



Spring 1 Newsletter

It's hard to believe that we are finishing another busy half term.

This week we had the privilege of welcoming Jonny Brownlee, who finished a 105 km bike ride at our school. He impressed the importance of hard work, dedication, and resilience on the children - values we consistently champion at Kildwick CE VC Primary. Jonny's message resonated deeply with our children, encouraging them to dream big and work tirelessly towards their goals. As a challenge, the children have been given activity sheets. If they engage in physical activity for 30 days, they'll earn a coveted Brownlee Medal. What's more, we've tentatively secured Jonny's return in September to lead a running club with Mr Whitehead!

This half term our staff have also been working hard on their professional development to enhance their skills and knowledge. We've been working through Paul Dix's 'When the Adult Changes' behaviour management training, which has sparked meaningful discussions among our teachers. We have planned a whole-staff meeting after half term to implement these positive changes school-wide.

Miss Taylor has been steadily progressing through her Makaton training levels, reinforcing our commitment to inclusive communication. Miss Akrigg and I have updated our Senior Leadership Team Prevent training, ensuring we remain at the forefront of safeguarding practises. Mrs Swensson, Mrs Harmon, and Mrs Swales attended specialised Teaching Assistant training on assessment through our partnership with the Harrogate and Rural Teaching School Alliance (HART).

An update of the work of the governing body will follow after half term.

Learning to Live

Ongoing staff training like this reflects our commitment to providing high quality education for your children. By continually refreshing our skills and knowledge, we ensure our teaching methods remain current, relevant, and effective. We believe that investing in staff development directly benefits your children's future.

Thank you for your support and partnership in your child's education journey. By working together, we continue to get the children ready to face the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Have a wonderful half term break and we will see you back for the start of the Spring Two half term on Monday 24th February.

Mr Whitehead and all the staff team



Learning to Live



Learning to Live

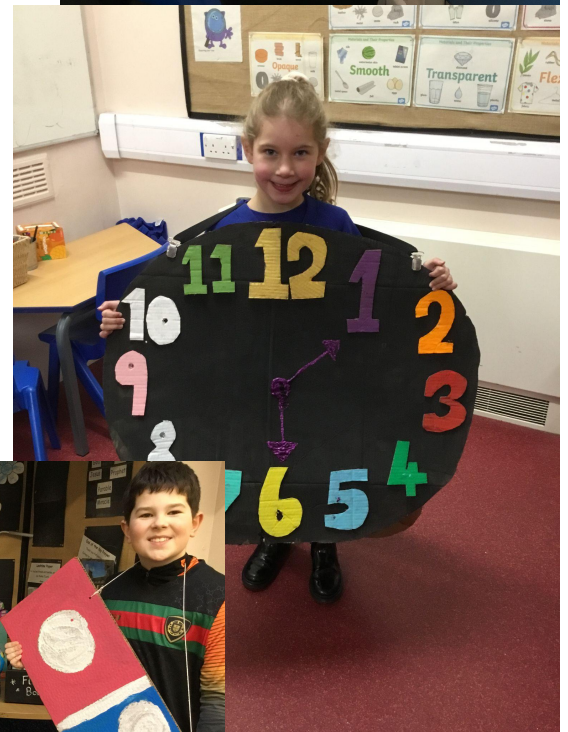
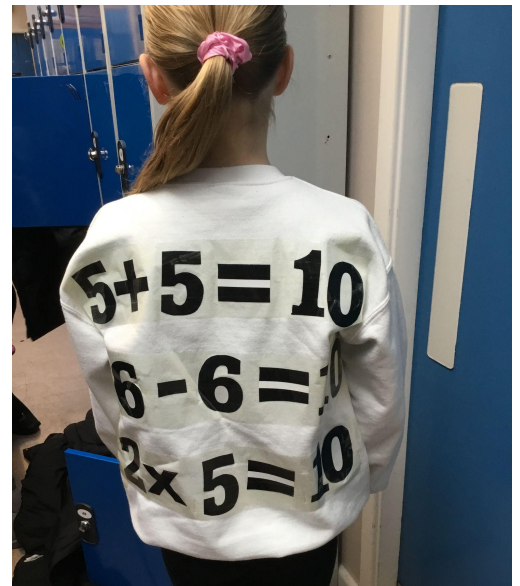
Well done to all runners from school who competed in the third Keighley & Craven Schools Cross Country event this week at Cliffe Castle. The results and photo page can be accessed [here](#). Well done to everyone that took part. One more race will decide the finishing team positions. Fantastic running by all competitors.



Well done to our runners that competed in the Craven School's final at Giggleswick. They all ran with great determination and we have four runners that progress to the North Yorkshire final. Fantastic results.



Learning to Live



We celebrated the NSPCC Number Day on Friday 7th February. Children were invited to dress up in something number related. Children took part in numerical games, activities and 'Dress up for Digits'. Thank you for helping to raise £93.50 to support vital services like Speak out Stay safe and Childline.

