



Headteacher's Message

Thank you to our wonderful parent volunteers who joined us on Friday 14th November for a lively meeting full of festive ideas for our Christmas Day celebrations on 8th December. The creativity and enthusiasm were fantastic! Since that meeting, our volunteers have been busy preparing for the Christmas Bazaar and Winter Wonderland, from sourcing prizes to wrapping gifts and creating fun activities. Their hard work is truly appreciated, and we'll meet again today at 2:30pm to finalise details. A huge thank you to everyone involved, we couldn't do it without you!

Our pupils are looking forward to Christmas Day and the many activities planned before we break up on 12th December. Nativity rehearsals are going well, and we're excited for parents to see the performance. Last week's Nursery Open Morning was a great success, and we look forward to welcoming more families at our Reception Experience Morning on 26th November. Thank you to our pupils, parents, and staff for your support and dedication during this busy time.

As we head into a cold, crisp weekend, hopefully with plenty of sunshine, we hope you find time to relax and enjoy the fresh air. It's hard to believe Christmas is just over four weeks away!

Headteacher's Commendations

Week commencing: 10.11.25

Reception: Coleman R for a fantastic attitude to learning and for demonstrating positive behaviour at all times.

F1: Freddie C for always working with determination when working towards completing the challenge. He listens carefully and is brave enough to give things a go even when he's not sure. Great work Freddie!

F2: Dylan L for always rising to a challenge and applying himself in lessons, for the enthusiasm he has shown on his return to school this term and the outstanding effort he put into his Learning Challenge homework

F3/4: Oliver R for his mature approach to work, his inquisitive nature and for challenging himself in all lessons.

F5: Hugo H for his application in the classroom, particularly in his written work and for the manner in which he was supportive during our Form 5 residential at Buckden House.

F6: Annabelle W, whose challenge and effort in preparation for the 11+ examination, showed determination and hard-work. Well done Annabelle for setting a goal and working hard to achieve it.

Week commencing: 17.11.25

Reception: Albie W for having such a fantastic week, his enthusiasm for wanting to learn new things was great to see and he took many opportunities to choose extra work to do!

F1: Seth J approaches every task with diligence, ensuring each detail of his work is handled with care. His friends all benefit from his thoughtfulness and caring nature, making him a cherished friend.

F2: Sofia R for her quiet determination, she consistently works hard, and is always supportive and encouraging of others. She is a super role model in the classroom with her positive attitude and behaviour.

F3/4: Max M for his awesome enthusiasm towards our English work, his mature application of Form 3 punctuation and grammar rules and for making such a wonderful start to the year. Well done Max!

F5: Sebastian W for his infectious sense of humour, for having a really positive start to the year and for the effort he put into this week's creative writing.

F6: Ben L works with genuine interest, enthusiasm & determination. He gives 100% in all he does and fully deserves the success he is having in F6.





We will Remember Them



Honouring Remembrance Day

On Tuesday 11th November, our Form 6 pupils attended the Remembrance Day ceremony at the memorial in Burley in Wharfedale. They joined the local community to pay their respects and reflect on the importance of remembrance. We are proud of how thoughtfully and respectfully they represented our school.



Keighley and Craven Cross Country League



Race 2 of the Keighley and Craven Cross Country League last week, took us to Highfield. A tough course with a very big hill! The children did amazing as the ground was very muddy. We had some great results from everyone. Year 5 and 6 boys team came first with Leyton 4th, Hugo 10th and Monty 22nd. Year 3 and 4 boys team came 6th with Alex in 6th, Grayson 30th and Idris 42nd. A great performance was put in by all the Ghyll Royd runners. We look forward to our 3rd race in the series back at Cliffe Castle in the early Spring.



Grandparents' Morning – A Wonderful Celebration!

On **Friday 14th November**, we were delighted to welcome grandparents of our Reception and Year 6 pupils for a very special morning.

The day began with a heartwarming assembly, after which grandparents joined their grandchildren in class for their first lesson together, a lovely opportunity to experience school life firsthand.

