

22nd September 2025



Kirkstall Valley Primary School

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Dear Kirkstall Valley Primary School Families,

How are you? Well I hope! Are you enjoying the new weekly newsletters? Do let me know – and also please do get in touch if there's anything they are missing which I could include.

This week has been another good one although we are definitely in the 'four seasons in a day' weather territory now.

Highlight of the week for me this week was talking to a group of very animated Year 6 mathematicians about why the 1089 number trick (*nearly*) always works and why it always yields a digital root of 9! What a privilege to see excited learning unfold before your eyes!

Best wishes,

Phil Robertson – Headteacher

Arbor App

Another huge thank you to everyone who has signed up for the Arbor app. Over 80% of families are now on the app which makes communication that bit easier. If you haven't signed up yet or you have any difficulties doing so, please do pop and we'll be happy to help.



Diary Dates

Tuesday 23rd September
Tech She Can Workshop – Year 5

Wednesday 24th
September
Rapid Catch-up parent info
morning – Year 2 9am

Wednesday 24th
September
Lawnswood Alumni presentation -
Year 6

Friday 26th September
Flu immunisations (if opted in)

Attendance to date:

YR – 97.1%
Year 1 – 95.9%
Year 2 – 97.1%
Year 3 – 97.6% 🏰
Year 4 – 93%
Year 5 – 97.1%
Year 6 – 97%

School = **96.5%** (Target = 96%)



At Kirkstall Valley, we believe that providing children with leadership opportunities is an essential part of their personal development and learning journey. Across the school, pupils have the chance to take on a range of meaningful roles, including Arts Leaders, Oracy Leaders, Play Leaders, School Council, Librarians, Sustainability Leaders, Mindmate Leaders, and Young Interpreters. These positions are not just about a title; they are about giving children a genuine voice in our school community. By taking on these roles, pupils develop crucial skills such as emotional intelligence, resilience, and self-belief. This also helps them understand the value of courage, compassion, and commitment, which are our core values. By empowering children to lead, we foster a culture of active citizenship and shared responsibility, ensuring they are ready to enter high school with confidence and the essential skills they need to thrive.



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!

Attendance

Although early days, attendance this term has been fantastic, and we are so impressed with the effort everyone has made to be in school every day. Being in class is incredibly important as it allows our children to fully engage with our fast-paced curriculum and ensures they don't miss out on any of their learning. We've seen how well-settled the children are in their new classes, and this has created a brilliant atmosphere for learning and growth. We appreciate all the hard work and commitment from our families in getting the children to school on time and ready to learn.

Did you know...?

Sleep



Getting enough sleep is crucial for children, especially for their memory and learning? While they are sleeping, a part of the brain called the hippocampus is very active, which is essential for creating new memories and helping them recall what they've learned the following day.

The amount of sleep a child needs varies by age. Experts recommend that:

- **3 to 5-year-olds** should get **10–13 hours** of sleep per 24 hours.
- **6 to 12-year-olds** should get **9–12 hours** of sleep per 24 hours.
- **13 to 18-year-olds** should get **8–10 hours** of sleep per 24 hours.

Establishing a regular bedtime routine can help ensure children get the rest they need to thrive.

Immunisations

Immunisations will take place for those families who have opted in this Friday in school. Please note that this is not something school organises and we are now not able to add children to the list.

Focus on

Arts Leaders



This week, we caught up with one of our brilliant Year 6 Arts Leaders to hear all about their exciting role. When asked what their job involves, they explained, "My role as an Arts Leader is to focus on and improve the arts so that our school has the best arts offer." Working as part of a team is something they clearly enjoy, saying, "It's an honour to help people have opportunities in the arts by working with teachers and pupils." One highlight of their role so far has been acting as a judge in Kirkstall's Got Talent! "I loved giving all the positive comments to the fantastic acts," they shared with a smile. Looking ahead, the Arts Leaders are aiming to bring even more creativity into school life by planning interactive drama showcases and finding out what pupils would like to see more of in the arts. We can't wait to see what they come up with next!

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