



Summer 2 Newsletter



Kildwick CE VC Primary School

Learning to Live - Living to Love - Loving to Learn

July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

It seems as though the school year speeds up as time goes by, or maybe this is just an age thing! It has certainly been another fantastic one and over the past two weeks, I have had the privilege of watching photo montages prepared for the Reception children and the Year Six children. It's great to see our school vision of "Learning to Live, Living to Love, and Loving to Learn" evidenced for all to see. It shows how each day our school community fosters a love of learning while also learning to live positive, productive lives and enjoying all that the world has to offer.

This was also reflected in the many surveys we have carried out this year and most recently in the overwhelmingly positive comments sent in following the end-of-year pupil reports. We know that keeping up with children's activities in (and out) of school is a full-time job for parents and carers, so thank you for your support and involvement in the many different requests we make of you—without your help, we couldn't achieve our vision.

The long summer holidays can be a challenging time for parents and children. Don't forget to check back over old newsletters from this half term, which contain a variety of different activities and clubs to help keep children busy and occupied over the summer holidays. Mrs. Swales has also shared lots of information regarding the zones of regulation and tools to help families manage feelings and emotions at home. All past newsletters can be found on the website.

We are extremely proud of our Year Six children, who have achieved so much during their time with us at Kildwick. We say a fond farewell to them and look forward to seeing and hearing about all the wonderful things they get up to! We also say goodbye to some parents who have had a long and lasting association with Kildwick. Thank you for all your support over the years; we will miss you too!

At this time of year, I like to take the opportunity to express my thanks to the staff team. This year Ofsted confirmed to me what I already knew when they commented throughout our inspection that there is a feeling of 'all in this together' at Kildwick. As a school community, we are very lucky to have such a dedicated and caring staff team who go above and beyond throughout the school year. I couldn't ask for a more supportive staff team.

We would also like to take this opportunity to share the lovely news that Mrs. Snook is expecting a baby and will be going on maternity leave in the second part of the Autumn term. We will begin the recruitment process at the start of the new school year and will keep you informed on the outcome of this.

Thank you also goes to our governors who give up their time to support and develop the school, helping to make decisions which ensure that your children have the very best education and experience at Kildwick School. Parent governor vacancies are coming up in the Autumn term and we would encourage you to consider joining our governing body. Please contact John Perry, Chair of Governors, myself or catch any of the parent governors on the playground to get more information. Governor details can be found on the website.

We look forward to welcoming you back to school on Tuesday, 3rd September, and meeting our new Reception children on Wednesday, 4th September.

Wishing you and your families a wonderful summer full of adventures and hopefully some sunshine!

Mr. Tim Whitehead
Head Teacher



Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Links with Embsay CE Primary School

You will be aware that Mr Whitehead has been providing Executive Headteacher support for Embsay CE Primary School, in the absence of their headteacher and deputy headteacher, since the second half of the autumn term 2023.

This collaboration has proved beneficial to both schools. At Embsay helping to see the school through a difficult period and at Kildwick providing additional opportunities for staff development.

Governors at both Kildwick and Embsay had been looking at opportunities to build on this collaboration and were exploring the possibility of more formal long-term joint working, through a federation of the two schools, with a shared leadership and governance structure.

Following further reflection and considered discussion it has however been decided not to continue with the possible federation discussions. Both Mr Whitehead and Kildwick Governors believe that a federation with Embsay is not in the best interests of Kildwick School, at the current time.

Mr Whitehead will continue to assist Embsay School, in a more limited capacity, providing support and mentoring through the autumn term for their interim leadership team, whilst longer term leadership arrangements are structured at Embsay.

Governors at Kildwick are confident that this support focus is sustainable and will not negatively impact on the education of children at Kildwick or the well-being of the Kildwick staff team. Such support is importantly also in line with Kildwick values and the outward looking nature of the school.

Both schools will continue longer term to look towards less formal collaboration where this works for both schools, for example through sharing costs for staff development.

On behalf of all the Governors I would like to thank Mr Whitehead and all the staff team for their considerable work through the last year, when we were also visited by Ofsted, their support for each other and for colleagues at Embsay, and most importantly their commitment to the children at Kildwick.

Your continued support for the School, through what has been a busy year, is much appreciated. Enjoy the summer break.

I am happy to discuss the issues raised in this letter and can be contacted on: chair@kildwickce.uk

John Perry

Chair of Governors

PTA @ Kildwick

On behalf of the children and governors, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the PTA for their tireless support and fundraising efforts this year. At a time when school budgets are a concern to all of us, your support is even more valued and appreciated.

From discos to bake sales, fun runs to face painting, you have all worked so hard for the school, and we want you to know that your dedication has not gone unnoticed. Thanks to your efforts, we have been able to replace essential items such as tables and learning equipment that the school budget would not have covered this year. Additionally, we have been able to reduce the cost of some activities, which has been invaluable for some parents and carers.

The events you organise are more than just a financial benefit to the school; they also provide us with fun community events that bring the children and their families together, creating a real sense of community at Kildwick School. The discos, curry nights, galas, and fairs will stay in the memories of the children and their families for years to come.

