



Friday 7 November Newsletter



Ghyll Royd School
and Pre-School
A foundation for life

Headteacher's Message

Welcome back! I hope you all enjoyed a restful half-term break and managed to squeeze in a few crisp autumn walks (and perhaps a few extra treats too!). It has been wonderful to see the school buzzing again this week: full of smiles, energy and a real sense of purpose as we dive into the new half-term.

This is always a busy and exciting time of year as we build up towards the festive season. Rehearsals for the Nativity play are well-underway and I have already found myself humming the songs whilst walking through school! It is clear that our children have returned ready to learn and make the most of every opportunity. This makes me incredibly proud.

Next week marks **Anti-Bullying Week**, an important time for us all to reflect on how we can make our school an even kinder, more inclusive place. We will be joining in with activities, discussions and of course, **Odd Socks Day** to celebrate what makes each of us unique!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Let's make this half-term another brilliant one - filled with joy and plenty of positivity.

Headteacher's Commendations

Week commencing: 13.10.25

Reception: Wren for the way in which she has embraced Reception class and her enthusiasm to try her very best. Wren has demonstrated co-operation, consideration and care amongst her classmates.

F1: Ezra for always showing great care and consideration when working in class to both his work and his friends

F2: Freddie for his curiosity and inquisitive nature which means he is always eager to stretch and challenge himself in his learning. His enthusiasm is infectious, and he is always willing to support others and share his knowledge.

F3/4: Oscar and Sebastian, for working together so nicely on our school trip to Eden Camp. showing care, kindness and consideration towards each other and making the day positive from start to finish. Well done to both of you!

F5: Sophie for another excellent start to the year, excelling in her maturity inside and outside the classroom as well as demonstrating a 'can-do' attitude.

F6: Charlotte for being enthusiastic, always participating fully and her commitment to giving her best in the classroom, around school and on trips.

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

Ghyll Royd School is proud to stand with the British Legion in support of the annual **Poppy Appeal**, honouring those who have served and sacrificed.

In the front office, you'll find a special box filled with beautiful Poppy-themed items, available in exchange for a donation. Every contribution helps make a difference in the lives of veterans and their families.

Let's come together as a community to show our gratitude and support.

Thank you for giving generously.





Children in Need & Grandparents Day Friday 14th November for Reception Class & Form 6

We're delighted to once again welcome grandparents to join us for a special morning at school. The day will begin with our school assembly at 8:50am, where grandparents are warmly invited to attend, alongside parents, and share in the spirit of our school community. **Cake donations are very welcome!**

After the assembly, grandparents will visit the classroom of their grandchild. Following which, they will be escorted to the dining room for refreshments and cake supported by the School Council and in aid of Children in Need. It's a lovely opportunity to relax, chat, and enjoy some delicious treats together. All donations from the morning will go to Children in Need.

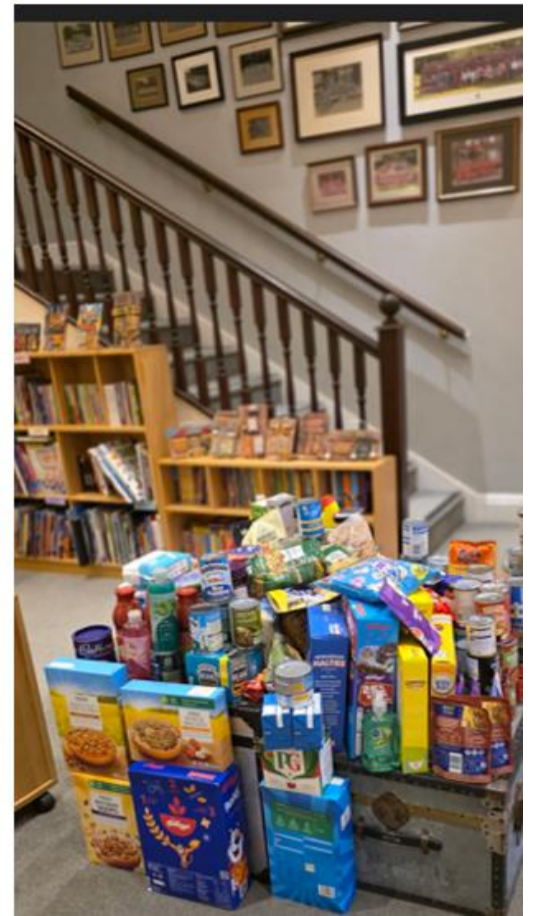
Nursery Pumpkin Adventure!



