

November '24 Newsletter



Kirkstall Valley Primary School

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Dear Families,

Apologies that November's newsletter is slightly late- anybody who works or who has ever worked in a school at this time of year knows that it is a super busy half-term! The children are busy rehearsing their productions on top of an already busy learning schedule. It's all looking fantastic though and we can't wait to invite you into school (details of performances on the right!). Tickets are available via the Reach More Parents (WEDUC) app.

Thank you as ever for your support – it's been a great term so far and I'm looking forward to the final three weeks of 2024!

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.



Upcoming Events

Tuesday 10th December

Years 1, 2, 3 performance 1 (09:30 am)

Years 1, 2, 3 performance 2 (1:45 pm)

Wednesday 11th

December

Nursery and Reception
performance 1 (09:20)

Nursery and Reception
performance 2 (1:45 pm)

Thursday 12th December

Years 4, 5 and 6 performance 1
(1:45 pm)

Years 4, 5 and 6 performance 2
(6pm)

Christmas Dinner Day

Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 20th December

School breaks up

Tuesday 7th January 2025

School reopens

Other news

Training Day

Please remember that **Monday 6th January is a training day** and school will be closed to all children. We return to school on **Tuesday 7th January**.

Christmas Performances

I have listed all the performances under the Dates section. You can book tickets via the app. Please make sure people only attend who have tickets as we have limited space in our hall and this is the fairest way to allocate places. Please try to arrive 15 minutes early and bring some coins if you'd like to enter the world famous KVPS raffle!

Christmas Jumper Day

Thursday 12th December is Christmas jumper day at school where children can wear a Christmas/festive/winter jumper if they choose to. Please don't buy anything special for this – anything colourful, festive or fun is completely fine.

Christmas Dinner Day

On the same day as the jumper day (12th December), we will be offering a festive lunch to all pupils. You can sign up for this lunch for your child via the Reach More Parents (WEDUC) app if you would like to.

Class parties

Teachers will be in touch separately about when class parties will be happening. Please look out for their communications.

Colder weather

As colder weather is well and truly here now, 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 still receiving a significant number of holiday requests during term-time and I would like to remind all families that whilst I do understand all the reasons families may wish to take a holiday outside the school holidays, I am unfortunately **unable to authorise** these without significant exceptional circumstances. I am also required to refer all holidays taken which are of five days or more to the local authority who may impose a fine or in future begin legal action.

Please try to ensure children are at school and **on time** as often as possible unless of course they are too unwell to be here. Please also don't be offended if we get in touch with you to let you know about your child's attendance or to let you know we have concerns. These messages are intended to be supportive in nature and they are sent to all families.



Attendance to date:

YR – 95.7%

Year 1 – 95.4%

Year 2 – 95.7%

Year 3 – 92.7 %

Year 4 – 94.8%

Year 5 – 96.7% 🏆

Year 6 – 89%

Class Punctuality to date:

Reception – 28

Year 1 – 34

Year 2 – 47

Year 3 – 40

Year 4 – 30

Year 5 – 24 🏆

Year 6 – 36

Low attendance has a direct correlation with low attainment and with children's happiness at school and at KVPS we (like you) want the very best educational and social outcomes for all of our children.

Punctuality

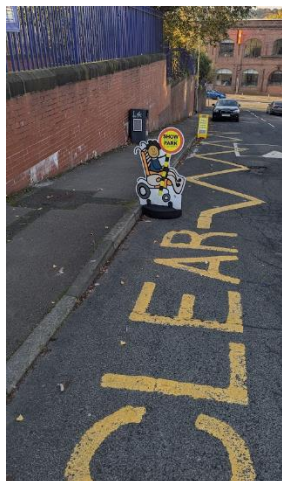
Please ensure that your children are in school and ready to start their lessons at 08:45. These first moments of the school day are essential in terms of learning. Late arrival also adds significant additional stress on our office team who are working hard at this time to ensure children are in safely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

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.

Reach More Parents (WEDUC)

Thank you to those of you (over 85%) who are now using the school communications app to communicate with us. It is essential that you download this app and understand how it works so that you can stay up to date with events, make payments, book events and receive great newsletters such as this one!

Anything we can do to help? Just pop in and see our office team who will be happy to support.

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!



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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	Monday	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	Tuesday	22 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
Wed	23 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