



Thursday
25th
September
Newsletter

Greystone Manor Ilkley
Road,
Ilkley LS29 7HW
Acting Headteacher:
Mr Hadley Nicholson

Headteacher's Message

At Ghyll Royd School we believe that 'challenge' is not something to be feared, but rather embraced. It helps our children grow in confidence, resilience and independence. When children step outside their comfort zones, whether it is trying something new in class, taking on a leadership role or performing on piano in front of others, they discover just how capable they truly are. Challenge builds character and so I have been extremely proud to see examples these past two weeks, where children have had the self-belief to aim high and persevere.

I am excited for our Form 6 pupils, who have stepped into their new leadership roles with maturity and confidence, working with Mr O'Connor and Mrs Beeson to develop their leadership and enhance the 'play leaders' roles in the playground. Whether they are helping younger pupils, representing the school or arranging activities, they have done so with "...kindness and responsibility."

Those are not my words either, but the words of the ISI Inspectors, who we were absolutely delighted to have visit us last week. They spoke about the warmth, courage and excellence of our small school and left me feeling proud of the hard work and dedication of our staff, children, and of course, your continued support. Thank you.

As we look ahead, we're very excited to welcome families to our upcoming Grandparents' Morning. It is always a joy to see generations coming together in our classrooms and I know the children are eager to share their learning and joy with their grandparents.

I wish you all a wonderful few weeks.

Headteacher's Fortnightly Commendations

Week commencing: 15 September

Reception: Elijah in Reception for an amazing, confident start to Reception!

F1: Edward for challenging himself since beginning Form 1. He has worked hard towards forming his letters correctly.



F2: Annabelle for joining Form 2 with positivity and lots of enthusiasm, she has thrown herself into every task and challenge. She is also very helpful and thoughtful with others and around the classroom. A super start to the year!

F3/4: Emily, for her fantastic approach to her class work, the way she challenges herself to be the best version of herself in class and around school. A true credit to Ghyll Royd, well done Emily!

F5: Wesley, for having a really positive AND mature attitude to his studies in the first week back, leading to some excellent work being produced.

F6: Commendation is Seb, who has picked up right where he left from before summer and has shown focus, good humour and really challenged himself.

Week commencing: 22 September

Reception: Eddie for making a great effort to follow the class rules and routines and for use of lovely, meaningful vocabulary when explaining new words and ideas

F1: Thomas for showing an amazing commitment to his learning. He listens carefully to instructions in all his subjects and tries his best with his reading, both at home and school. A superstar!

F2: Viren Dewedi - An all rounder, who always puts great thought into his work, he is a thoughtful friend who is always ready to help and encourage those around him

F3/4: Commendation goes to Oliver, for the fantastic effort he is putting into his English work, challenging himself to create the best work that he can, in every lesson. Well done, Oliver.

F5: Sophia - 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: Leyton has had a confident and successful start to F6. Taking on the school council leadership role with great enthusiasm as well as actively engaging in all the new classwork.



Why Attendance Matters in Pre-School, Nursery & Primary School

At Ghyll Royd School, we believe that **every day counts**, especially in the early years of education. Whether your child is in pre-school, nursery, or primary school, regular attendance plays a vital role in their development and future success.

Early Learning Builds Strong Foundations

Children's brains develop rapidly in the early years. Being in school every day helps them absorb key skills in **language, literacy, and numeracy**, setting the stage for lifelong learning.

Social Skills & Confidence

Daily attendance gives children the chance to build **friendships**, learn to **share and cooperate**, and grow in **confidence**. These social experiences are just as important as academic ones.

Routine & Readiness

A consistent school routine helps children feel secure and ready to learn. It also builds habits that support success throughout their school journey.

Long-Term Impact

Children who attend regularly are more likely to:

- Achieve better academic outcomes
- Develop strong emotional and social skills
- Feel connected to their school community

We're Here to Help

We understand that sometimes absences are unavoidable. If you're facing challenges with attendance, please reach out—we're here to support you and your child. Let's work together to give every child the best possible start!

For further information, please refer to our new Attendance Policy which was emailed to parents yesterday.

Billy (Great Explorers) was beaming with excitement as he opened his very own ice cream shop in the garden!



With a big grin, he called out, "Who wants an ice cream?" and was thrilled when his friends came running to join the fun. When someone asked the price, Billy cheerfully declared, "£2!"—and we happily handed over our coins. What a treat!

