



Farsley Westroyd Primary School and Nursery Newsletter

A Season of Reflection and Growth

Dear Parents, Carers, and Students,

As we come to the end of the longest and most important term of the school year, we have the opportunity to pause and reflect upon the achievements of the last few months. There is no doubt it has gone fast, but isn't that always the case when we are busy and enjoying life? At Westroyd this term, that has certainly been the case. Every second of the day is utilised to ensure our children have the best primary education possible.

I often wish parents and families could have a bird's-eye view of what happens throughout the day, every day, in school. We share our exciting news through blogs, social media, the website, and newsletters—which is great—but it is actually our day-in, day-out excellent teaching, consistent routines, and strong relationships that make our school so successful. The fact that our attendance is in the top 1% of the UK shows just how much our children want to come to school.

We have just completed pupil progress meetings, sandwiched between Christmas concerts, parties, and carol singing. It has been pleasing to see the impact of our current priority to improve writing, especially the focus on handwriting and spelling. Our students are dedicated to improving, which is truly inspiring. Outside of lessons, the way our pupils and staff have prepared and presented the Christmas shows and carol singing not only showcases the fantastic talents in our school but also our collaborative spirit.

I want to express my sincere gratitude for your continued support. The partnership between home and school is vital, and your encouragement makes a tangible difference to the lives of our students and staff. There have been many positive comments shared with teachers and on social media, which honestly mean so much to the hardworking staff in school. We are very thankful.

I wish you all a joyful and peaceful holiday season, and a safe, restful break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the New Year, ready for another exciting term of learning.

Jenny Pashley

Elf Run – Simon on the Streets

We certainly fulfilled our school value of 'enjoyment' when we donned our elf hats, grabbed some bells, and sprinted around Westroyd Park last week. What made the event even better was that we were raising awareness and supporting a vital local charity, Simon on the Streets, at the same time. In school, we teach our children to read, write and count, filling them with knowledge across a wide range of subjects. However, at Westroyd, we believe it is just as important to teach skills such as empathy and the importance of being proactive in helping others. These values enable our pupils to become positive, active citizens in the future. We would like to thank Simon on the Streets for coming into school to share the important work they do and for letting us take part in such a brilliant event.

How to Donate: If you would like to support the cause, you can still donate by visiting: <https://www.iustavina.com/charitu/simononthestreets>





Leeds Domestic Violence and Abuse Process

The Leeds Joint Agency Protocol for Domestic Violence and Abuse: School Notifications (DVA Notifications Process) has been established to support children who live in households where there are incidents of domestic violence and abuse. We know that children can be physically or emotionally harmed by being present in the house at the time of an incident or by directly witnessing it.

The DVA Notification Process has been designed to provide confidential notification to schools regarding any incidents of domestic violence and abuse which occur within a child's household that might have an impact on them whilst they are in school.

Under this process, a DVA notification is sent to the school and a member of the safeguarding team at Farsley Westroyd Primary School and Nursery will take the call. This person will act in confidence to ensure that we as a school are supporting the children in their education and making provision for any difficulties experienced following an incident.

We have a duty to share this process with you on a regular basis to make you aware of the measures in place to protect our children from harm.

If you would like further support or information about domestic violence and abuse, please visit:

www.leedsdomesticviolenceandabuse.co.uk



Spellings

This year writing is our main area of development, ensuring our children have strong transcription skills. Across all schools, writing is the subject that children find the hardest as there is so much to remember in the moment: letter formation, spelling, grammar, punctuation and composition. Our aim this year is to make it easier for the children by embedding the mechanics of letter formation, spelling, punctuation and grammar so that there is enough cognitive space in their brains to focus upon the composition.

Our spellings are changing after Christmas, with the balance of "tricky" words that do not follow any patterns increasing within our weekly taught spelling pattern. Each year group has a set list of "tricky words" set by the government and the children need to solidly learn these. You will find that we will come back to words over and over, which is a strategy to ensure the spelling has gone into their long-term memories. Often with spellings, children learn them for the test and then do not apply them accurately in their independent writing. This is when we apply our marking and feedback policy and also why we revisit the spellings over and over.