Our Nursery children had a *spook-tacular* time on their recent trip to the local pumpkin farm! They enjoyed a wonderful Halloween Walk, exploring the fields and spotting all sorts of fun and festive decorations along the way. Each child chose their very own pumpkin to take home, and there was plenty of excitement as they joined in with pumpkin carving and admired the colourful displays around the farm.

It was a fantastic autumn adventure filled with smiles, laughter, and a touch of Halloween magic. The children had a brilliant time learning about pumpkins, enjoying the fresh air, and celebrating the season together.



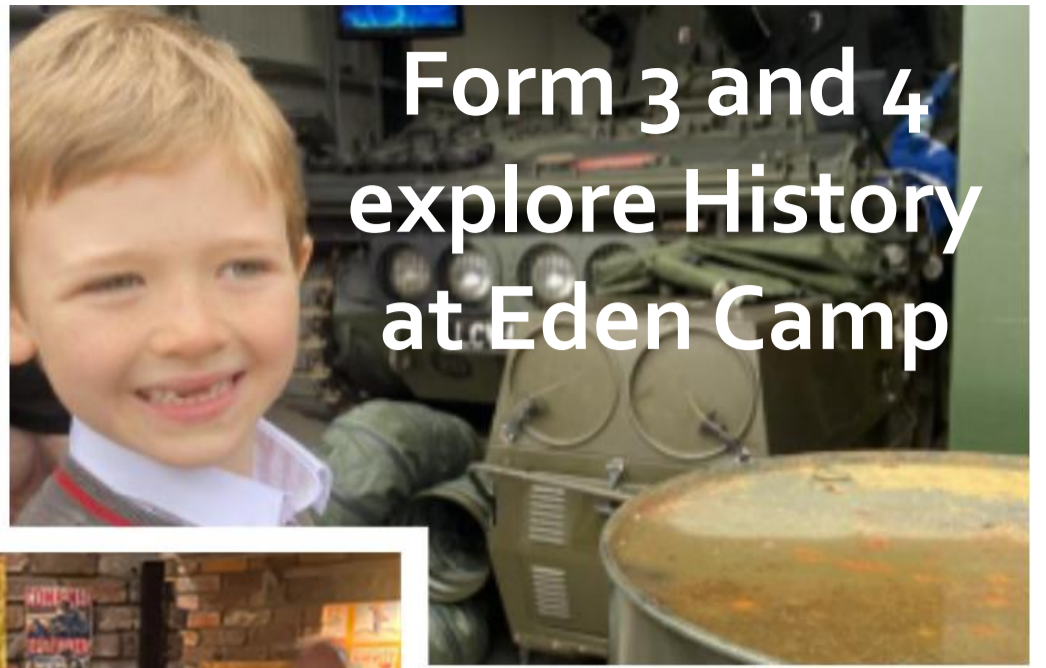


Harvest Festival Celebration – A Heartfelt Thank You

We had a truly wonderful time celebrating our Harvest Festival at school on Friday 17th October. The hall was filled with warmth, gratitude, and a real sense of community spirit.

A special thank you to Reverend Zoe from Burley Parish Church, who joined us and led a beautiful service that reminded us of the importance of giving and togetherness. **We are incredibly grateful to everyone who donated to Ilkley Food Bank.** Your generosity and kindness make a real difference to local families in need, and your support helps strengthen the bonds within our community. Please take a moment to read the heartfelt thank you letter from Ilkley Food Bank at the end of this newsletter — it's a touching reminder of the impact your contributions have made. Thank you for being part of something so meaningful





Form 3 and 4 explore History at Eden Camp



Our Form 3 and 4 pupils recently embarked on an exciting educational trip to Eden Camp Modern History Museum in North Yorkshire. The visit offered a unique opportunity to step back in time and immerse themselves in the sights, sounds, and stories of World War II. As they wandered through the museum's atmospheric huts, each one dedicated to a different aspect of wartime life, the children encountered a wide array of historical artifacts, interactive displays, and realistic reconstructions. From the Blitz and rationing to life on the Home Front and the role of women in the war effort, the exhibits brought history vividly to life. The pupils were particularly captivated by the recreated street scenes, air raid shelters, and military vehicles, which helped them better understand the challenges and resilience of those who lived through the war. The trip not only deepened their knowledge of the Second World War but also sparked thoughtful discussions back in the classroom. It was a memorable day filled with discovery, reflection, and a newfound appreciation for the past.



