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Monday 8th
December
Newsletter



Headteacher's Message

What an unforgettable 'Christmas Day at Ghyll Royd! The festive spirit has truly shone through every moment, and it's been wonderful to see our pupils so full of joy and excitement.

Our **Winter Wonderland** was a spectacular success, with children enjoying a whole host of magical activities. The laughter and smiles said it all, and yes, we even heard shouts of "It's Christmas!!" echoing through the school!

A **huge thank you to Chef Dave** for cooking a delicious Christmas dinner for everyone today – it was the perfect way to bring us all together. We are also so grateful to all the **parents and grandparents** who joined us for **Carols under the tree on the grand staircase**. Your voices and presence made this tradition truly magical.

And finally, the **biggest thank you of all** goes to our incredible **parent volunteers** who planned and ran the **Christmas Bazaar and Winter Wonderland** so beautifully. Your creativity, hard work, and festive spirit gave our pupils a day they will never forget.

Thank you for making this season so special for our school community. Wishing you all a joyful and peaceful Christmas. Hadley

Headteacher's Commendations

Week commencing: 24.11.25

Reception: Ace K, for the enthusiasm he demonstrates across all the Reception curriculum and the effort he is making, rising to challenges, plus bringing lots of joy to the class

F1: Sisa N for exuding such a positive attitude with everything she does. She works hard in all her subjects and is a fabulous friend who can always be relied upon to bring the cheer, giggles and smiles.

F2: William D for his maturity and positivity, he pays attention to all the little details in his work taking onboard and implementing any feedback that is given to make his work even better. He is a kind hearted and caring friend, always there to help and support others

F3/4: Grayson H for trying his best in every English lesson, and creating a wonderful piece of written work, showcasing how hard he has been working all year so far. Well done Grayson.

F5: Jacksen C for consistent application and excellent work recently during Mathematics lessons.

F6: Astrid A, who shows what a great learner she is by displaying determination and concentration. There is not a task that Astrid will not attempt to figure out or solve. Fantastic work Astrid!

A Magical Nativity Performance

On Thursday, both Nursery and Upper School delighted audiences with a fantastic Nativity production titled "**Christmas with the Aliens.**" Parents and grandparents filled the hall, soaking up the festive spirit as our pupils brought this annual highlight of the school calendar to life. The performance was full of energy, creativity, and joy, an unforgettable start to the Christmas celebrations.



Ghyll Royd School's Christmas Day: Christmas Dinner, Bazaar, Winter Wonderland, and Carols Under the Tree

Monday 8th December 2025







Carols Around the Tree with Parents & Grandparents



St Margaret's Church Christmas Tree Festival



Reception & KS1 Pupils Shine at Ilkley Christmas Tree Festival!

Last week, our Key Stage 1 pupils visited the **Ilkley Christmas Tree Festival** and were thrilled to see our very own Ghyll Royd School tree proudly on display!

Each pupil contributed a beautiful **clay bauble**, lovingly crafted in Art lessons, making our tree truly unique and personal.

It was a wonderful way to celebrate creativity, community, and the festive season. Thank you to the organisers for hosting such a magical event!

Take a look at our tree and the incredible decorations made by our talented pupils.



Georgia took to the stage for the very first time at the Kings Hall in Ilkley on Sunday during their open day. She performed beautifully in ballet, tap, and modern routines. Despite feeling nervous, she overcame her fears and delivered an amazing performance. We couldn't be prouder of her!



U9 Hockey Festival

We were thrilled to take part in the U9 Hockey Festival alongside 11 teams from Westville, Moorfield, Terrington, Richmond House, and our own school. All of our Year 3 and 4 pupils joined in, playing mixed-gender games that focused on skill development rather than competition. No scores were kept, making it a fantastic coaching session where teamwork and learning were the real winners!



Max's Gymnastics Success!



We're thrilled to share Max's incredible achievement from last weekend! He competed in his very first **6-piece gymnastics event** and came home with **two Silver medals** for Vault and Floor, plus a **Bronze medal** for High Bar. What an amazing debut!

Here's what his coaches had to say: "Max took medals on floor, vault, and high bar in the Yorkshire Men's Artistic U8s Inters Competition in York this morning. It was fantastic to see how far our boys' team has progressed. This was a brand-new 6-piece competition with tougher routines and new criteria, and all of them held their own against clubs from across Yorkshire."

Astrid's Golf Achievement

Despite feeling unwell last week, Astrid showed incredible determination by taking part in the golf competition last Sunday. She played **18 holes using alternate shots** and gave it her all! The effort really tired her out, but it was worth it—**she and her team finished in second place** and even managed to beat her sister, Alexia!

Astrid continues to impress with her commitment to the sport. She's having regular lessons with the club's Assistant PGA Professional at **Otley Golf Club**, alongside her sister. With her growing skills and confidence, Astrid has truly earned the title of "**bunker buster**"!



Sophia shines at ISA Swimming Finals



The ISA swimming final was a fantastic experience! Sophia had been nervous all day, worried about not performing well and letting the school down. Despite the nerves, and a few tears at registration, she soon settled, put on her game face, and got ready for warm-up.

The 50m Freestyle individual event was an incredibly close race! With the commentator's excitement building as the top three battled to the finish, Sophia claimed Bronze with a time of 35.37 seconds - a long-course personal best!

Next came the 200m Freestyle Relay, another nail-biting contest. Team North secured Silver with a time of 2:30.55 (just behind Midlands at 2:29.45). Sophia loved being part of the team, chatting and laughing with her team mates poolside.

Sophia left feeling proud and accomplished, and couldn't wait to share her success back at school!



Nancy and Iris lend a Helping Hand

Nancy and her big sister Iris were busy spreading festive cheer at the **Burley Christmas Light Switch-On** this weekend! The pair volunteered at Queen's Hall, helping Scout and Guide leaders serve cakes and raise funds. They even had the chance to chat with local MP **Anna Dixon** during the event.

Thanks to their hard work—and the generosity of the community—the Scout & Guide Group raised **just over £800**.

What a fantastic achievement and a wonderful example of teamwork and community spirit!





OUTDOOR LEARNING – FORM 1

- Form 1 have been exploring the school grounds during Outdoor Learning. In one lesson, they faced a fun challenge: **draw something from the playground.**

Can you guess what Seth decided to sketch? **Hint:** It's something right behind him...

Mr O'Connor!

Sebastian received fantastic news this weekend, after all his hard work and dedication, he's been selected for the West Yorkshire U12 hockey team! Training kicks off in January, with fixtures running through to June 26.

This is an incredible achievement, especially considering he only joined Ben Rhydding Hockey Club last September and will be playing a year above his age group.



► Congratulations to Emily who successfully passed her Grade 1 Piano exam this week, earning a Merit. A fantastic achievement, and we are all very proud!



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.

Let's make sure every child's success is celebrated: 07852484265

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