Another strategy we have introduced in school, which you may already use at home, are mnemonics. These are memory aids such as rhymes, acronyms, visual patterns, colours, lists and chanting. The children tell us the way they find most useful to remember is writing the spellings out over and over. Another way they tell us is writing the word into a pattern or shape, such as a circle or rainbow. Something to try at home perhaps.

Welcome New Families to Westroyd

This half term we have had a high number of children join our school, attracted by our small, caring family ethos. Transition has been very easy, with the existing children being just so kind!



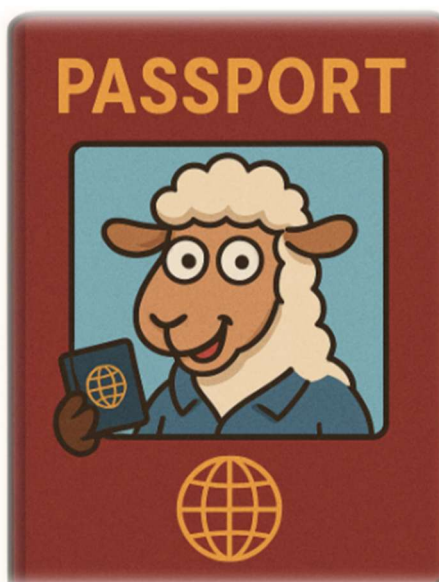
Wraparound

We have received funding from the government to expand our wraparound with new resources and materials. The children are going to love our new craft area. Morning sessions are quite sociable with a lot of game playing and then in the evening we have a specific focus each day. It ranges from craft night and cookery night to film night, offering the children different experiences. We find after school the children can be more tired so we respond to this with more chilled-out activities alongside focus activities. Everyone helps to prepare and tidy away at mealtimes, just like in a family home. Because they are Westroyd children this is never an issue and we never have to ask or direct the children to help—it just happens!

If you are in need of wraparound, do contact the school office. We can offer regular bookings and usually ad hocs. We know what working life and family can be like. Things can happen at the last minute; just give us a call and we can see what we can do. You can use your 30-hour EY entitlement and or tax-free vouchers

Team SEND

At Westroyd we are an incredibly inclusive school, with strong expertise and experience in promoting progress for all learners in all areas of the curriculum. An inclusive setting benefits all children as we all learn from each other together. The kind, supportive and unjudgmental attitude our children display is just brilliant and persists at all times. Our children know when to support and when to challenge and they really are the best models in promoting progress. We are keen participants in events and competitions across this part of the city for pupils with SEND. Of course we always go out to win and be the best we can! They even bumped into Santa last week at a singalong! If you need to discuss your child's needs, Miss Johnston our SENCO is available on senco@westroyd.org. Be aware she works Mon to Wed.



Pupil Passports

Watch out for our new year group passports going live next half term. These include a selection of activities and experiences specific to the children's year group that we have pledged will happen. All of these are in line with the school's values: Enjoy, Believe, Achieve and Together.

Dates

There are lots of dates already booked. They are attached to the end of this newsletter and will also be on the website calendar. You can link your calendar with our website calendar to make life easier. Anything new or amended is in red.

Spreading Joy Through Music

The UKS2 choir have had a tremendous Christmas season. All the lunchtime practice has paid off. Along with the Winter Voices concert, we have spread joy in Leeds Kirkgate Market, Farsley Town Street, in our yard and we even surprised some of our special local friends with a singsong on their doorsteps!



Exceptional Leave Requests

. At times you may need to pull children out of school for a variety of reasons. If you are removing your child from school, you must complete an Exceptional Leave Request form so that we know for safeguarding accountability where they are. We ask that forms are submitted in good time and ideally at least 14 days before the leave starts so that we have time to process the forms and respond to you. We understand that in emergencies this may not always be the case.