ISA Northern Swim Competition



Just before half term, Mr O'Connor led three of our talented swimmers to the ISA North qualifiers.

👉 **Hugo** powered through the **Year 5 Breaststroke**, finishing **10th out of 27** — a fantastic effort!

🚀 **Monty** showed incredible versatility, placing **5th in Backstroke** and **7th in Freestyle** among a competitive field of around 26 swimmers!

🏆 And then there's **Sophia** — who truly stole the show! She clinched **2nd place in Breaststroke** and **1st place in Freestyle**, earning her a spot on **Team North at the Nationals**! She'll be representing in both the **Year 5 Individual Freestyle** and the **Freestyle Relay**!

🎉 **Huge congratulations to all three swimmers** for their outstanding performances — and a massive **GOOD LUCK** to **Sophia** as she heads to the Nationals! We're cheering you on every stroke of the way!

U9's Rugby Friendly vs. Moorfield Primary School



Prior to half term, we were thrilled to host Moorfield for a friendly rugby fixture!

Our school fielded two teams, and Moorfield also brought two teams, making for a fun and action-packed afternoon. The emphasis was all on teamwork, skill, and sportsmanship, so we didn't keep score, it was all about enjoying the game and learning from each other. The children played with great energy and enthusiasm, showing excellent team spirit and having lots of fun along the way. It was a fantastic opportunity for everyone to enjoy rugby in a relaxed, friendly environment.

Well done to all the players for their effort and positivity, we can't wait for the next friendly match!



Exciting News! Recommend a Family and Receive £250!

We're delighted to announce the launch of our Recommend a Family Scheme!

Do you know a family who would love to join our wonderful school community? If you recommend them and their child joins our school, you'll receive £250 as a thank you once the new pupil has completed one full term with us.

It's our way of saying thank you for helping our school grow with families who share our values and enthusiasm for learning.

How it works:

Tell your friends and family about our school and all the great things happening here.

If they decide to enrol their child, make sure they mention your name when applying.

Once their child has attended for a full term, you'll receive your £250 reward!

We truly value the support of our school community and look forward to welcoming more wonderful families to our school.

For more information or to make a recommendation, please contact the school office.



Help Us Grow Our Library!

We're excited to share that our school library area is expanding with a brand-new set of shelves and we'd love your help to fill them!

If you have any unwanted children's books at home that are in good condition, we would be so grateful if you could donate them to the school. Please bring any donations to Main Reception at your convenience.

Reading is at the heart of everything we do. It sparks imagination, builds confidence, and opens up a world of adventure for our children. Our pupils absolutely love spending time in the library, discovering new stories, exploring different worlds, and sharing books with their friends.

Your donations will help us make our library an even more inspiring and exciting place to read and learn. Thank you for supporting our growing community of young readers!

Forms 1 and 2 will head to Harrogate Theatre for a festive theatre adventure!

We're delighted to share that our Forms 1 and 2 pupils will be heading to Harrogate Theatre on Tuesday 10th December for a magical performance of Beauty and the Beast! This much-anticipated show promises to be a dazzling spectacle filled with music, laughter, and festive fun. With colourful costumes, catchy songs, and plenty of audience participation, it's the perfect way to kick off the Christmas season and create joyful memories with friends and classmates. The trip is a wonderful opportunity for our younger pupils to experience live theatre and enjoy the magic of storytelling brought to life on stage. We can't wait to hear all about their favourite moments, from the enchanted castle to the music, and stunning stage sets!





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Nursery Open Morning – Friday 14th November, 9:00–11:00am

We're delighted to invite all families, friends, and members of our community to our Nursery Open Morning on Thursday 14th November. Come along and see our wonderful Early Years setting in action!

