



Farsley Westroyd Primary School and Nursery Newsletter

Message from the Headteacher, Jenny Pashley

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

As we reach the final few hot days of the academic year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible journey we have shared since September 2025. It has been a year filled with enjoyment, achievement, determination, growth, and countless moments that make me smile both inside and out. I say it often, but I am immensely proud to be the headteacher of Farsley Westroyd Primary School and Nursery and feel very lucky to spend every day with such wonderful children and such fantastic staff!

First and foremost, a huge well done to our children. We always strive to do our best, believing we will achieve. Whether it is in sport—reaching the Leeds-wide netball finals or winning the local football derby—participating in numerous musical performances and workshops, or taking part in our community volunteering and academic achievements. We already know we have smashed the national expectation for the multiplication test in Y4 and have continued to beat our previous years' scores for the last three years!

This year, we have seen 26 new pupils join our school, which is nearly a whole class, and we have more joining us in September. The word is certainly getting out about how fabulous our school is. I would say that the priority we place on ensuring we have strong relationships right across school, and the impact this has on the children's emotional wellbeing and confidence, is a huge strength of ours. You won't learn if you don't feel good about yourself! And let's face it, we only have one go at primary education, so we need to make sure it is the most enjoyable, memorable, and best it can be for our children.

Our year group bucket lists have been a popular driving force to enhance our curriculum learning this year, enriching what we already do. We have had so many trips out and about and visitors into school. Our children continue to absolutely love our sheep points reward system! Behaviour at our school is so good that they don't really need a carrot to make this happen, but the sheep points are an important recognition for the children of how well-behaved they are.

Highlights for me this year include running around the park dressed as elves to raise money for the charity Simon on the Streets (so much fun!), our run club training and participating in the Junior Parkrun, and the Y6 show—so professional! There was also the residential up to Grinton (how many sheep?), our end-of-year music concert where we rocked like superstars, and achieving our Healthy Schools standard and Music Champion status!

An exceptional school community relies on teamwork, and I am deeply grateful to everyone who plays a part. To our parents and carers, thank you for your unwavering support, your open communication, and for partnering with us to champion your children's education. To our staff, your tireless energy, creativity, and commitment to creating a safe, inspiring environment for our young people is nothing short of extraordinary.

For now, I wish you all a safe, restful, and wonderfully sunny summer holiday. Take the time to relax, recharge, and make wonderful memories with family and friends.



Fond Farewells

As always, the end of the year brings some goodbyes. We say farewell to our brilliant Y6 learners. They were in Y4 when I joined Farsley Westroyd as headteacher, and I have to say they kept me in line and always offered the honest pupil voice I needed to move the school in the right direction. We are very fond of that cohort and they will be missed greatly—though they leave us with lots of happy, funny memories too! They are leaving us well-prepared for the next exciting chapter, and we wish them every success.

We also say goodbye to Miss Palmer, who is leaving her role as a teaching assistant to spend more time with her family, and to Miss Thompson, a teaching assistant in our Early Years team, who is taking up a full-time post at another school. Finally, we are all ready to say a very fond farewell to our Mr Clough, although he certainly won't be a stranger. We are all such good friends that I am sure he will still be about in school! He is leaving to spend more time with his young daughter, who starts school in September, and to explore other career options. There will definitely be tears on Friday!



