



Farsley Westroyd Primary School and Nursery Newsletter

Message from the Headteacher, Jenny Pashley

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Another half term has flown by, with so many achievements and enrichment activities having taken place right across the school. While we have so much going on, we still prioritise maintaining a consistent routine for our children. One such example is my morning stroll. Every morning, first thing, I visit each class to greet the children and check that we are all feeling good and ready to learn. What a privilege it is to be met with smiles, acknowledging nods, or thumbs up. Being a small school, I know every little person; with a quick scan of the class, I can easily spot the overnight haircuts, but more importantly, I can read their faces and see if perhaps something is not quite right. It happens - it could be feeling poorly, a change in morning routine, being tired, a falling out, or even different clothing. That is when I delve into our bag of strategies and do what we need to do to make sure we all feel good and ready to make the most of the day ahead! It works for the staff, too.

There is a lot of information in the newsletter this half term. This may have been a short half term, but Summer Two is much longer with so much already booked in. Please remember that important dates are included in this newsletter and on our website; we also send out our weekly "What's On" document every Friday for the following week. Training days and holiday dates for next year are all set and listed below. So, grab a cup of tea and a couple of biscuits, and take a few minutes to read through our Summer One newsletter. Have a fabulous half-term holiday in the sunshine!

Staff Spotlight – Mrs Hart

Did you know that we actually have two Mrs Harts at Farsley Westroyd? One is our super-efficient Business Manager, who works two days a week, and the other is our fabulous Mrs Hart who works all over the school! All the children in school who attended our nursery know Mrs Hart and, over the last year or so, have enjoyed the fact that she has been "let out" of the EYFS a couple of days a week and now teaches right across the school. She is currently covering Mrs Hollingshead's maternity leave alongside Miss Maybank in the nursery, and she also leads our Run Club, which has become super popular. Mrs Hart always has a smile on her face and approaches every day with a solution-focused attitude. She is a really important part of the Westroyd family.

Sun Safety

Here comes the sun! This is a reminder to keep everyone safe in the sunshine. Children need a named sun hat - for the younger ones, a style with a neck flap is ideal - and a named water bottle. The children will be able to fill these up throughout the day and have access to water at all times.

Sun cream is always a tricky one. We ask that you ideally apply long-lasting sun cream (8-hour coverage) with a minimum of Factor 50 in the morning before coming to school. If your child is in wraparound care, their day is clearly longer than eight hours, so you will need to send in some cream in a named container for them to top up.





The Fine Line Between "Tool" and "Toy"

Fidget tools were originally designed to help students focus, particularly those with very specific sensory needs. Without a doubt, when used properly, they achieve this goal; we see this happening discreetly every day in our school for individual children. However, when newly designed, large, bright, or noisy fidgets make their way into the classroom, they often achieve the exact opposite result for the individual, their peers, and the staff.

The Reality: Instead of quietly channelling nervous energy, these items become highly engaging, sought-after toys.

The Impact: Students spend teaching time testing the fidget's capacity, performing tricks, and showing their friends. This unbalances the original purpose by pulling their attention - and that of their peers - away from teaching and learning. We are finding that children are missing chunks of the teaching sequence and are thus unable to complete independent tasks. Furthermore, fidgets are getting in the way on desks, meaning the quality of presentation is being compromised. We are also observing upsetting situations where fidgets are brought in and subsequently damaged, borrowed, or traded. Across the school, we are seeing the number of fidgets increasing, with children understandably proud of a new item and excited to share it with friends.

At this point, the level of disruption to teaching and learning is such that we must ask you to work with us on this and ensure your child does not bring fidgets into school. For everyone's benefit, we would greatly appreciate your support.

Our Promise: Like you, we want our children to feel secure and ready to learn, and we have a wide range of effective, tried-and-tested strategies to support this. If your child genuinely requires a sensory accommodation to focus, our staff will work with you so that the school can provide approved, research-backed tools that are age-appropriate and integrated into their learning plan.



Wraparound Care

This term, we have welcomed back Mrs Cowie (formerly Miss Watson) after the birth of her second baby and her wedding. Goodness me, she has come back like a surge of galloping horses—full of passion and enthusiasm for making wraparound engaging, exciting, and organised!

We have a new model in place now, with Mrs Sim leading Monday to Wednesday and Mrs Cowie leading Thursday to Friday. Mrs Pinder covers every morning, and Miss Robinson is there every evening, ensuring a continuation of familiarity for the children.