Join us for a relaxed "Stay and Play" session, meet our friendly EYFS practitioners, explore our three vibrant nursery rooms, and even try out a fun gymnastics class with your little one. It's a fantastic opportunity to experience the warm, nurturing environment that makes our nursery so special.

We're currently taking registrations for the next three years so whether your child is ready to join soon, or you're planning ahead for a baby not yet born, it's never too early to secure your place!

Please spread the word, everyone is welcome! We can't wait to welcome you and share what makes our nursery such a happy place to learn and grow.

Date: Thursday 14th November

Time: 9:00am – 11:00am

Venue: Ghyll Royd School Nursery



Reception Class Experience Morning: Wednesday 26th November 2025



Dear parents, we would be grateful if you could share the following information with family and friends as everyone is welcome!

Reception Class Experience Morning – Open to ALL Children due to start in ANY school in September 2026!

Is your child due to start school in **September 2026**? We warmly invite you and your child to join us for a **Reception Experience Morning** at Ghyll Royd School in Burley-in-Wharfedale.

This special event gives children the chance to **experience a real morning in Reception**, enjoying exciting lessons, meeting teachers, and getting a feel for what school life is like. Parents are encouraged to stay and join in too!

During the morning, children will take part in:

An **art lesson** with our specialist Art Teacher

A fun **gymnastics session** with our Head of Sport

A delicious **snack/brunch** in our school diner

And a **Reception class activity** with our Early Years team

This event is **completely free** and open to all families, you don't need to be considering a place at Ghyll Royd School to take part. Our aim is simply to help children (and parents!) feel confident, excited, and ready for their first steps into school life.

Date: Wednesday 26th November 2025

Time: 8.45am until 11.30am

Christmas half term events

You're Invited to join us for Christmas Carols Around the Tree! Monday 8th December

We're delighted to invite all parents and grandparents to be a part of our School Christmas Day Celebrations!

Come along on Monday 8th December from 3:00pm to 3:40pm and enjoy the festive spirit as we gather around the Christmas tree to sing carols together. It's always a joyful and heartwarming way to celebrate the season as a school community.

To make the afternoon extra special, mulled wine, hot chocolate, and festive nibbles will be available to purchase from the dining room.

We can't wait to share this magical moment with you, it will be a lovely way to start the countdown to Christmas surrounded by family, friends, and festive cheer.

If any parents would like to bake/donate some Christmas buns, cakes or mince pies for this event, we would be very grateful. Please bring any donations on the morning of Monday 8th December when you bring your child to school.

Christmas Bazaar – Donations Needed!

Our much-loved Christmas Bazaar is just around the corner, and we need your help to make it a magical event for the children!

We're asking families to donate any unwanted items that could make lovely gifts, things like bubble bath, candles, books, toys, stationery, or small household treats. These donations will become part of our special Children's Christmas Gift Shop.

During the Bazaar, children will have the chance to choose and buy gifts for family members. Once they've made their selections, our team of festive Elves will wrap the presents beautifully, ready for the children to take home and place under the tree.

Please bring any suitable donations into school by Monday 1st December, so we can get everything ready for the big day.

Your generosity helps make this event one of the highlights of the school year and gives the children a wonderful opportunity to experience the joy of giving.

Thank you for your support and festive spirit!



Are you a parent who would like to support the school with events and fundraising? Then please come along to meet with Yvonne and Gill on Friday 14th November at 2.30pm. Thank you to all the parents who have already offered to volunteer. If you cannot make the meeting, please don't worry, if we have your name we can send you the minutes.





Ghyll Royd School Festive Celebrations – You're Invited!



As the festive season approaches, we are thrilled to invite you to join us for a series of joyful celebrations that showcase the talents and spirit of our wonderful children.

✦ **Nativity Performance:** Wednesday 4th December. Pupils will take to the stage to share the magic of the Nativity story through music, drama, and festive cheer. It promises to be a heartwarming performance full of sparkle and smiles.

🕯️ **Christingle Service:** Friday 5th December at 9am. All parents and carers are warmly invited to our Christingle service, where the children will reflect on the meaning of Christmas through candlelight, song, and prayer. A beautiful and peaceful moment in the school calendar.

