
29th June 2026



Kirkstall Valley Primary School



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Dear Kirkstall Valley Primary School Families,

How are you? I hope this newsletter finds you and your family well.

It was great to see so many of you at the Summer Fayre last Tuesday although I did have quite a limited view from the stocks!

It was a very hot week last week but everyone did really well to manage and we made sure to keep children as cool as possible.

Three weeks of the academic year left and still loads going on. I'll try to include as many calendar dates as possible in each weekly newsletter so you're up to date with everything which is going on.

Have a great week ahead ☺

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 1st July
Transition Morning

Tuesday 7th July
KS1 Sports Day

Friday 17th July pm
Y6 Leavers' Assembly

Friday 17th July
Break for Summer

Attendance to date:

YR – 94.1% ↓

Year 1 – 95.4% -

Year 2 – 95.5% -

Year 3 – 92.2% ↓

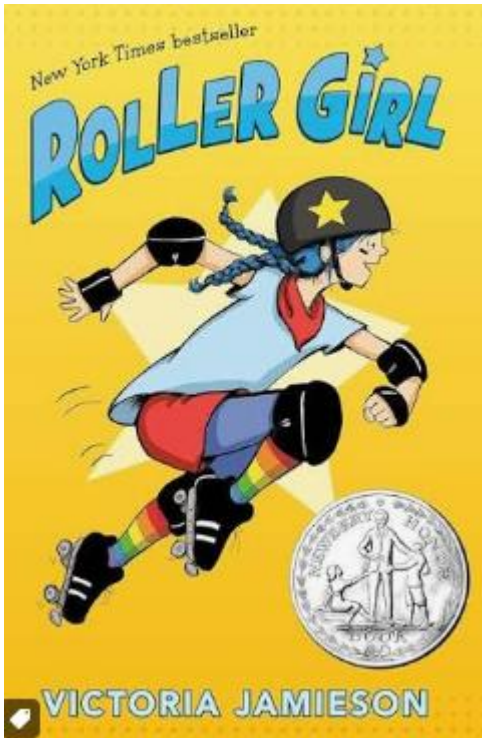
Year 4 – 91.1% ↓

Year 5 – 93.9% ↓

Year 6 – 95.5% ↓ 👑

School = 94% - (Target = 96%)

By Victoria Jamieson



As we dive into a brand new week, I want to champion a format that is absolutely brilliant for capturing the imaginations of our children: the graphic novel! Graphic novels are a phenomenal way to build reading stamina and visual literacy, and my alternative pick for this week is *Roller Girl* by Victoria Jamieson.

The story follows a twelve-year-old girl named Astrid who discovers a real passion for the hard-hitting sport of roller derby. When she signs up for a summer derby camp, she fully expects her best friend Nicole to join her. However, Nicole decides to head off to dance camp instead, leaving Astrid to navigate the daunting summer completely on her own. What follows is a brilliant coming-of-age journey as Astrid faces the intense physical challenges of learning to skate, deals with the natural ups and downs of childhood friendships, and learns what it truly takes to be a strong, tough roller girl.

What makes this book so fantastic is how perfectly it highlights our school values of **Courage** and **Commitment**. Astrid has to show immense resilience to overcome her initial struggles on the track, face her fears head-on, and dedicate herself to mastering a brand new skill. It is a heartwarming, empowering, and action-packed read that is an absolute must for our Key Stage 2 children!

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: **A letter has now been sent** explaining exactly what you need to do to apply under the new rules.

Important Dates (I will update each week!):

- **Tuesday 30th June:** Lego League competition at Bradford Grammar 9-1pm for those children involved (letter will confirm)
- **Wednesday 1st July:** Transition Morning. Children spend the morning in their new year groups.
- **Thursday 2nd July:** Year 2 skipping festival – Armley Leisure Centre 1-3:30
- **Thursday 2nd July:** Year 3 and 4 History Squad Egyptian Workshop
- **Tuesday 7th July:** Revised Y1, 2 and 3 Sports Day 12 – 2pm
- **Thursday 9th July:** Football Friendly Match vs Beecroft – Team TBC
- **Friday 10th July:** Kirkstall's Got Talent for families at school 1:30pm
- **Saturday 11th July:** Kirkstall Festival
- **Wednesday 15th July:** Year 5 – Production Oliver with a Twist 1:30
- **Thursday 16th July:** Reception fun afternoon in hall then tyre park
- **Thursday 16th July:** Nursery graduation from 1.30.
- **Friday 17th July:** 1:45pm – Leavers' Assembly for Y6 Families
- **Friday 17th July:** Break up for Summer

Calling All Library Books!