Loving to Learn

Robins



Dear Robins Class families,

As we wrap up the first half of our spring term, it's great to share all the learning from this half term. Despite the chilly start to the term, we have had a great half term.

Our budding scientists in Robins Class used the cold weather to explore the world around them. We took the opportunity to investigate the process of changing solids to liquids. We observed and experimented with melting, gaining hands-on experience! We also used the snow for colour mixing, combining learning with fun!

We have continued to work hard in phonics with our daily sounds. All of the Reception children have progressed to writing in books, focusing intently on segmenting to identify sounds in words. Meanwhile, our Year One children have been applying their phonics knowledge to write sentences. We're paying close attention to handwriting, ensuring letters are formed correctly - tall when they should be and dipping below the line when they should be. We're also emphasising the importance of capital and lowercase letters, making sure each sentence begins with a capital.

Our Year One children have continued to enjoy their morning sessions with Mrs Carpenter for Phonics and Maths. We are seeing a growing independence in Maths and their increasing confidence in recording answers. The Reception children are enjoying their practical Maths activities. Their grasp of STEM sentences is great, which will enhance their mathematical fluency in the future.

We have been looking into the past to learn about significant historical figures. Our focus has been on the lives of Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole. The children were surprised to discover how dirty hospitals were in the past! To commemorate Florence Nightingale's nickname as 'the lady with the lamp', we crafted our own lamps. This was a great opportunity to reflect on life before electricity, to help our understanding of how different things were in the past.

We celebrated Chinese New Year, learning that 2025 is the Year of the Snake. The children enjoyed making money wallets and discovering that red is considered a lucky colour in Chinese New Year celebrations.

Thank you for supporting us to work with your children. I hope you all have a wonderful half term filled with rest and fun. The Robins team and I look forward to working with you in Spring 2.

Miss Akrigg



Loving to Learn

Swallows

It feels like a long time since we were trudging through snow to get to school, however it was only 6 weeks ago!

We thoroughly enjoyed embracing the cold weather; creating snow sculptures, experimenting how to melt snow and ice and generally having lots of fun!

In DT with Mrs Oswald the children have been exploring healthy eating. They have explored menus, practised different food preparation skills such as grating and chopping, tried lots of different foods before designing their own menus. Hopefully they can share some of their culinary skills at home.

Year 2 children have been working really hard in both their maths lessons and shorter mastery sessions. They have been encouraged to access TT Rockstars to support the quick recall of times tables' facts. They have embraced this challenge which is fantastic to see!

Year 1 are working equally as hard and becoming more confident to record their findings with increasing independence. They are also working hard to form their numbers correctly - well done year one!

Our science topic began with exploring melting ice, butter and chocolate. The children have then explored floating and sinking. Year 2 had a paper and cardboard tower building competition. It got quite tense with the boys being disappointed not to take the win!

Swallows children have impressed me with their enthusiasm for History. They have a good understanding of the past and present and a great memory for facts. They have learnt about and compared the lives of Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole.

We celebrated the lunar new year with a delicious school lunch. It was lovely that the children who don't usually have a school dinner enjoyed Donna's cooking. We also made lucky red money envelopes and learnt how it is celebrated. 2025 is the year of the snake!

As we move further into spring we are looking forward to spending more time at the rec and hopefully needing less hats and gloves!

Mrs Carpenter and the Swallows team



Loving to Learn

Kingfishers

This half term has flown by so quickly! I am very pleased to share all of the fantastic knowledge gained this half term.

In **History** we have explored the topic 'Stone Age to the Iron Age'. We started off by recapping our prior knowledge of the Stone Age and how this differs from the Iron Age. We had looked at what life was like in Bronze Age Britain, as well as how life changed from the Bronze Age to the Iron Age in Britain. The class really enjoyed learning about this topic and were able to make links to their English writing.

In **English** we were learning how to write a letter from the Stone Age based on our class book from this term, Stone Age Boy. The class really enjoyed reading this book and had written wonderful recount letters with beautiful handwriting and excellent grammar.

The children in phonics have worked really hard this term, using their phonics knowledge accurately, with excellent letter formation and handwriting.

In **Art** the children have been building their knowledge on creating patterns using their drawings, creating wonderful, colourful rainforest theme mood boards and using their observational skills. The children have shown great art skills and have been able to work as professional designers by collating ideas to generate a theme.

PE lessons have been a lot of fun as well as a lot of hard work. The children have had to master the rules of Dodgeball, and then practise the skills involved. We have had some really super matches, usually seven a side, and for three minutes at a time. The most important skills are 1. Dodging, and 2. Aiming low and hard at our opponents without crossing the centre line. This was quite difficult as the focus is always to get the opponents out. The children know all about fouling, and also, how to get a team member back in the game. Well done Kingfishers. We especially loved the idea of adding tactics and different strategies into the last week's lesson. Swimming on a Thursday has been a really popular part of the week!