The PTA needs more help and new faces to bring fresh ideas. It doesn't have to mean giving up hours of your time—an odd hour here and there can make a big difference. Even if it's just to share an idea for an event or a fundraiser, we want to hear from you. If you would like to be added to the PTA WhatsApp group, you can message Gemma Harling (PTA Chair) 07792845885.

Thank you once again for your unwavering support and commitment to our school community.



A huge thank you to DJ Parker who has entertained the children at all the school discos this year at no cost to the PTA. They have loved every minute - thank you! Find him at www.noisyparker.com



Book me for your child's party!



Loving to Learn

Robins



We have finished the school year with another busy and exciting half term, and the children in Robins class have impressed me no end with their attitudes and enthusiasm for school.

In Science, we have been learning about the life cycles of different animals, including humans. We got our own caterpillars, which we watched develop into butterflies and then released in the Peggy Wilson garden. The children also became really good at classifying animals.



The Reception children truly impressed Ed from Pedal and Scoot with their determination to learn to ride their bikes and improve their control when riding. He commented on how happy the children are and how much they wanted to achieve—well done Receptions! The Year One children have been just as impressive with their swimming, and in only a short space of time, they have become more confident, stronger swimmers. Ben from Skipton Tennis Centre said he has loved working with the children and has seen real progress in their skills this summer term.

To improve our writing, we have been working really hard on using our phonic knowledge to write more accurately. We have all been trying hard to improve our handwriting, and the children are showing good progress. If children would like to continue working on this over summer, please let me know.

In Geography, we have been learning all about the world around us. This included learning about the countries in the United Kingdom, the continents, oceans, and climates. The children also thought about compass directions, and I have been impressed with how much of the new knowledge they have retained.



Alongside this, we have continued our computing curriculum, RE, and art, and enjoyed our music sessions with Mr. Schofield. The Reception children learned a new dance and song ready for their end of EYFS celebration—well done Reception.

We had a fantastic trip to Wild Explorers, where the children had the opportunity to climb trees, make dens, and toast marshmallows for s'mores—I think they enjoyed this bit the best. It was great to see them exploring and having fun outdoors.



I have had a fantastic year with the children. For some of them, it is the end of two years with me, and some children will have another year in Robins class. A big thank you to all of you for your support, positive approach to school life, and being so lovely to work with. Robins class, you are amazing, and I am a very lucky teacher! A big thank you must also go to all the amazing adults in Robins class who have worked so hard all year #teamrobins!

Have a wonderful summer everyone!
Miss Akrigg



Loving to Learn



Swallows

I can't believe we have reached the end of another school year. I am immensely proud of the children in Swallows and all they have accomplished throughout the year.

It is always an honour to watch the children grow in confidence academically, learning lots of new skills, showing resilience and always a sense of good fun! They always love an opportunity to sing or dance or to have a competition against me.

This half term year 1 have enjoyed their swimming lessons. We have some fantastic swimmers. Everyone has made great progress and embraced the challenge. We have also continued to enjoy our Friday tennis lessons with Ben.

It has been lovely to watch the children's excitement as we received a delivery of caterpillars this half term. We couldn't believe how tiny they were to start with and how much they grew. The children religiously checked the progress of the caterpillars each morning. They were ecstatic to find 4 had hatched from their cocoons when they arrived at school one day. Our final caterpillar hatched a few days later. We released them onto the rec so they could enjoy their freedom. The children sewed their own impressive butterflies, trying hard to create symmetry.

A huge highlight of this half term has to be our trip to Wild Explorers. The children embraced the freedom to play, explore and use their imagination. We built dens, bridges across muddy ditches, houses, cooked in the mud kitchen and relaxed on the hammocks. We loved toasting marshmallows on the fire and having free reign on the crafting materials. Swallows are a very imaginative group of children with endless energy.

The children all enjoyed a successful transition morning either moving into year 3 or welcoming new children into Swallows.

I hope that everyone has an amazing summer holiday and manages to relax as a family. A huge thank you to all parents and families for supporting children with their learning at home. I will miss the fabulous year 2 children in September however I know they are ready for the next adventure and will rise to the challenge. I look forward to welcoming year 1 children back into Swallows class in September.

Have a wonderful break, Mrs Carpenter and the Swallows team.



Kingfishers



We have finished the year with another busy and exciting half term. We started off the half term as Vikings with a trip to Murton Park. The children had a fantastic time dressed as Vikings and taking part in all kinds of Viking activities such as bread making, pottery sculpting, playing Viking games and most importantly, guarding the village from Anglo-Saxon invaders. It was lovely to see the children getting into the role and they learnt a lot from this.

We have also had two sports trips as a class, to Sandylands Sports Centre for mini olympics and to Ilkley Tennis Club for the tennis workshop and to see the professionals. The weather did mean the match we were supposed to watch was rained off but the children represented school brilliantly and enjoyed spotting professional players and learning new skills. They also impressed at Sandylands, showing their athletics and gymnastics skills. Despite the non-summery weather, they had a fantastic time and again learnt lots of new skills.