There is a wonderful, homely feel at our wraparound care. Because it is run by our own staff, our school ethos permeates throughout—it has a proper family feel! We have weekly special menus and daily focus activities linked to our current theme. This half term has been very "fishy" with a seaside theme, complete with special menus and activities every day. I have heard some lovely, excited comments from the children who are really looking forward to their after-school fun.

Next Year

We have planned our Transition Morning for 1st July 2026, when our children will find out who their teaching team will be in September. This is the children's news first, and we do hope they come home and tell you all about who their new adults are!

In case that news doesn't quite make it through the front door, we will also send a letter home on that day to let you know directly.



30-Hour Nursery Codes (FEEE)

Many of you access the free 30-hour nursery entitlement as working parents, which is such a helpful system for family budgets. This is a reminder that it is **your responsibility** to renew your code every three months via the Government Gateway to ensure the free entitlement continues for your child.

The government sends reminders to renew directly to you; you must respond to these to obtain a refreshed code. If you do not renew in time, you will unfortunately generate a debt to cover the nursery fees. If a debt is generated, you also run the risk of losing your nursery place.

If you need any help or further information regarding your account, please contact the team at FEEEQueries@leeds.gov.uk or call 0113 378 9700.

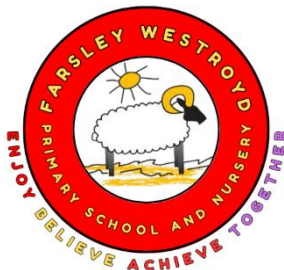
Junior PARKRUN

Mrs Hart has been leading an after-school running club this year that has gone from strength to strength. As we love to have fun together, we are inviting our families to join us at 8.45am on Sunday 14th June to complete the junior parkrun in Bramley Park. We do hope to see you there. I believe Rosie the dog may be making an appearance too!



Emotion Coaching

Recently, all staff have undertaken emotion coaching training. This is an approach that uses moments of heightened emotion and resulting behaviour to guide and teach children about more effective responses. Through empathetic engagement, a child's emotional state is verbally acknowledged and validated, promoting a sense of security and the feeling of being "felt". Research shows that this activates changes in the child's neurological system, allowing them to calm down both physiologically and psychologically. While inappropriate behaviours are never condoned, incidents are discussed in a more rational and productive manner once limits are set. From there, we move together to problem-solve and engage in solution-focused strategies. Through repetitive, consistent, and empathetic emotion coaching, a child's ability to regulate their own emotions is strengthened. This approach fits perfectly with our restorative way of responding to difficult situations; both are key features of our behaviour policy review, which is currently being developed.



Sentences

Writing is a headline of our school development plan currently and will feature into next year, too. It is such a complex skill for all children. We have worked on handwriting, grammar, and spelling, and now our focus is composition. Specifically, we are focusing on the concept of a sentence right across the school, starting with using full sentences orally. If you think about it, the use of a complete sentence is not a skill used as often as it may have been in the past. We write quick messages rather than talking on the phone, our text messages are brief with acronyms, and we watch YouTube or TikTok clips rather than longer TV shows. Our thoughts are that the concept of a sentence is being lost.

Consequently, right across the school, we are focusing on the use of full sentences when we speak. Staff are providing "sentence stems" for children to use in class for their responses, and we are modelling full sentences back to the children. We are expecting the children to use full sentences orally just as we do with them—no more one-word answers! Our thinking is that this, combined with extra teaching around vocabulary, will improve the quality of our written sentences. See if you can do the same at home!



Healthy Schools

We are so proud to have achieved National Healthy Schools Status, which reflects the priority we put on promoting our children's emotional and physical health. Miss Martin has worked her socks off to get us to this high threshold - well done, everyone! We even feature in both the West Leeds Dispatch and the Yorkshire Evening Post!





Uniform Policy

This half term, our governors have ratified our school uniform policy, which you can find on our website. The core principle is that wearing our uniform promotes a sense of belonging, pride, and comfort for the children. If children are not in uniform, it can make them feel left out, and evidence shows they are more likely not to follow school rules or perform at their best in lessons.

At Farsley Westroyd, a key aspect of the policy is that the cost of uniform must absolutely not be a barrier. Children do not have to wear school-branded products, and there is no expectation to buy a red hoodie for the PE kit; the school jumper or cardigan is perfectly fine on PE days. We are also able to help with providing uniform, both in the short and long term. We have a stash of pre-loved uniform items that we are happy to donate—just drop us an email! We love to recycle, as it's good for the planet, too.