RE lessons have involved a lot of reflection and thinking back. The Big Question that we have been considering is "Why do some people see life as a journey?" Is that a metaphor? and are there any other metaphors that depict life? We identified what a journey involves, such as passage through time and landmarks passed. Then we likened this to our journey from home to school, what did we pass, what did we see. Moving on from this the children considered landmarks...milestones, in their own lives that they had met and landmarks that they are yet to achieve. Recently we have been looking at how different faith groups have various milestone ceremonies such as Baptism, Holy Communion, Bar/Bat mitzvah, Marriage, Upanayana, or the Hindu thread ceremony.

This term we have had the opportunity to welcome guests and complete different team building activities. We were delighted to have a visit from Bewerley Park who helped our class learn and build on teamwork and transformed individuals into teams. The children completed different team building activities such as the Bewerley bottles, down the drain and the caterpillars. The children really enjoyed taking part and building their teamwork skills. We also had a Judo taster day where the children really enjoyed the different JUDO techniques working in pairs.

I hope you all have a wonderful half term, enjoying the break with friends and family. We look forward to working with you next term.



Loving to Learn

Owls

What a fantastic start Owls have had to the Spring Term!

In History the children have enjoyed learning all about the Iron Age and this has linked into the music this term, where they have all worked in an ensemble to create some stone age style music. We've re-visited our prior knowledge about the Stone Age with our class trip to Stump cross caverns. The children enjoyed learning about fossils as well as the history of the caves - they all particularly loved getting their own finger torches to explore the stalactites and stalagmites in the tour, can they tell you which way each of these are formed and what they are formed from? Thank you to our parent governors who attended this trip to make it possible!

In PE, with the snow and ice at the beginning of term we used our skills to develop some of our own tabletop games in the classroom. We have enjoyed having specialist coach Darren teaching us tag rugby again this term and taking part in the Tag rugby tournament in Skipton. Well done to all the children who played well and showed super sportsmanship. We have also enjoyed a Judo taster day where the children learned how to 'fall' safely as well as how to 'hold' their opponent down to win in matches.

Our PSHE and computing has linked to internet safety this term and the children have learned how to ensure they stay safe whilst online, ever more important in our new era of technological advances.

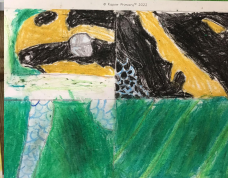
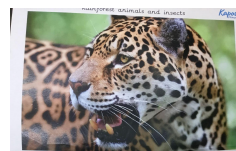
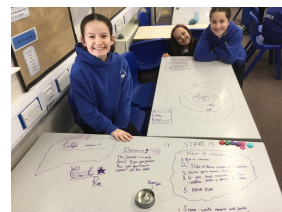
Art has seen the children work creatively to produce a mood board based on a rainforest theme, they have worked particularly hard on intricate detail of patterns to produce some fantastic work.

In English, the children have worked particularly hard this term on improving their handwriting skills and presented their write up of a letter well. In maths, the year 5's have worked really hard on embedding new mathematical skills and shown great resilience with our fraction work - well done!

The children have really enjoyed experimenting with forces this half term and explored friction through an investigation into what would create the best grip on different surfaces using Newton meters.

I hope you all have a restful and enjoyable half term break and look forward to seeing the children for the next part of the Spring Term.

Miss Farmery



Loving to Learn



Eagles

It seems like only yesterday that we returned to school in the snow but it has been 6 weeks and we have packed a lot into that time!

In the classroom, we began to find out about what life was like during the Victorian era. We then lived it for a short time during an experience in a replica Victorian classroom at Bradford Industrial Museum, which made us very grateful that the education system has improved and developed since the Victorian era! Children recited hymns and times tables, wrote on slates and also with ink dip pens and - most importantly - did not speak unless spoken to! The children got into role well by taking on Victorian names and dressing as children would have at the time.

Elsewhere in the curriculum, Year Six have been powering through working with ratio, algebra and decimals and are quickly becoming experts at applying their arithmetic skills to any problems thrown at them.

In our writing, we researched and wrote biographies for famous Victorian people. The children chose from a wide variety of individuals which has added to our understanding of the period. If you visit the classroom, do take a look at their well presented work on the display board that also includes a range of Year Six writing features.

We have loved our class book of 'Wild Boy'. It has kept us guessing throughout with its dark, mysterious elements and suspicious characters. We've had lively debates about who the criminals are and we've been left on a cliff hanger over half term until we find out the finale of this grizzly Victorian era tale. I promise I won't read ahead without you, Year Six!

In the final week, we have had fun challenging ourselves to higher and faster up the climbing walls at High Adventure. Year 6 again took part in a school climbing competition that includes schools from as far away as Liverpool. Children gained points for Team Kildwick by climbing up different graded routes. The instructors were very impressed with all our efforts and as the reigning champions we will keep our fingers crossed for success again!

Have a great half term break and we will look forward to seeing you on the 24th February.