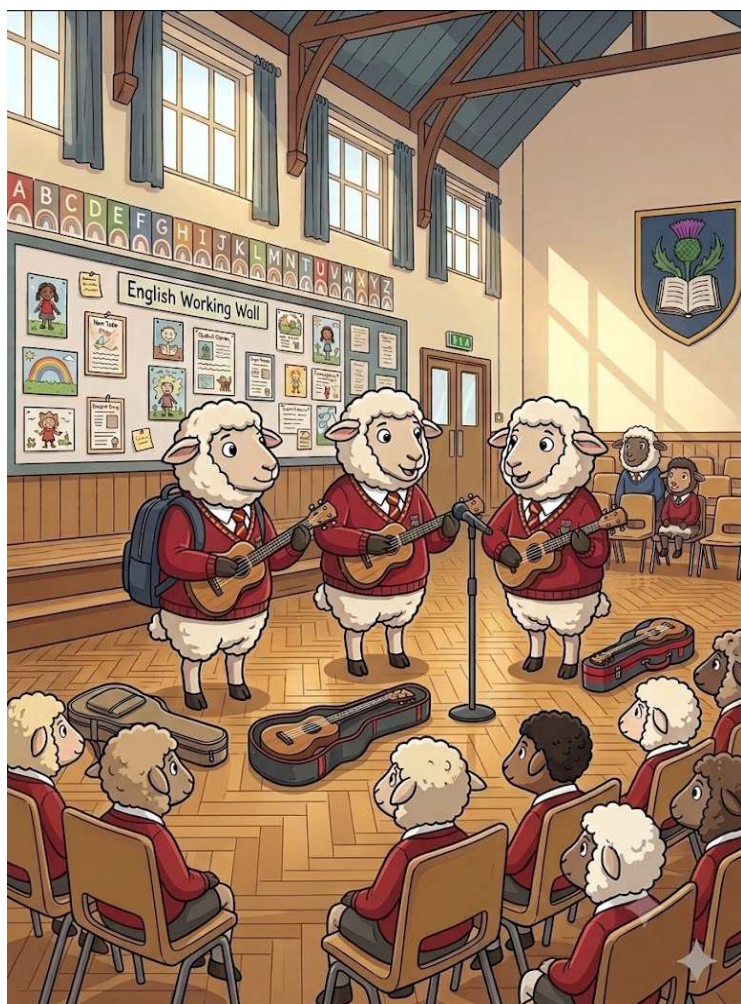
Looking Ahead

We have a new teacher, Miss James, who has been spending lots of time in school getting to know her new class and the staff. We also welcome Miss Clarke, who is brand new to our teaching assistant team, while Miss Butterworth, Miss Young, and Miss McConnell have all increased their hours with us for the upcoming academic year.

Volunteer Readers Needed

We are looking for volunteers to come into school on a regular basis to listen to our children read. While we teach phonics very systematically, the children also need as many opportunities as possible to practise these skills so they can read fluently.

All volunteers will receive full training and will require an enhanced DBS check. If you know anyone who might be interested in spending an afternoon reading with our delightful children, please contact the office at office@westroyd.org.



Music Champions

We are feeling very proud to be identified as a Music Champion School. To us, primary school music is about enjoyment, participation, and access for all! Of course, we teach the music curriculum in our year groups, but as a school, music is truly the epitome of our ethos. It is incredibly enjoyable, it makes us feel good, we do it together, and we do it to the absolute best of our ability. Over the three years I have been at Westroyd, we have participated in so many amazing musical experiences—from opera and samba, to singing in arenas, marketplaces, and on doorsteps! Always, of course, with big smiles on our faces.

Mr Fisher has made learning the guitar and ukulele a cool thing to do, with the children playing and making music they love, and he has taught them to perform straight from the heart! Our music offer is also highly inclusive; there are no barriers, and we adapt everything so that everyone can be part of the fun. This half term, I was invited to speak at the city-wide music conference about our school's music offer and our focus on using participation to promote emotional well-being and inclusion. So, quite rightly, we are a Music Champion school, and we are mighty proud of our unique offer. After all, we all sing in the car, don't we? Why do we do that? Because it makes us feel good!

Handwriting and Pens

Writing continues to be the headlining feature of our school improvement plan—like a lot of schools! Although we intend to carry on with our drive to improve and embed foundational skills in writing, such as spelling, handwriting, and grammar, we are slightly changing our teaching structure. Mr Fawcett, our writing lead, has consulted with the children, staff, and other schools to bring more clarity to how we teach, moving towards a more direct, modelled approach. Essentially, our new thinking is: let's write less, but write better!

A big decision was also made by the teachers on our training day, based on the evidence in the children's books. We have noticed that when children achieve a pen licence, two things tend to happen: writing in pen is nowhere near as neat as writing in pencil, and the standard of the handwriting can slip because they have achieved that final goal. We want our children to have the best handwriting possible because it makes them feel proud!

Furthermore, the goalposts have shifted with the Ofsted framework, and maintaining good handwriting is a vital foundational skill that children will need to carry with them to high school. As a result, we will no longer be issuing pen licences from September, but will instead be introducing a handwriting award.



Bradford Catering Agency

As you are aware from previous correspondence, we are moving from Leeds Catering to Bradford Catering Services from September 2026. We believe this will provide a higher quality meal and better value for money for parents.

The way Bradford Catering works is that you, as parents, will book your child's meals and make payments directly on ParentPay. This information is then sent straight through to the kitchen staff. This cuts out the school office, saving our staff the job of booking meals and chasing payments, as Bradford Catering will take over the management of payments and debt collection on our behalf.

What you must do as soon as possible is download the ParentPay app from your app store and use the personalised username and password that we have sent home. Everyone must do this, regardless of whether your child has a packed lunch or school dinners. If you have more than one child, you will need to enter both usernames and passwords to set them up. Everyone has to register their child's meal choice as either packed lunch or dinner.

If you have any difficulties, our office team are here to help as always—just get in touch or pop in.

Free School Meal Eligibility

If you think you may be eligible, or if you were previously eligible for free school meals, you will need to reapply. Please do check, as you could be missing out on saving yourself some pennies!

Benedict's Law

We want to make you aware of a significant and very important change in the law coming into action from September 2026. As a parent myself of a child with significant allergies, including food allergies, I know first-hand how vital this legislation is, and I warmly welcome the implementation of this guidance to strictly enforce allergy safety in our school.

If you believe your child has a food allergy, please speak to your GP, who can refer you to an allergy clinic to have this formally diagnosed. This will enable us to fulfil our duty and put the right plans in place. The allergy team in Leeds are superb—I know this from personal experience!