Following the classroom activities, everyone gathered in our school diner for a **coffee morning**, complete with beautiful cakes kindly donated by our parents. During the event, generous donations were made in support of **Children in Need**, helping us further contribute to this fantastic cause.

Thank you to all who attended and made the morning so memorable!

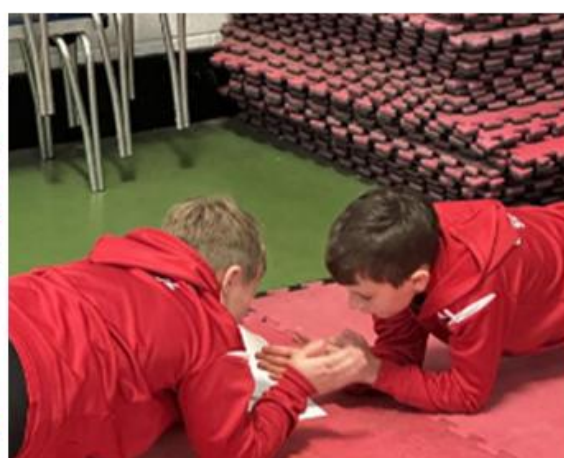


**HUGE CONGRATULATIONS TO
WILLIAM WHO RECENTLY COMPETED
IN THE AIREBOROUGH SWIMMING
CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**William competed in the age 8
category, earning second place
in both freestyle and
backstroke. He was awarded
two very well deserved
medals! Well done William!**



Children in Need Challenge 25!



On Monday morning, every class came together to take part in **25 exciting challenges** in support of **Children in Need**. From endurance tests to speed races, bouncing to catching, and even teamwork activities, the energy across the school was incredible. Each group gave their all, showing determination, enthusiasm, and plenty of smiles. The morning finished on a high note, with every class celebrating their achievements through a lively dance and a group photo. A huge **well done** to all our pupils for their fantastic effort and spirit—it was a wonderful way to support such an important cause!



CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

FRI 5 AND SAT 6 DEC

10 AM - 6 PM (SAT TIL 5 PM)

LIVE MUSIC REFRESHMENTS

ST MARGARET'S CHURCH
QUEEN'S ROAD ILKLEY LS29 9QL

FIND US ON FACEBOOK FREE ENTRY

Christmas Tree Festival

St Margaret's Church on 5th December

We are delighted to be taking part in the Christmas Tree Festival at St Margaret's Church again this year.

The children in Form 1 and 2 will travel to the church from school on the minibuses on the afternoon of Friday 5th December. They will have a little time to look at the trees before we sing some of our Christmas songs at 3pm. You are more than welcome to join us. It is a very informal event and there will be refreshments on sale throughout the afternoon and plenty to see with trees decorated by schools and local organisations including some wonderful charities. Ideally children should be collected from the church after the children perform. Any children who cannot be collected at the church will come back to school with us on the school coach once we have ensured everyone is safely handed over. We do hope you can join us. *Liz Evans*





Form 5 and 6 Help Plant Trees Around the Sports Field

This week, our Form 5 and 6 pupils took part in an exciting environmental project to enhance biodiversity around our school grounds. The children helped plant some of the donated trees along the perimeter of our sports field, creating the beginnings of a beautiful natural hedge.

Before planting, the children enjoyed an informative presentation from **Hedgerows Burley**, learning why hedgerows are so important for wildlife and the environment. They discovered what creatures live in them and how they help support local ecosystems.

The trees, known as **whips**, were kindly donated by the **Woodland Trust**. These young trees will grow into a thick, thriving hedge over time, providing a safe habitat for birds and insects. To protect the trees from rabbits, biodegradable guards were fitted – an eco-friendly solution that ensures the plants can flourish.

This project is part of a wider community initiative funded by the **Burley in Wharfedale Parish Council**, aimed at improving biodiversity in the area. We are proud that our pupils could play a role in this important work and look forward to seeing the hedge grow in the years to come!



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 Miss Smith

A music lesson with Mrs Evans

A fun **gymnastics session** with Mr O'Connor

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

And a **Reception class activity** with Mrs Hudson and Mrs Pidd

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



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





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!

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.