Later, when the shop closed for the day, Billy didn't stop there. He grabbed a pan and began tossing in sticks and stones, proudly announcing he was making cherry pie. Bravo, Billy! What a wonderfully imaginative young chef you are!



Ghyll Royd School and Pre-School

Grandparents Morning!

Forms 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5

Friday 26th September



COME FOR COFFEE AND CAKE

Macmillan Coffee Morning

We're delighted to welcome grandparents tomorrow 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.

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. It's a lovely opportunity to relax, chat, and enjoy some delicious treats together. All donations from the morning will go to Macmillan Cancer Support, a cause close to many hearts.

We'd be so grateful if grandparents could donate a cake for the event. And as a sweet bonus—if there are any leftovers, the children will have the chance to purchase a slice too at the end of the school day.

We're really looking forward to welcoming our grandparents and making it a memorable morning for everyone, whilst also supporting and donating to Macmillan Cancer Support.



Last week, Forms 1 and 2 set sail on a musical adventure, learning two lively songs all about travelling by boat! They had great fun playing along on glockenspiels and even challenged themselves to find the melody—no easy task, but they did brilliantly!

Meanwhile, Forms 5 and 6 were diving into the sounds of The Beatles, trying to arrange the songs by tempo. It was trickier than expected, but they gave it a fantastic go!

See below for a small snapshot of the recent professional photos we had taken, showing each form and how our reception and pre-school class are settling in...just to note, before the end of this term, your child will receive a free photo from the ones taken at the start of term





Parents' Form Representatives: September 2025

A big thank you to the wonderful parents listed below who have generously volunteered to be our Form Representatives! If you have any questions or would like to know the best way to reach them, please feel free to speak to them.

- **Reception Class** – Mrs Dewedi and Mrs Oldham
- **Form One** – Lucy Thornton
- **Form Two** – Amy Glover
- **Form Three and Four** – Lucy Thornton
- **Form Five** – Shelley Jordan
- **Form Six** – Dominique Armitage-Riley and Stephanie Meadows



Form 1 and 2 visit to Bradford Industrial Museum



Our learning focus at the museum was all about transport! The children began by creating maps of our local area, then explored a fascinating timeline showcasing the evolution of transport, from carts and trains to buses and motor vehicles. They thoroughly enjoyed discovering how travel has transformed through the ages! 🚂 🚍 🚎

Exciting Times Ahead for Ghyll Royd Year 6 Pupils!



Exciting times lie ahead for our Year 6 pupils as they embark on the journey of visiting prospective secondary schools during Open Days. These visits are a wonderful opportunity for children to explore new environments, meet inspiring teachers, and imagine themselves thriving in a new setting. From touring science labs and sports halls, to experiencing sample lessons and seeing schools in action, each Open Day offers a glimpse into the future and helps pupils make informed choices about where they'll continue their learning adventure. It's a time filled with curiosity, hope, and the thrill of new possibilities!

Although some schools Open Days may have already taken place, or they are yet to release dates, we've listed local schools' Open Day dates below:

Independent Schools:

Giggleswick School (Day & Boarding)

- Prep School Open Day on Wednesday 15th October 2025 at 9:30am–12:00pm

Bradford Grammar School

- Whole School Open Events (Junior, Senior & Sixth Form)
 - Saturday 4th October 2025, 9:30am – 12:30pm
 - Tuesday 11th November 2025, 9:15am – 12:00pm

Woodhouse Grove School

- Saturday 8th November 2025, 9:00am – 12:00pm

State Schools:

Ilkley Grammar School

- Year 6–7 Open Day: Wednesday 1st October 2025
 - Morning Session: 9:10am–10:40am (student-led tours)
 - Evening Session: 6pm–8pm (Headteacher presentations begin at 5:15pm)
- Representatives from Bradford Council will be available to discuss admissions

St Mary's, Menston

- Saturday 27th September 2025 at 11:00am – 2:00pm
- Headteacher presentations at 11:20am and 12:20pm (ticketed)

Prince Henry's Grammar School, Otley

- Monday 6th October 2025 at 6:00pm – 8:30pm

Roundhay School, Leeds

- Saturday 11th October 2025, 9:00am–12:30pm Open to prospective Year 7 pupils (currently in Years 4–6)
 - Talks by the Executive Headteacher at 9:30am and 10:30am

PROVIDING
EXCEPTIONAL
EDUCATION
FOR OVER

130
Years



Bookings for our October Holiday Sports Camp are now open on Class For Kids and places are filling up fast already!

