
20th October 2025



Kirkstall Valley Primary School

Argie Road, Leeds LS4 2QZ

www.kirkstallvalley.org.uk T: 0113 887 8982



Diary Dates

Tuesday 21st October
Telephone Appointment Parents'
Evening

Thursday 23rd October
Halloween Disco

Friday 24th October
Non-Uniform Day

Friday 24th October
Break up for Half-term

Dear Kirkstall Valley Primary School Families,

How are you? I hope this newsletter finds you well!

I can't believe it is now the final week of the first half-term which means we are a sixth of the way through our academic year already! Time flies when you're having fun!

On Friday, I had the pleasure of accompanying Years 5 and 6 on their trip to Eden Camp, north of York, to learn more about World War II. If you have never visited, I highly recommend it. We had a brilliant day and the children were an absolute credit to school.

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

Attendance to date:

YR – 95.3%

Year 1 – 95.7%

Year 2 – 96.8% 🏰

Year 3 – 95.8%

Year 4 – 93.2%

Year 5 – 95.7%

Year 6 – 95.3%

Changes to lunch times and break times

Last week I wrote and told you about the changes we made to our lunch times and break times and promised I'd feedback on how this had gone this week. If you had asked me on Monday, I wouldn't have been so positive as systems and timings that everyone is used to can be challenging to change. However, by Wednesday, we had all the creases ironed out and the new times worked really well. The playground is a much calmer, quieter space for children to play and explore and although there

School = **95.5%** (Target = 96%)

are more children eating together at once, children are improving their abilities to socialise in a calmer manner!

Fire Safety

Years 5 and 6 had an informative visit from West Yorkshire Fire Service last week talking about safety during the bonfire/firework season and about general fire safety. Big thanks to them and to our oldest two classes for being great KVPS ambassadors.

Sustainability Leaders

Last Monday we held the inaugural meeting of our Sustainability Leaders project. The working party contains members of staff from a range of positions across school, a governor and (most importantly!) four children from years 5 and 6. We discussed our sustainability action plan and the children came up with some great ideas to kick things off. They are currently planning an assembly around the need to conserve as much energy as possible. I can't wait to see the final piece! Well done sustainability leaders. If you're interested in what aspects of sustainability our action plan covers, it is these: Decarbonisation; Adaptation and Resilience; Biodiversity; Climate Education and Skills.

Halloween Disco



Our **World Famous*** Halloween Disco will be taking place on Thursday 23rd October from 5 – 6:30pm Entry is £2 on the door. Refreshments available. Prizes for the best costumes. **DO NOT MISS IT – You've been warned!**

**Not actually World Famous*

Non-Uniform day

Friday 24th October will be a non-uniform day in school so children may wear whatever they like to school (as long as it's weather and school appropriate!). If you are able to send in any chocolate items to support our Autumn Fayre, that would be hugely appreciated.

School Calendar

The original school calendar we posted from Leeds had an error on so I am again needing to adjust the calendar I have sent you. This doesn't affect that much apart from the training day in May and then right at the end of the school year.

Please find at the end of this letter an adjusted school calendar.

The changes are: No Training Day in May and school will close for the summer on 17th July. Sorry for any inconvenience this may cause you.

Spotlight on Learning

Year 1 and Year 3



Year 1 have been working immensely hard this term creating spooky tales to form part of a whole class book which will be put on display in the school library. We have thoroughly enjoyed all of the creative ideas the children have come up with including: spooky jungles, dark mazes, abandoned bridges, blackholes and many more. The class have really engaged with this narrative based on the book 'A Dark Dark Tale' by Ruth Brown and it has been brilliant to see the children tackling an extended piece of writing. They have shown fantastic resilience and determination. We have been particularly impressed with the quality of writing the children have produced and it is clear that they are extremely proud of their writing. Well done, Year 1! Keep your eyes peeled in the library for the final piece...

This term, year three have been digging deep into the fascinating world of rocks, soils, and fossils. We have investigated and discussed how different types of rocks are formed, what makes soil so important, and how fossils give us clues about life millions of years ago. From exploring and sorting rock samples, examining soil in different states and using charcoal to create fabulous fossil art work, it seems that children in Year Three are evolving as budding geologists and palaeontologists!

Assembly Music

In Assembly, current artists have and will include: Dolly Parton, Kenny Rogers and Lionel Ritchie!

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...?

More on Growth Mindset



Did you know that the concept of a '**growth mindset**', first popularised by Stanford psychologist Carol Dweck, is not just about telling pupils to try harder? Research suggests that to truly foster a growth mindset—the belief that abilities and intelligence can be developed through dedication and hard work—it's crucial to focus on **process praise** rather than *person praise*. Saying, "You worked incredibly hard on that tricky part!" (process) is shown to be far more effective than saying, "You are so clever!" (person). The key takeaway for all of us is that praising the **effort, strategies, and persistence** a learner uses, rather than a fixed trait, is what genuinely builds resilience and a lasting love for challenge

Focus on

Digital Leaders



Did you know that our school's Digital Leaders are at the cutting edge of technology and teaching? This dedicated group of pupils plays a crucial role in promoting digital literacy and online safety across the whole school. They are responsible for everything from trialing new educational apps and troubleshooting technical issues in classrooms, to leading peer-to-peer lessons on subjects like coding and responsible internet use. By developing their own leadership skills and technical expertise, they not only act as excellent peer mentors but also ensure that we are all equipped to navigate the exciting, yet challenging, digital world with integrity and confidence.

Meet Your Governors

Phil Robertson – Headteacher



It might surprise you to know that I am also a governor of the school and work alongside the chair, the vice chair and all the other governors to ensure we are accountable and working as efficiently and sustainably as possible.

A little about me: I am in my 8th year of working at KVPS and am incredibly proud of the team I work with and the community I serve. I have been in education for around 22 years now. I enjoy my work and love the fact that no two days are ever the same.

My greatest privilege is seeing children grow and thrive every day. I still believe that education is the single most important aspect of society that can make a great difference to people's lives.



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



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