



Farsley Westroyd Primary School and Nursery Newsletter

Message from the Headteacher, Jenny Pashley

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Have we really been at school for six weeks? Time has well and truly flown by and as the sun is setting later and snowdrops are peeping through the ground, spring is certainly on the way. We have escaped the "white stuff" - always a stress for everyone who needs to be anywhere - although watching the snowy scenes at the Winter Olympics does make the snow look appealing.

We have welcomed a number of new families to Farsley Westroyd this term. The children have settled in easily and shown how our reputation in the local community and further afield is going from strength to strength.

I am particularly excited about our upcoming plans for the National Year of Reading. Although outcomes in reading are a strength across the school, writing is a priority for us. As our standards in handwriting, grammar and spelling go from strength to strength, reading more is going to aid our children's "turn of phrase" in their writing.

I was also excited to learn this week when I was contacted by the Leeds Civic Trust that we have been a discussion point at the National Civic Trust down in London. Our Heritage Day and links to the local community have impressed them and we have been invited to work with them again! I wonder if we are invited to London, how many sheep can we take with us!

Finally, I would like to extend a huge thank you to our dedicated staff. Their hard work behind the scenes ensures that Farsley Westroyd remains a happy, safe and stimulating environment for your children. Over these last couple of weeks, I have been really struggling with my hamstring injury and the team spirit, care and kindness from colleagues have been overwhelming! We really have a fantastic bunch of adults to match our absolutely fabulous bunch of children.

Wishing you all a peaceful and happy holiday break.

Nursery Places

If you are looking for a nursery place in September, we urge you to contact us as soon as possible. We are very popular and spaces are filling up fast. We have increased our capacity to meet demand, but we still have a cap on how many children we can have in a session. Remember, if you choose to use your 30-hour entitlement with us, you can do this without incurring additional childcare costs.





Religious Education at Farsley Westroyd Primary School and Nursery

In the UK, Religious Education (RE) holds a unique and statutory place in the curriculum. Unlike other subjects, it is not part of the National Curriculum but is a legal requirement for all state-funded schools to teach it to all pupils (unless parents exercise the right to withdraw). Unlike Maths or English, what is taught is decided by a SACRE (Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education) in each local authority. This ensures the curriculum reflects the specific community the school serves.

"Modern RE isn't about telling children what to believe; it's about giving them the tools to understand what others believe. It equips our pupils with the empathy and intelligence needed to thrive in a diverse 21st-century society."

At Farsley Westroyd, promoting a pupil's personal development is a strength of the school. We take the DfE's requirement that we promote Fundamental British Values - specifically Mutual Respect and Tolerance - as a priority. These values are promoted through everything we do in school. In a country with a diverse religious and non-religious landscape, understanding our friends' and neighbours' worldviews is essential for social cohesion and preventing misconceptions both now and into the future.

RE at our school encourages our children to further explore and develop their moral compass - a process that begins at birth. Our RE lessons allow children to explore ethics by looking at how different traditions (religious and secular) approach justice, poverty and the environment; children begin to build their own framework for being a "good person." We talk a lot in our assemblies and when things go wrong about the Golden Rule (treating others as you wish to be treated). The Golden Rule is a principle in every single faith and secular philosophy. Ultimately, in our RE teaching - which the children tell us they enjoy and lesson participation is high - children are learning that you don't have to share a belief to respect the person holding it.



Powerhouse Students

Our students from West Leeds SILC are now well-established in a routine. Every Wednesday afternoon, Lewis and Kiyana come and hear children read from our Y3 and Y4 classes. It is such a win-win situation. Our children are getting an extra opportunity to read 1-1 and increase their reading fluency and Lewis and Kiyana are learning the skills of being a teaching assistant in the workplace.

Afternoon Tea for a Special Person

On March 13th at 2pm for KS1 and 2.30pm for KS2, we are asking the children to invite one special person in their life to be treated to afternoon tea in our school hall. Tickets will cost £5 per special guest and will go on sale on Tuesday 24th February at noon on Arbor. To make this manageable and safe, numbers are capped and will be sold on a first come, first served basis. Each special guest will be treated to a bottomless hot drink, scone, selection of cakes and biscuits. To show how important you are to the child, they will be serving you at the table and making sure you have a terrific time!

Our Reception children will also be hosting the same event down in the Community Room in Early Years at 2.30pm.

We will be repeating this event again in June if you are not able to make this one!

This week we had lessons across school to promote to the children how to stay safe online. As you know, the most popular social media platforms such as WhatsApp, Facebook and Snapchat are all for ages 13 and above. If you are letting your children use these platforms, we urge you to closely and frequently monitor their communications. Often conversations happen on an evening and they filter through into school the next day. This can cause significant upset amongst the children and distracts both children and adults from teaching and learning to resolve issues.

A cartoon illustration of a young boy with white, curly hair, wearing a red sweater over a white shirt and a dark tie. He is sitting on a colorful circular rug on the floor, looking up with a worried or sad expression. Above him, a cluster of digital devices and social media icons floats in the air, connected by swirling lines. The devices include a smartphone, a tablet, and a laptop. The icons include a ghost, a speech bubble with a heart, the Facebook 'f' logo, the Twitter bird, and a red circular icon with a white 'X'. The background is a simple room with a blue bed and a white pillow.