🏰 **Christmas Celebration at St Mary's Church, Burley** at 4pm. On Thursday 11th December Reception through to Form 6 will come together for a special Christmas service at St Mary's Church. We would be delighted to welcome you to this festive gathering, filled with carols, readings, and seasonal joy.

We look forward to celebrating this magical time of year with you and your families.



🎨📷 **Calling All Young Creatives!** 🌿 ✨

Ilkley Rotary Club

Young Photographer & Artist competition (Forms 3 to 6)

The Ilkley Rotary Club is thrilled to announce the return of its **annual 'Young Photographer & Artist' competition**, a vibrant celebration of imagination, talent, and nature's joy!

This year's theme is **"Happiness in Nature"**, inviting children in **Forms 3 to 6** to capture the beauty, wonder, and delight found in the natural world. Whether through a lens or a paintbrush, we want to see what happiness looks like to you!

📅 **Competition Dates: 3rd November – 12th November** Judging will take place in the New Year, with exciting recognition for standout entries!

📧 **Stay tuned!** Entry details and guidelines will be shared soon via the school newsletter.

Let your creativity bloom – we can't wait to see nature through your eyes!
🌈 🌳 🦋

Easy Fundraising – Shop & Support

Support Ghyll Royd every time you shop online, at no extra cost to you. Simply visit easyfundraising.org.uk and select Ghyll Royd

School as your chosen cause. Thousands of retailers (including Amazon, John Lewis, and Marks & Spencer) will donate a percentage of your purchase directly to our school.



It's a simple, effective way to make a difference, all while doing your usual shopping.



Share the Moments That Matter!

We're excited to introduce a new mobile number where you can send in your child's stories, achievements, and photos to be featured on our social media sites and in the fortnightly newsletter.

We've loved celebrating the incredible accomplishments of our boys recently, but **we'd love to shine a spotlight on our amazing girls too!** Let's make sure every child's success is celebrated: 07852484265



New Hedgerow Planting Project at Ghyll Royd!

HEDGEROW PLANTING PROJECT

Join us for some community planting **this NOVEMBER** to bring back Burley's hedgerows!

PLANTING LOCATIONS:

Leather Bank by the underpass, opposite Ghyll Royd School

WHEN?

Sat 15th and Tues 18th
(10-12 only) Nov

Ghyll Royd School sports field, Leather Bank

WHEN?

Sun 16th and Sat 22nd
Nov

10:00-15:00 each day - join us for as long as you like! Under 16s must be accompanied by an adult. Meeting point GR for both sites: **SE 16277 46962**

Bring suitable footwear, a waterproof coat, lunch and a hot drink. Snacks and tools will be provided!

Please contact HedgerowsBurley@outlook.com if you have any questions



We are thrilled to be taking part in a brand-new **hedgerow planting project**, supported by Community Infrastructure Levy funding and run in partnership with **Burley in Wharfedale Parish Council** and the **Wharfedale Wombles**. Thanks to this initiative, Ghyll Royd School has been chosen as one of the sites where new hedgerows will be planted and our school community will play an important part in making it happen!

On **Wednesday 19th November**, **Form 5** will take part in a short, fun learning session all about the importance of hedgerows; the wildlife they support and why they are so valuable for our environment. Afterwards, the children will get hands-on by planting hedgerows in our school grounds. The following day, **Thursday 20th November**, it will be **Form 6's** turn to do the same.

We would also love to involve our parents and the wider community! Volunteers are needed to help with planting on several weekend dates, including **Sunday 16th November** and **Saturday 22nd November**, right here at Ghyll Royd.

If you'd like to join in, please see the poster for more details. Together, we can make a lasting difference for wildlife and our environment



Preparing for Remembrance Sunday

In the lead-up to Remembrance Sunday, Form 6 pupils have been busy bringing colour and care to our community by making the tubs look beautiful. Their hard work has truly brightened the surroundings.

A heartfelt thank you to Moss and Moor for generously supplying the plants, and to Bernie for sharing expert gardening tips with the pupils — your guidance made a real difference. We'd also like to extend our sincere thanks to the Burley in Wharfedale Community Trust for their ongoing support. Your commitment continues to help us grow, quite literally!



McDonald's Chip Trophy - Star of the Week!

