this into two sittings to allow children to have more time to

The small school with a big heart



Diary Dates

Tuesday 14th October
First in-person parents' evening

Wednesday 15th October
Parents/carers Zones of regulation
info session

Friday 17th October
Y5 and 6 Eden Camp trip

Tuesday 21st October
Second telephone parents'
evening

Attendance to date:

YR – 95.3%

Year 1 – 95.7%

Year 2 – 97.5% 🏰

Year 3 – 95.8%

Year 4 – 92.9%

Year 5 – 96.4%

Year 6 – 95.2%

School = **95.6%** (Target = 96%)

eat and chat with friends and reduce the rush and crowding of the playground. I'm a bit nervous about remembering all of this today so I'll let you know how it's gone in my next newsletter!

Bikeability

Thanks to our Year 6 team for organizing and facilitating Bikeability for the Y6 children last week. CycleNorth came into school and developed children's cycling skills and safety knowledge, even getting some children safely out onto the busy roads surrounding school.

It seems a hundred years ago since I did this at primary school (then called Cycling Proficiency – way less cool!) but I have cycled all my life since then and I'm so glad that our children are still getting a good bike education today!

PE Kit Change reminder

Final newsletter reminder 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	

Spotlight on Learning



Reception

The best apple crumble

PREP: 15 MINS COOK: 40 MINS
EASY
SERVES 4

Ingredients

For the filling

- 575g Bramley apple
(3 medium apples), peeled, cored and sliced to 1 cm thick (see tip)
- 2 tbsp golden caster sugar

For the crumble

- 175g plain flour
- 110g golden caster sugar
- 110g cold butter

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 190C/170 fan/gas 5. Toss the apples with the 2 tbsp sugar and put in a 23cm round baking dish at least 5cm deep, or a 20cm square dish. Flatten down with your hand to prevent too much crumble falling through.
2. Put the flour and 110g sugar in a bowl with a good pinch of salt, slice in the butter and rub it in with your fingertips until the mixture looks like moist breadcrumbs. Shake the bowl and any big bits will come to the surface – rub them in. Alternatively, pulse in a processor until sandy (don't over-process).
3. Pour the crumb mix over the apples to form a pile in the centre, then use a fork to even out. Gently press the surface with the back of the fork so the crumble holds together and goes crisp, then lightly drag the fork over the top for a decorative finish. Sprinkle the oats and demerara over evenly, if you wish.
4. Set on a baking tray and put in the preheated oven for 35-40 minutes, until the top is golden and the apples feel very soft when you insert a small, sharp knife. Leave to cool for 10 minutes before serving.



This week, our story of the week was *The Very Helpful Hedgehog*, where we followed the kind-hearted Isaac the hedgehog as he helped his friend the donkey by delivering his favourite fruit – apples! Inspired by Isaac's generosity, today we made our very own delicious apple crumble. The children loved chopping, mixing, and of course, tasting! We've

added our recipe to our special KVPS cook books, and we've also attached a copy for you to try at home. We're sure the children would be delighted to tell you all about how we made it – happy baking!

Assembly Music

In Assembly this week we have listened to the Cello Suite No. 1 in G Major by JS Bach, played by YoY o Ma. There is a great book in our library all about the life and work of YoY o Ma!

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...?

Retrieval Practice



Did you know that playing simple memory games can be the best kind of homework? Experts call it **retrieval practice**, and it's the secret to making learning stick! Instead of just reading a list of spellings or facts over and over, encourage your child to **close the book** and try to remember as much as they can. You could turn it into a fun game: perhaps they tell you **three facts** about the Romans they learned today, or you give them a topic and they have to **draw a picture** that explains it without looking at their notes. This simple act of recalling information, even if it feels tricky at first, is what truly locks learning into their long-term memory. Give it a try tonight!

Focus on

Library



Our library is my favourite room in the whole school! Not only because it is cosy with its foliage and cosy lighting but also because it is jam-packed with brilliant books! We have something for everyone in there. Our sections are: picture books, chapter fiction, short but sweet, assembly books, Mr Robertson Recommends, Graphic Novels, Foreign Language books and of course our fantastic curriculum led non-fiction section.

Our books reflect the diversity of our children. They are current, exciting and relevant to our school community.

I really hope your child speaks positively about their times in our library and that you have been able to share some of the books they bring home.

I wonder which one has been your favourite (so far!)...

Meet Your Governors

Lauren Cannan – Staff Governor



As staff governor, I work at KVPS and have lots of experience within school. I have been Reception teacher for the majority of my teaching career, which gives me a lot of experience with the Early Years Curriculum & key priorities. Early Years is a passion of mine and I love working in Reception. However, I do also have experience in Year 2, Year 1 & during my time spent as SENDCo I covered (PPA) across school. As a previous SENDCo, I have good knowledge and understanding around children with SEND and how school is working with these children. I have also been Humanities and PE lead and I am currently Science Lead, so I have good curriculum knowledge.



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