A polite reminder that the government states that holidays in term time are not an exceptional circumstance and should not be authorised. You can find out more about attendance and fines by following the link: <https://www.gov.uk/school-attendance-absence>

Lost Property

A huge plea to remind you to write your child's name in their uniform. As an example, I have never in thirty years of teaching seen more homeless jumpers than are in the Year 1 lost property box! We can't hand them back with no name. Miss Connell claims she can sniff out families by their fabric conditioners, but if you all use Lenor that makes it a hard one for her! Please get the stickers (they stay on even in the dryer) or use a Sharpie.

Pudsey Community Project

Our friends at Pudsey Community Project have asked us to share information about their youth services.

Monday: Games Club, 6pm – 7.30pm (for school years 4-9)

Thursday: Youth Club, 6pm – 7pm (for years 4-6)

Sessions are £1.50 and booking is not required. Further information is available on their website:

<https://www.pudseycommunity.org.uk/>

Pupil Responsibility

Having a role to play in the running of the school boosts the sense of belonging and feelings of responsibility. It is no surprise with our children that they are incredibly eager to help out and carry out roles.

Our Year 5 pupils in particular have risen to positions of responsibility this term, designing and implementing a rota to support play in the KS1 yard. They also support on doors and with the inclusion of children with additional needs. Of course, this responsibility is a commitment and they ALWAYS turn up when it is their turn and give 100%.

On our recent school tours, it is the children that lead these, sharing what happens in our school and their own thoughts and views about their experiences. They are never short of anything to say and the feedback from the visitors is really positive. Our Year 4 children set up for assembly and tidy away, as well as setting up for wraparound. The most desired role, though, is the DJ in assemblies. This is a tough recruitment process! These are just a few examples and I know that if I were allowed to let them, they would always be up for making their teacher a brew!

Spotlight on a staff member: Mrs Hart – Teaching Assistant

Our fun-loving Mrs Hart spends part of her week in Nursery and the rest of her time covering classes up in the main school. As a qualified Level 3 Playleader, she is currently completing an apprenticeship to gain Level 5 Teaching Assistant status. This is her pathway to becoming a teacher and is her vision for the future. She always has a smile for everyone and is a right good problem solver!



New lunchtime staff

We welcome Miss to our lunchtime team, down in the early years, to ensure with our increased numbers in the nursery that we meet the statutory ratios over the lunch period. She is well known to us, as we are keeping it in the family, as her daughter attended Westroyd before starting her high school career in September 2025

School Caretaker

Do you, or do you know someone who has the skills and passion to become our new school caretaker? Mr Bussey has decided to move on and that leaves a vacancy for someone to fulfil this very important role within our Westroyd family. We are looking for someone who loves being around children and has the skills and expertise to safely maintain our grounds and buildings.

This really is a superhero role, as alongside the daily safety and maintenance routine, you will have to come to the rescue when things go wrong! This is a part-time role for 25 hours a week, term-time only, with flexibility as to how those hours are worked. We can also offer additional hours to complete specific projects when needed.

All candidates are subject to an enhanced DBS check. Application packs are available from the school office: office@westroyd.org.





Calendar Dates - Spring

January 2026

- 5.1.26 – Nursery Closed
- 5.1.26 – R–Y6 School Opens
- 6.1.26 – Nursery Opens
- 7.1.26 – Y5 Sharing Assembly @ 2:00pm
- 8.1.26 – Y3/Y4 TTR Battle
- 9.1.25 - Reception 2026 School Tour @9.30am
- 12.1.26 – Y4/Y5 Residential Information Meeting (in person)
- 12.1.26 – Y4/Y5 Residential Information Meeting (online 6pm)
- 19.1.26 – Aspirations Week
- 20.1.26 – James Campbell Author Visit
- 20.1.26 – Rising Stars Cricket Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4 starts
- 21.1.26 – Reception Village Walk
- 26.1.26 – EY Open Session @2.30pm
- 29.1.26 – Mountain Witch Theatre Production
- 30.1.26 – Governor Monitoring in School