- ### Attendance in school

A reminder that you can check your child's attendance on Arbor and we suggest doing this half-termly. If your child's attendance slips to 90% or lower, they are then classed as persistently absent. You may be invited in for a meeting with our attendance lead if this does happen to try to improve your child's attendance. If you do take a holiday in term time, it is likely that you will hit that 90% or less trigger, especially if they then go on to have a period of ill health and need to be absent from school.



Have you seen your child's yet? It is a "bucket list" of exciting learning experiences to achieve over the year. Ask your child what they have already done! At Farsley Westroyd, we believe they only have one chance at primary education so we want to make it the best that we can. The teachers are really excited!



National Year of Reading

Did you know it was the National Year of Reading? When I told the teachers this, they thought I was just trying to get them involved in yet another project. Now they know that 2026 is the National Year of Reading with the simple target of getting children to read and enjoy reading more. At Farsley Westroyd we have decided to go for a National Literacy Trust accreditation to highlight how much we do to promote reading across your school. Miss Maybank will be sharing more with you shortly. What I do know is that with World Book Day fast approaching as our launch event, I believe it is going to be time to get dressed up and do lots and lots of reading! More to follow.



Spelling at Farsley Westroyd

This is a little bit different these days. We are now sending home each week, five words from our spelling scheme and five words that we have identified as year group specific tricky words. Those words that are used frequently, that follow no pattern, don't use phonics and must just be remembered. At Westroyd, we talk a lot about "nailing the basics" and year group specific spellings are the basics that children need to learn, before moving to their next year group. You will find that these words rotate, as we will revisit to in bed in the long-term memory. Often children get full marks in spelling tests, yet spell them wrong in their independent writing. In school we have taught the children strategies to help them memorise spellings and they do use their metacognitive skills to know what works for them. At home, we do ask that you encourage them to practice through the week ready for their weekly test. Spellings are on the class webpages.

Trees

A very exciting little project to improve the sustainability of our planet is brewing in our school. We are working with Parks and Gardens to build a mini-forest. Leeds City Council declared a climate emergency in the city in 2019 with the ambition to make Leeds carbon neutral by 2030. In line with this, the council have committed to increase the tree canopy across the city from 17% to 33%—an additional 9,000 hectares. This will offset carbon emissions and provide a better future for the planet and the future generations of Leeds.

Eager to support the council's mission, back in autumn, some of our year groups attended a seed workshop in Westroyd Park. The seeds we collected then went to the Leeds Arrium to become saplings. These saplings have now come back to us ready to be planted in our grounds. Later in the year, our Reception children will visit the Leeds Arrium to see how the process of germination occurs. A big thank you to George in Reception's parents for getting us involved in this fabulous project to promote a sustainable future!





HT Blog

Did you know this existed on our website? Each week Miss Pashley writes a blog about what has been going on. Usually, it is a collection of funny stories about the children and staff or proud moments that have happened.

Farsley Christmas Light Switch-On

Can you believe we have already had two meetings about next year's Farsley light switch-on? The intention is to make it an even more creative event that is child-focused and fun for everyone. We have a theme but we are keeping stum! However, it was our very own Miss Dennison who came up with the idea... We will shortly be having a fundraiser in collaboration with the other two schools in the village so we can make lots of willow lanterns again for the parade.

Focus on a Staff Member: Mrs Burden

This lady has been part of the Westroyd family for a very, very long time. She won't let me tell you how long, but it is a long time! She has taught generations and saw the school change from a one-form infant school to a full primary. She knows where all the old fireplaces used to be and the original entry points.

A very stylish lady, she always looks super smart and professional. We affectionately call her the "Phonics Queen!" In the last two years, she has taken a lead in the teaching of phonics and her practice has been complemented by both the Yorkshire Reading Hub and the team from Read Write Inc. She has coached other staff in delivering whole-class sessions, groups and targeted interventions. She tells us she sleeps, breathes and talks phonics every single day—and she gets results! There are no barriers in Mrs Burden's head; every child will be successful and she finds ways to make this happen. Such a superstar!



Exciting News!

Mrs Hollingshead is going to have a baby! She is due at the end of May, adding another little person to her family. We are really pleased for her and wish her all the best. She is coming back, do not worry! Having worked at Farsley Westroyd for thirteen years and knowing how committed she is to the school; she is going to find it hard to sit back.



Elf Fun

We raised a grand total of £200 for Simon on the Streets back in December. Thank you for your kind donations. Good fun was had by all and it is something we would like to do again. Mr Popple and our Governor, Craig Timmins, even sprayed their beards green!





Calendar Dates - Spring

March 2026

- 5.3.26 – World Book Day
- 11.3.26 – WY Open Session @2.30pm
- 13.3.26 – Treat a Special Person to Afternoon Tea
- 19.3.26 – Reception Trip to Sutcliffees
- 20.3.26 – Bake Off
- 20.3.26 – Non-uniform for Easter Eggs
- 20.3.26 – Little Sing Y1/Y2
- 23.3.26 – Y6 SATS Practice Week
- 23.3.26 – Easter Concert
- 26.3.26 – KS2 SEND Panathlon
- 26.3.26 – Y5 Choir at Stanningley Primary School
- 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
- 31.3.26 – Y6 Trip to Royal Armouries

April 2026

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



Calendar Dates - Summer

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
- 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 to parents 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
- 17.7.26 – Last Day of School