If a child does come to school out of uniform, we will offer them spare uniform to wear for that day, as we believe ensuring they feel that sense of belonging is very important to their wellbeing. We know washers can break and we have all had that emergency morning!

Attendance

A reminder that we are not able to authorise holidays in term time. The government is very clear on this point:

"The DfE does not consider a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation to be an exceptional circumstance." (Working Together to Improve Attendance, 2024)

We absolutely know that the difference in price is ridiculous; we are all subject to it as well! While we aren't sure how this can be resolved at a government level, we have tried to help where we can. For next year, we have attached a training day to a school holiday (October and May), as we feel this might help reduce the cost of going away at peak times for families. Our data shows that many of you already choose to go away during these periods.

However, we would not be doing our job if we did not share the impact of children missing time in school. Current teaching approaches focus on small daily steps that we revisit every day to practise and build upon, creating strong foundations. We have a vast curriculum to cover, and we know so much more these days about cognitive science and how children learn; even small gaps can have a lasting impact. We know this is not a decision you take lightly, and we trust you will weigh up the situation in the best interests of your child.



Use of Tracking Devices (e.g. Apple AirTags) on School Trips

Going on school trips and residential is a valuable and important aspect of your child's primary education. School staff undertake extensive safety preparation and planning prior to any trip; this includes robust risk assessments and contingency planning, which enable us to respond to any unforeseen circumstances while away from school.

While we understand that parents may have concerns about their child's safety during a trip, the use of personal tracking devices raises significant safeguarding, privacy, and security concerns. For example:

Data Protection: Schools have a legal duty to protect every child's personal data, and the use of private tracking devices can compromise this responsibility.

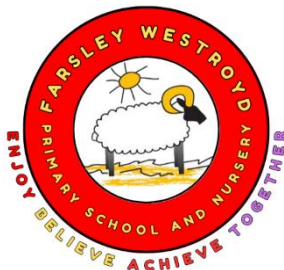
Safeguarding Risks: Tracking devices can inadvertently reveal the real-time location of a whole group of children. This poses a significant risk—especially for pupils under protection orders, those in foster care, or children with specific safeguarding needs.

Staff Distraction: These devices can disrupt and distract staff from the management of the trip. For instance, weather conditions may require us to alter an itinerary at short notice, and trackers can cause unnecessary confusion or alarm for parents following along at home. Furthermore, these devices can trigger unwanted tracking alerts on staff phones, which is a major distraction during safety protocols.

If you are concerned about your child attending a trip, please do come and talk to us. However, for the reasons listed above, we ask that children do not have trackers on them during school trips to ensure we keep everyone safe. Thank you for your support.

Superintendent

In case you had not already met him, we have a new superintendent: Mr Duncan Brier. He has swiftly fit into our team and, by the looks of it, he will even be joining us on residential in June! Mr Brier fits in perfectly with our solution-focused approach to life and will not let a problem beat him!



Sad News – Mr Clough

To all our wonderful parents, carers and children,

After just under three brilliant years as a class teacher here at Farsley Westroyd, the time has come for me to say goodbye.

If I'm being completely honest, coming here was never the original plan. Before Westroyd, I had actually fallen out of love with teaching and felt ready to walk away from the profession entirely. I initially only took a job here to cover Miss Harps maternity leave for half a year - mostly because I was following my long-time friend Mr Popple for a third time, as he really can't get rid of me that easily.

However, Westroyd completely changed everything. From the moment I stepped into the classroom, my spark was instantly reignited. I fell back in love with teaching, watching the children progress and being part of such an incredible staff team. Half a year quickly turned into three. I was welcomed with open arms, given fantastic opportunities to take on curriculum responsibilities and truly felt part of the family.

There is a unique buzz at Westroyd - a brilliant "us against the world" mentality where we all want to show exactly why we are the best school in Leeds. Taking part in my first ever Ofsted inspection here and helping our amazing team rightfully secure a 'Good' rating is a memory I will cherish forever.

As much as I love teaching, it is a job that requires an immense amount of effort and energy to make school so special for your children. Because of that, I have made the tough decision to step back. While I've loved helping your children create wonderful school memories, I need to make sure I'm creating those same memories with my own family. My little girl starts school this September and I don't want to miss a thing. I am so excited to finally do the school pick-ups, the occasional drop-offs and actually get to attend the Father's Day breakfasts and Nativity performances as a dad.