February 2026

- 2.2.26 – Y3 Mosque Visit
- 5.2.26 – RWI Parents Meeting @9am
- 6.2.26 – Y3 Sharing Assembly @2pm
- 9.2.26 - Y1 Library visit
- 10.2.26 – Safer Internet Day
- 12.2.26 – Valentines Disco
- 12.2.26 – SEND Panathlon KS2
- 13.2.26 – Recognition @9am
- 13.2.26 – Last Day of Term
- 23.2.26 - Parent First Aid Training Session
- 26.2.26 – TTR Battle Y3/Y4

March 2026

- 5.3.26 – World Book Day
- 11.3.26 – WY Open Session @2.30pm
- 12.3.26 – Healthy Schools Assessment Day
- 13.3.26 – Treat a Special Person to Afternoon Tea
- 19.3.26 – Reception Trip to Sutcliffes
- 20.3.26 – Bake Off
- 20.3.26 – Non-uniform for Easter Eggs
- 20.3.26 – Little Sing Y1/Y2
- 20.3.26 – Comic Relief Bake Off
- 23.3.26 – Y6 SATS Practice Week
- 23.3.26 – Easter Concert
- 26.3.26 – KS2 SEND Panathlon
- 26.3.26 – Movie Night
- 27.3.26 – Y4 Sharing Assembly @2pm
- 30.3.26 – Grow a Pound Launch
- 30.3.26–2.4.26 – Y4 Swimming

April 2026

- 01.04.26 – Easter Egg Dip
- 02.04.26 – Break Up for Easter



Calendar Dates - Spring

April 2026

- 20.4.26–23.4.26 – Y4 Swimming
- 23.4.26 – Y3 Trip to The Deep
- 24.4.26 – Grow a Pound Deadline
- 30.4.26 – TTR Battle Y3/Y4

June 2026

- 1.6.26 – Y4 MTC Test Week
- 4.6.26 – Y5 Horrible Histories Theatre Trip
- 5.6.26 – Y3 Horrible Histories Theatre Trip
- 5.6.26 – Y1 West Yorkshire Wildlife Park
- 8.6.26 – Y1 Phonic Screening Week
- 11.6.26 – Afternoon Tea for a Special Person @2pm
- 12.6.26 – Non-uniform for Chocolate Donations
- 17.6.26 – New Reception & Nursery Parents Meeting @6pm
- 18–19.6.26 – Y4/Y5 Geography Residential (YHA Grinton Lodge)
- 19.6.26 – EY Open Session @2.30pm
- 25.6.26 – Summer Fair @3.30–4.30pm
- 26.6.26 – Y3 Sleepover
- 26.6.26 – Y1 Sharing Assembly
- 26.6.26 – Big Sing KS2
- 29.6.26–1.7.26 – Y6 Bikeability
- 30.6.26 – Reception Stay and Play

May 2026

- 4.5.26 – School Closed (May Bank Holiday)
- 5.5.26 – Y1 Phonic Screening Meeting @6pm
- 7.5.26 – Phonic Screening Meeting in Person @9am
- 7.5.26 – EY Open Session @2.30pm
- 11.5.26 – Y6 SATS Week
- 14.5.26 – SATS Treat (Y6 & Staff)
- 15.5.26 – Reception Trip to Hesketh Farm
- 15.5.26 – Y2 Sharing Assembly
- 21.5.26 – TTR Dress Up Day Y3/Y4

July 2026

- 1.7.26 – Reception Stay and Play
- 3.7.26 – School Closed (Training Day)
- 6.7.26 – Happy, Healthy Week
- 6.7.26 – Reports to Parents
- 8.7.26 – Sports Day KS1 & Reception @9.30am
- 8.7.26 – Nursery Sports Day @10.45am
- 8.7.26 – KS2 Sports Day @1.30pm
- 10.7.26 – Reception Sharing Assembly
- 10.7.26 – Big SAMBA
- 13.7.26 – Y6 vs Teachers Rounders @1.30pm
- 13.7.26 - Y6 Show 6pm
- 14.7.26 – Y6 Filey Trip (TBC)
- 15.7.26 – EY Beach Party
- 15.7.26 – Y6 Prom
- 16.7.26 – End of Year Recognition @9am
- 16.7.26 – Y1/Y2 Theatre Trip
- 17.7.26 – Y6 Leavers Assembly @2pm