A bit of background:

The new guidance is named in memory of five-year-old Benedict Blythe, who tragically passed away in December 2021 after suffering a severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) to cow's milk at his primary school. Following his death, his parents and various allergy charities campaigned extensively to turn school allergy safety from "discretionary best practice" into a strict legal requirement. This historic legislation has officially passed as part of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026.

What this means for our school:

Our staff will undergo comprehensive allergy training during the Autumn term, and we will be reviewing all Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs) for children with diagnosed food allergies. As a school, we will also hold spare, emergency adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs/Epipens) on site, implement a dedicated school allergy policy, and rigorously record and report any "near misses".



Powerhouse Students

All year, we have had the wonderful Lewis and Kiyana reading one-to-one with our children in Y3 and Y4 on Wednesday afternoons. Some beautiful relationships have been forged over the year—so much so that there is sometimes as much chatting as there is reading going on! As both Lewis and Kiyana are coming to the end of their studies, they are now leaving us for their next adventures.

However, we already have two new students joining us from Powerhouse in September. They came to visit the other day, and we are currently going through the recruitment process to get them on board. It is such a beneficial partnership all round!

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 - Autumn

September 2026

- **Tue 1st:** School Closed (Training Day)
- **Wed 2nd:** School opens for Autumn Term
- **Mon 21st:** Seed workshop at Westroyd Park (Year 1)
- **Tue 22nd:** Seed workshop at Westroyd Park (Year 3)
- **Fri 25th:** Non-uniform Day (£1 for Christmas Lantern Project)
- **Fri 25th:** Community Harvest Festival @ St John's Church, 3:30 PM (Lantern Fundraiser)

October 2026

- **Thu 1st:** Black History Month "Honouring Our Communities" begins
- **Wed 7th:** New to Reception 2027 School Tour
- **Wed 7th:** Welly Walk (Nursery to Year 6) at Hainsworth Park
- **Fri 9th:** Wear Yellow Day
- **Wed 14th:** Harvest Festival at St. John's Church, 9:30 AM
- **Thu 15th:** Year 3 Trip to Stump Cross Caverns
- **Fri 16th:** New to Reception Tour
- **Fri 16th:** Year 6 Sharing Assembly
- **Mon 19th – Wed 21st:** Year 1 cycle training
- **Wed 21st:** Reception School Tour, 1:30 PM
- **Wed 21st:** Halloween Disco
- **Thu 22nd:** Recognition Assembly
- **Fri 23rd:** School Closed (Training Day)
- **Mon 26th – Fri 30th:** School Closed (Half Term)

November 2026

- **Mon 2nd:** School Opens
- **Wed 4th:** Year 6 SATS information meeting & Robin Wood information meeting, 6:00 PM
- **Wed 11th:** New Reception School Tour
- **Wed 11th:** Parents Evening (In person), 3:30 PM – 6:30 PM
- **Thu 12th:** Parents Evening (Online), 3:30 PM – 5:30 PM
- **Fri 13th:** Children in Need Day
- **Mon 16th – Fri 20th:** Anti-Bullying Week
- **Thu 19th:** Reception School Tour, 9:30 AM
- **Fri 20th:** School Closed (Training Day)
- **Wed 25th:** Farsley Light Switch on (TBC)
- **Thu 26th:** Movie night
- **Thu 26th & Fri 27th:** Year 4 Cycle training
- **Fri 27th:** Non-uniform Day for chocolate donations

December 2026

- **Wed 2nd:** School Tour
- **Thu 3rd:** Year 5 Sharing Assembly, 2:00 PM
- **Thu 3rd:** Christmas Enterprise Fair
- **Wed 9th:** Nursery & Reception Christmas Concert, 10:00 AM
- **Thu 10th:** KS1 Christmas Concert, 1:30 PM
- **Mon 14th – Thu 17th:** Year 4 Daily swimming
- **Wed 16th:** Nursery & Reception Party Day
- **Mon 21st Dec – Fri 1st Jan:** School Closed (Christmas Holidays)



Calendar Dates - Spring

January 2027

- Mon 4th: School opens

February 2027

- Tue 9th: Safer Internet Day
- Wed 15th – Fri 19th: School Closed (Half Term)
- Mon 22nd: School opens

March 2027

- Thu 4th: World Book Day
- Fri 19th: Red Nose Day
- Mon 22nd – Thu 25th: Year 4 Daily swimming
- Fri 26th – Mon 29th: School Closed (Easter Bank Holiday Weekend)



Calendar Dates - Summer

April 2027

- Mon 5th – Fri 16th: School Closed (Easter Holidays)
- Mon 19th: School opens

May 2027

- Mon 3rd: School Closed (May Day Bank Holiday)
- Fri 14th: Reception Trip to Hesketh Farm (TBC)
- Fri 28th: School Closed (Training Day)
- Mon 31st May – Fri 4th Jun: School Closed (Half Term)

June 2027

- Mon 7th: School opens
- Mon 21st – Wed 23rd: Year 6 Bikeability

July 2027

- Fri 2nd: School Closed (Training Day)
- Mon 26th Jul – Fri 3rd Sep: School Closed (Summer Holidays)