At our holiday camps, we don't just hand out trophies, we serve them up with style! This year's Star of the Week award is none other than the McDonald Chip Trophy, named for its uncanny resemblance to a box of McDonald's fries.

Last week, Zac not only won the trophy — he made it legendary by actually using it to hold his McDonald's chips. That's next-level snacking AND winning.

Hats off to Zac, our fry-loving champion. Who's hungry for the next holiday camp win?



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Email: contact.emeliamay@gmail.com



ilkley foodbank



<https://ilkleyfoodbank.org.uk/>

Mr D Martin
Headteacher,
Ghyll Royd School
Burley in Wharfedale.

21st October 2025

Dear Mr Martin

May I thank you, your staff and your pupils (and their parents of course!) for your School's generous donation to Ilkley Foodbank which we received recently. We are most grateful and it will help us reach out to individuals and families in Ilkley, Addingham, Burley in Wharfedale and Menston who are struggling to make ends meet at this time.

Whilst the Ilkley area is seen as being fairly affluent, we currently have over 60 clients on our books of which 27 are families and include 40 children. Many of the parents are in employment but with rising rents, low-paid zero hours contracts, and with food prices and energy costs having risen by over 30% in the last three years, they are still struggling to put food on the table.

Ilkley Foodbank is staffed solely by unpaid volunteers. We do not receive either Council or Government support but instead we rely on the generosity of our local community who contribute either financially, by standing order, or in kind by leaving donations in our baskets at Booths, Tesco and Ilkley Co-op. For this generous support we are very grateful.

Once again thank you very much for choosing Ilkley Foodbank as the beneficiary of your harvest festival. I can assure you that everything that you donated will be put to good use amongst the most vulnerable in our community.

Yours sincerely

Alex Gibson

For and on behalf of the Trustees of Ilkley Foodbank



Term Dates & Autumn Term Calendar

November		
Date		
Mon 10		
Tues 11	Remembrance Day	
Weds 12		
Thurs 13	Swimming	
Fri 14	Celebration Assembly 8.50am U/11 Rugby @ Giggleswick	Grandparents' Morning for Rec, F1 & 6 8.30am to 11.00am Including.... 'Children in Need' Bake Sale by the School Council
Sat 15	Wharfe League Cross Country @ Ilkley Swimming Pool 9.00am	
Mon 17	Anti-Bullying Week: Odd Socks Day	
Tues 18		
Weds 19		
Thurs 20	Swimming	
Fri 21	Celebration Assembly 8.50am	U/11 Rugby CUP @ KRUF C
Mon 24		
Tues 25	U/9 Hockey @ BRHC Hosted by GRS	
Weds 26	Year 3/4 trip to Murton Park	
Thurs 27	Swimming KSI ONLY	Polar Post Box Arrives
Fri 28	Celebration Assembly 8.50am	U/11 Hockey @ BRHC Hosted by GRS

December		
Mon 1		
Tues 2	Nativity Dress Rehearsal 2pm	
Weds 3		
Thurs 4	Swimming KS2 ONLY	Early Years and KSI Nativity Production 2pm
Fri 5	Christingle Service 9.00am	End of Term Reports
Sat 6		
Mon 8	School Christmas Day and Lunch NO PE lessons	Parents' Evening 4.00-6.00pm
Tues 9	Christmas Carol Service Rehearsal Children in Form 3 to 6 to be dropped off at the church from 8.30am	
	Form 1 & 2 Pantomime trip to Harrogate Theatre	
Thurs 11	No Swimming	Christmas Carol Service 4.00pm @ St Mary's Church, Burley Reception to Form 6
Fri 12	End of Term Awards Service 2.00pm	

Term dates from September 2025 to July 2026		
Autumn 2025	School Closes	Friday 17th October
	School Opens	Monday 3rd November
	School Closes	Friday 12th December
	Nursery Closes	Friday 19th December
Spring 2026	School Opens	Monday 5th January
	School Closes	Friday 13th February
	School Opens	Monday 23rd February
	School Closes	Friday 27th March
Summer 2026	School Opens	Monday 13th April
	MAY DAY	Monday 4th May
	School Closes	Friday 22nd May
	School Opens	Monday 8th June
	School Closes	Friday 17th July

***Save The date for the annual visit of the official school photographer, for nursery and main school children on 6th May 2026**

