

January 2025 Newsletter



Kirkstall Valley Primary School

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Upcoming Events

Monday 10th February
International Week begins

Tuesday 11th February
Online Safety Day

Supper for Peace 3:30 Hall

Friday 14th February
Assemblies for International Week
Presentations (Time TBC)

School breaks up for half term

Monday 24th February
School begins Spring 2 term

Dear Families,

I'd like to take this opportunity to officially wish you a happy new year and all the best for 2025.

Welcome back to school and the Spring term! I hope that you all had a peaceful break although it already feels like a long time ago!

An exciting term ahead as always with a distinctly international feel. We have just had our language of the month assembly and this month the children have learned some Ukrainian. Next month, we will be holding our annual International Week – more details later in the newsletter. I'd love to hear from you if you'd like to come and talk with us about home languages or cultures.

As always. My door is always open if you need to speak with me.

Best wishes

Phil Robertson – Headteacher

PTA

As soon as your child joins KVPS, you are automatically a member of our Parent Teachers Association. We are always on the lookout for new faces

and fresh ideas. If you are interested in getting involved or would like some more information, then please get in touch – we'd love to hear from you.

There are lots of annual events the PTA organise and would love to have help with.

Other news

Important Date Change

I am needing to make an important amendment to our academic calendar regarding the final days of the summer term.

The current calendar indicates that Tuesday, 22nd July, is scheduled as a teaching day, with Wednesday, 23rd July designated as a staff training day. However, due to an error in the original Leeds calendar, there has been a change. The final day of school for pupils will now be Monday, 21st July. Tuesday, 22nd July, will be a staff training day, and the first day of the school holidays is scheduled for Wednesday, 23rd July.

We understand that this adjustment may require some reorganisation on your part, and we appreciate your flexibility as we align with the corrected schedule. If you have any questions or need further clarification, please feel free to come and speak with me. I attach an amended calendar for your convenience.

International Week

I am delighted that we will once again be hosting our International Week on the final week of this half term (week commencing 10th February). This will involve some in-school activities for children, the opportunity to do a home-research project, visitors in school of an international theme, a final assembly on the Friday for children to present what they have learned and most importantly, our world-famous Supper for Peace event.

If you're new to us, Tuesday 11th February straight after school will be Supper for Peace where we ask anyone who is able to bring in some food to share. This can be from a home country or heritage or just something you're passionate about cooking/preparing and sharing.

This is a really wonderful school event and I do hope that as many people as possible are able to join us in the school hall.

If you are someone who speaks a different home language or has information to share about a different country and might be willing to share this with the children, please get in touch as we have lots of opportunities this week.

Staffing

Just a few things to let you know about: Mr Mackintosh in Year 6 has now finished his maternity cover with us and we welcome Mrs. Bampton back into Year 6. Joining her for half the week is Mrs. Bridges. I know they will make a brilliant Year 6 team!



Attendance to date:

- YR – 93.6%
- Year 1 – 93.8%
- Year 2 – 94.8% 🏆
- Year 3 – 92.7 %
- Year 4 – 94%
- Year 5 – 94.8% 🏆
- Year 6 – 88.6%

Class Punctuality to date:

- Reception – 41
- Year 1 – 54
- Year 2 – 68
- Year 3 – 65
- Year 4 – 54
- Year 5 – 40 🏆
- Year 6 – 54

In Year 4 the children have been taught by Ms. Arnott who is covering for Mrs. Gautrey while she is absent due to ill-health. I know she is desperate to get back and we are desperate to have her back however please know the class is in safe hands with Mrs Arnott until Mrs. Gautrey is well enough.

Colder weather

The weather is so changeable this year with milder days followed quickly by very cold days. Please ensure that children have adequate layers to keep them warm at break times. Please also ensure that they are wearing suitable footwear for the colder months.

Attendance

I am aware of the many viruses circulating at the moment and, coupled with the week where adverse weather conditions prevented some children getting to school, understand that this will affect our attendance. Please note that we will need to continue with our usual attendance checks and that you may get a text or letter reminder stating your child's attendance figures but do rest assured that we understand it has been a challenging period of school attendance and these reminders are only ever for your information and to offer support where needed.

Please ensure that you do call or message school every day that your child is absent to prevent us from having to following up with our missing children processes.

Thanks for your support with attendance – having children in school and on time makes an enormous difference to their education.

Punctuality

Please ensure that your children are in school and ready to start their lessons at 08:45. These first moments of the school day are essential in terms of learning. Late arrival also adds significant additional stress on our office team who are working hard at this time to ensure children are in safely and have correct lunches ordered.

It is worth noting that those of you who come by car or public transport via Morris Lane (or that direction) will need to add time onto your journeys to allow for the closure of this road – the closure of which will now stretch to at least March.

Supporting children at home

As you'll have heard me say before, we need all the support we can get to ensure that children are learning, and in particular their basic skills such as phonics, number bonds, times tables, spellings and that they have the regular opportunity to read to a grown up or older sibling. These opportunities make such a massive difference to children's learning and we are so grateful to you for supporting us. If you need any help with ways to support children, please don't hesitate to ask.

Parking



Please, please, please leave the yellow zig-zags outside school clear at all times and do not drop children off in the middle of the road. Both Barnborough Street and Argie Road are very dangerous roads with fast drivers using them for cut-throughs between the main roads and parking/dropping off in these roads puts children and other road users at risk. Thank you for helping us to keep all our children and families safe.

Staff Car Park

A reminder that the Staff Car Park is strictly out of bounds to pedestrians at all times. It can be a busy and highly unsafe area to walk through so please use the adjacent pedestrian gate and path for entering school – even before and after school.

School Uniform

A further reminder to please ensure that children are coming to school in school uniform. This includes footwear and PE kits. I have enclosed a reminder of what this looks like for your information at the end of this newsletter. Please support children to feel part of our school but sticking to our policy. If you ever need any support with this, again, just ask. Please also make sure that children's names are clearly marked in any items of clothing they bring to school – if it's unnamed, we can't help!

Courage | Compassion | Commitment

Safe | Ready | Respectful



Kirkstall Valley Primary School

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Head Teacher: Mr Phil Robertson
Chair of Governors: Mr John Bradfield

School calendar academic year 2024-2025

Holiday	Schools close			Schools open		
Summer break				Tuesday	3 September	2024
Autumn mid-term	Friday	25 October	2024	Tuesday	5 November	2024
Christmas break	Friday	20 December	2024	Tuesday	7 January	2025
Spring mid-term	Friday	14 February	2025	Monday	24 February	2025
Easter break	Friday	4 April	2025	Tuesday	22 April	2025
May Bank Holiday	Friday	2 May	2025	Tuesday	6 May	2025
Summer mid-term	Thursday	22 May	2025	Monday	2 June	2025
Summer break	Monday	21 July	2025			

Bank Holidays include

Christmas	25 & 26	December	2024
New Year's Day	1	January	2025
Good Friday	18	April	2025
Easter Monday	21	April	2025
May Day	5	May	2025
Spring Bank	26	May	2025
August	25	August	2025

Teacher Training Days - School Closed

Monday	2 September	2024
Monday	4 November	2024
Monday	6 January	2025
Friday	23 May	2025
Tuesday	21 July	2025



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