As we rapidly approach the end of the summer term, it is time for us to start getting our wonderful school library organised and ready for September.

Please could I kindly ask all families to have a really good hunt around at home over the next few days—under beds, tucked on bookshelves, or hiding at the bottom of school bags—for any Kirkstall Valley library books. We need to collect them all back in so that we can take a full inventory, repair any tired copies, and prepare the shelves for the new academic year.

Please do not worry if a book has been kept at home a little longer than usual; there is absolutely no trouble at all! If you could just pop any school library books into your child's bag to be returned to their class teacher as soon as possible, we would be incredibly grateful. Thank you so much for your continued support!

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).

Staying Safe in the Sun: Another Hot Week Ahead next week...

As we look ahead to the forecast for next week, it seems like we might be facing more very hot weather! We are expecting some very hot and sunny days, so we need to work together to ensure all the children are prepared to safely enjoy their time outdoors.

Please could I kindly ask for your support with the following three summer essentials:

- **Water Bottles:** Please ensure your child comes to school with a clearly named, refillable water bottle. We will be reminding them to drink plenty of water and stay hydrated throughout the day.
- **Sun Hats:** A wide-brimmed hat or cap (named!) is vital for keeping the sun off their faces and necks during break times, lunchtimes, and outdoor PE lessons.
- **Sunscreen:** Please apply a high-factor, long-lasting sunscreen to your child *before* they leave the house in the morning.

We will, of course, be keeping a very close eye on the temperatures, ensuring the children make use of the (limited) shaded areas on the playground, and adapting our outdoor activities if it becomes too warm. Thank you so much for your help in keeping everyone cool, safe, and ready to learn!

Spotlight on Learning

Year 3



We have been absolutely delighted to welcome Mrs Gautrey back to the Kirkstall Valley team for the final few weeks of the academic year! She has already been working closely with our Year 3 class for the past week, and it has been wonderful to see her settling right back into school life. Although she is only rejoining us for a short period before the summer break, she has told me how incredibly excited she is to be back in the classroom and learning alongside the children again. I know that Year 3 have been absolutely brilliant at showing her just how **Ready** they are to learn, making sure she received a wonderfully warm and **Respectful** welcome back!

Did you know...?

Anyone for tennis?!



With the famous Wimbledon tennis championships traditionally kicking off around this time of year, this week's fact takes a look at the incredible hidden work that goes on behind the scenes!

Did you know that the grass on the courts at Wimbledon is cut to an exact, precise height of 8 millimetres? All year round, the dedicated groundstaff carefully tend to the courts, and during the tournament itself, the grass is mowed and re-lined every single day to ensure it is in absolute peak condition for the players.

This takes an incredible amount of **Commitment** and attention to detail from the team! It is a brilliant reminder for the children that achieving excellence—whether that is hitting a winning serve, writing a fantastic story, or mastering a tricky maths problem—often requires hard work, dedication, and making sure you are totally **Ready** to do your best before you even begin.

Focus on

School Council



Our fantastic School Council will be taking the lead this Thursday to run a very special whole-school assembly! They will be focusing on the democratic process here in the UK, helping all the children understand how elections work, why voting is so important, and how every single voice can make a difference. It is a wonderful opportunity for our pupils to learn about active citizenship and see their peers demonstrating such brilliant leadership skills. I am very much looking forward to seeing them in action!

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!

PPA (Planning, Preparation and Assessment) If your child ever mentions that their usual class teacher was out for an afternoon, this is likely why! Every teacher in the UK is entitled to dedicated PPA time away from the classroom during their typical working week. This essential time is used to plan exciting and engaging lessons, review the children's work, and assess their progress. While the teacher is busy planning, the class is usually taught by one of our fantastic Higher Level Teaching Assistants or a specialist subject teacher.

TA and HLTA (Teaching Assistant / Higher Level Teaching Assistant) You will often hear us talking about our incredible TAs! Teaching Assistants work closely alongside the main class teacher to support the children's learning, whether that is by running small intervention groups, helping with reading, or supporting individual pupils. An HLTA (Higher Level Teaching Assistant) has undertaken advanced training and holds additional responsibilities, which means they are fully qualified to teach whole classes—often stepping in to cover a teacher's PPA time. They are an absolutely vital part of our school family!

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



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Head Teacher: Mr Phil Robertson
Chair of Governors: Mrs Colleen Jackson

School calendar academic year 2026-2027

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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