In Geography, we have been learning about Europe and then focusing in on the region of Campania in Italy this half term. The children have loved remembering all the countries of Europe and beating their high score each week. We have compared Campania to North Yorkshire and Positano to Kildwick and we were interested and surprised to see lots of similarities as well as differences. Finally, we tried some different Italian dishes to inspire our travel brochure writing about Sicily and Italy. I was impressed with the children's willingness to try some foods that they weren't sure about and the words they came up with to describe each food.

In Art, we have been looking at drawing houses, with a focus on observing details, scale and proportions. We have learnt new skills to keep things in proportion and thought about the importance of noticing small details and keeping looking back to observe. Again, the children have done so well with this and shown their creativity.

In Maths, we have covered a variety of topics, including shape, position and direction and statistics as well as consolidating our earlier arithmetic skills. The children have approached all of these with enthusiasm and it has been lovely to see them collecting data to make graphs of their own and their ability to remember prior learning.

I know that the children have enjoyed their music lessons with Mr Schofield. Mrs Oswald has been so impressed with the children's learning in RE, Spanish and PE lessons too.

All of the children in Kingfisher Class should be proud of their super effort this year and I wish them a relaxing break in the summer. Thank you parents and carers for your support at home and we will look forward to seeing you after the holidays.



Loving to Learn

Owls

It's been an action-packed half term at our school, filled with engaging activities that have ignited our students' curiosity and creativity. Here's a glimpse of what we've been up to:

A visit to an Anglo-Saxon Village and Live Like an Anglo-Saxon. We had the unique opportunity to step back in time and immerse themselves in the fascinating world of the Anglo-Saxons. They explored an authentic village, tried traditional activities, and gained a deeper understanding of this important period in history.

Sporting Fun at Ilkley Tennis Tournament and the Mini Olympics. Our budding athletes showcased their skills at the Ilkley Tennis Tournament and participated in our very own Mini Olympics. It was fantastic to see our students displaying sportsmanship, teamwork, and determination.

Our Year 5 students had a fantastic day at South Craven School, participating in exciting technology and performance workshops. It was a day filled with engineering experiences, dance and musical creativity.

To inspire our budding writers, we organised an Italian food experience where students explored the flavours of Sicily. They used their senses to describe the cuisine, gearing up for writing the culinary section of a holiday brochure about a chosen Spanish island.

Every child had a sneak peek into the upcoming school year during the transition day. They spent time in their new classrooms, getting to know their new teachers and classmates.

On the day of the General Election, we held a mock general election where every child had the opportunity to cast their vote. It was empowering to see our students engage with the electoral process and express their opinions.

We're proud of all of their achievements and the positive attitude they have brought to every experience. Well done everyone and enjoy your summer break.

See you in September.

Mr Horton



Loving to Learn

Eagles - Goodbye and Good Luck Year Six

A Message for Our 2024 Year Six Leavers

This year has flown by, and we can't believe it's time to say goodbye to another group of wonderful children. It doesn't seem like two minutes since Miss Akrigg welcomed (most of) you at the Reception doorway, ready to start your Kildwick journey. To those who joined the Kildwick family along the way - we were so lucky to have you join us and it feels like you have always been here - you soon became part of the furniture!

Mrs. Fordham had to leave you early and we welcomed baby Isaac. Before she left she talked about how you have been a fantastic class this year and was disappointed not to make it to the end of your school year with you. We all know how incredibly hard you've worked, and you should be very proud of yourselves. Your SATs results impressed us all, but they were no surprise, as we had seen your dedication and brilliant progress.

Your hard work began nearly seven years ago when most of you joined us in Reception. Each year, you have grown and matured, becoming role models for the rest of the school, particularly for your own Reception buddies. You have helped them settle into Kildwick school and leave them with happy memories of their first year in school. Thank you!

Year Six, you will be missed by your buddies, the staff and your friends in school. We hope that you will give us a wave from the playground when you come back to collect a younger sibling, or perhaps even a small nod if we pass you on the street! It might be hard to believe that you will soon forget about us, but you will as you start the next chapter of your school life. We hope that you carry with you the Kildwick values of respect, forgiveness, peace, friendship, trust and courage.

We wish you all the best of luck at your secondary schools. Our loss is most definitely their gain. Continue to do your best, work hard, and enjoy your school life.

We will miss you!

From all the Kildwick staff

Loving to Learn

Eagles

Last six hours of primary school
Goodbye is getting near
The sums and sentences all done
The full stop day is here

Last five hours of primary school
Where everything's before
The aims and games and crazes
no one's crazy for no more

Last four hours of primary school
Surrounded by a class
who'll scatter soon and not return
when summer's days have passed

Last three hours of primary school
One final lunchtime play
Instead of chasing friends
we try to chase and catch the day

Last two hours of primary school
The clock hands blur and skid
Signing shirts, remembering
the coolest things we did

Last one hour of primary school
where teachers understood
And helped me see I could achieve
for they believed I could

Last half hour of primary school
The assembly we all dread
We cannot sing - us Year Six Kings
The crown slips from our heads

Last ever second of primary school
The full stop rings in our ears
But a thousand chapters left to write
We must vacate our childhood site
For time moves on and time is right –
To leave our wonder years.