This was not a decision I took lightly. I am genuinely upset to be leaving, but family must come first. If there's anything I've learnt from working in schools for the past 10 years, it's that children don't stay small for long. Blink and you'll miss it and I want to enjoy those very special days.

I have loved meeting every single one of your children and chatting with so many of you on the playground. I will always be a fan of Westroyd from afar, forever supporting and applauding the amazing staff for the miracles they work every day.

To put a familiar phrase into my own words: it's good to be Farsley, but it's even better to have been Farsley Westroyd!

Thank you for everything,

Mr Clough





New Teacher

This week, to fill the teaching gap, we have successfully recruited a new teacher! This was a really challenging process with a high number of applications to choose between. Farsley Westroyd has a strong reputation across the city these days, with our delightful children being the headline reason.

On the recruitment day, our children played a significant part in the process and helped us ensure we "got a good one"—only the best will do for us! We cannot release her name until we have completed all the safeguarding checks, but we can tell you she is someone local, born and bred, with a passion for teaching, fun, Rugby League, and Formula One. We think she is going to fit into our family just beautifully.

Term dates next year

School Calendar academic year 2026/2027

Holiday	School Closes	School Opens
Summer Break		Tuesday 1 September 2026
Autumn mid-term	Friday 23 October 2026	Monday 2 November 2026
Christmas Break	Friday 18 December 2026	Monday 4 January 2027
Spring mid-term	Friday 12 February 2027	Monday 22 February 2027
Easter break	Friday 2 April 2027	Monday 19 April 2027
Summer mid-term	Friday 28 May 2027	Monday 7 June 2027
Summer Break	Thursday 22 July 2027	

Bank Holidays Include

25 December 2026	Friday	Christmas Day
26 December 2026	Saturday	Boxing Day
1 January 2027	Friday	New Year's Day
26 March 2027	Friday	Good Friday
29 March 2027	Monday	Easter Monday
3 May 2027	Monday	Early May Bank Holiday
31 May 2027	Monday	Spring bank holiday
30 August 2027	Monday	Summer bank holiday

Training Days 2026/2027

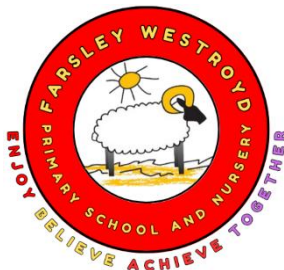
Tuesday 1st September 2026

Friday 23rd October 2026

Friday 20th November 2026

Friday 28th May 2027

Friday 2nd July 2027



Calendar Dates - Summer

June 2026

- 1.6.26 – Y4 MTC Test Week
- 2.6.26 - Y1 Movie Night 3.30pm – 5pm
- 4.6.26 – Y5 Horrible Histories Theatre Trip
- 5.6.26 – Y3 Horrible Histories Theatre Trip
- 5.6.26 – Y1 Yorkshire Wildlife Trip
- 8.6.26 – Y1 Phonic Screening Week
- 11.6.26 Afternoon Tea for a special person KS1 in main school. 1.45pm – 2.30pm
- 11.6.26 Afternoon Tea for a special person Reception in EY 1.45 – 2.30pm
- 12.6.26 Afternoon tea for a special person KS2 in main hall 1.45pm – 2.30pm
- 12.6.26 – Non-uniform for Chocolate Donations
- 14.6.26 – Family Park Run at Bramley Park
- 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

July 2026

- 1.7.26 – Reception Stay and Play
- 2.7.26 – Y5 Bouldering
- 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
- 9.7.26 Yorkshire Water Workshops
- 10.7.26 – Reception Sharing Assembly
- 10.7.26 – Big SAMBA (Y5)
- 13.7.26 – Y6 vs Teachers Rounders @1.30pm
- 13.7.26 – SEND Swim Panathlon at John Charles
- 13.7.26 Y6 show to parents 6pm
- 14.7.26 – Y6 & Y2 Filey Trip
- 15.7.26 – EY Beach Party
- 15.7.26 – Westroyd's Got Talent
- 15.7.26 – Y6 Prom
- 16.7.26 – End of Year Recognition @9am
- 16.7.26 Y6 Bowling/Laser Tag
- 16.7.26 – Y1/Y2 Theatre Trip
- 17.7.26 – Y6 Leavers Assembly @2pm
- 17.7.26 – Last Day of School