HOLIDAY SPORTS CAMP

FOR PRIMARY AGED CHILDREN



Book your place through Class for Kids

Email: information@ghyllroydschool.co.uk



BOOK NOW!

We are delighted that our Summer Holiday Sports Camp was our busiest and most successful ever! We received numerous calls and emails from parents to say how much children were enjoying themselves and asking if they could book on for extra days. Thank you to our very own Mr O'Connor for making the camp such a huge success!

Bookings for our October Holiday Sports Camp are now open on Class For Kids and places are filling up fast already.

Please visit: <https://ghyll-royd.classforkids.io/camp/9> to book your child's place. Places are limited and on a first come, first served basis.



Sebastian's hockey season is off to a flying start with his debut match for the Ben Rhydding Development Team—a squad of seasoned players and rising juniors honing their skills for senior-level play. As the youngest on the team and stepping onto a full-size pitch for the first time, Sebastian didn't shy away from the challenge! Facing Thirsk, the team had a tough first half, but came roaring back in the second with a stunning 5-0 turnaround. Sebastian made his mark with a cracking first goal of the season and a slick assist. Top effort, Sebastian—game on! ⚽🔥👏

Viren (Form 2) is performing in Yeadon Town Hall's production of Beauty and the Beast on Thursday 2nd to Saturday 4th October

A message from Opera North:

Come and sing with us! 🎵



Children aged 8–11 can join our joyful Children's Chorus, while those aged 12–15 are invited to be part of our vibrant Young Voices. Members will have the exciting chance to audition for main stage productions like *Peter Grimes* and *The Sound of Music*!

Taster Sessions

- **Children's Chorus: 1 October at 5pm**
- **Young Voices: 2 October at 5pm**
- **Register your interest **
- **Find out more **

These fun and friendly ensembles help young performers build vocal technique, musicianship, and stage confidence—while making new friends and discovering a lifelong passion for singing and drama

Opera North Children's Chorus (ages 8-11)

Term Dates & Autumn Term Calendar

September		
Fri 26	Celebration Assembly 8.50am	Grandparents' Morning for Forms: 1,2,3,4,5 8.30am to 11.00am...Including.... Macmillian Coffee Morning from 10.40am
Mon 29	U/9 & U/11 Swim Gala @ QE	
Tues 30	U/9 Rugby @ Cundall Manor	
October		
Weds 1	Buckden House F-3 October F5	
Thurs 2	Swimming	Re-scheduled Reception English Parents' Information Evening 3-3.40pm
Fri 3	Celebration Assembly 8.50am	U/11 Hockey @ QE
Sat 4	Wharfe League Cross Country @ Ilkley Rugby Club 9.00am	
Mon 6	Optional Parents' Evening	
Tues 7		
Weds 8		
Thurs 9		
Fri 10	House Assembly	
Mon 13	Eden Camp: F3, 4	
Tues 14	U/9 Rugby @ Terrington Hall	
Weds 15		
Thurs 16	Swimming	Reception 2026 Play Date 9.00am
Fri 17	Harvest Assembly 8.50am	
November		
Date		
Mon 3		
Tues 4	F3&4 Games Afternoons start: Hockey	
Weds 5		
Thurs 6	Swimming	Reception 2026 Play Date 9.00am
	NHS Height & weight measurements - form 6 - Thursday 6th November 2025 at 10am	
Fri 7	House Assembly	F5&6 Games Afternoons start: Rugby
Mon 10		
Tues 11	Remembrance Day	
Weds 12		
Thurs 13	Swimming	
Fri 14	Celebration Assembly 8.50am	Grandparents' Morning for Rec, F1 & 6 8.30am to 11.00am
	U/11 Rugby @ Giggleswick	
	Including....'Children in Need' Bake Sale by the School Council	
Sat 15	Wharfe League Cross Country @ Ilkley Swimming Pool 9.00am	
Mon 17		
Tues 18		
Weds 19		
Thurs 20	Swimming	
Fri 21	Celebration Assembly 8.50am	U/11 Rugby CUP @ KRUFC
Mon 24		
Tues 25	U/9 Hockey @ BRHC Hosted by GRS	
Weds 26	Year 3/4 trip to Murton Park	
Thurs 27	Swimming KS1 ONLY	Polar Post Box Arrives
Fri 28	Celebration Assembly 8.50am	U/11 Hockey @ BRHC Hosted by GRS
December		
Mon 1	Parent Event: Christmas Wreath Making TBC	
Tues 2	Nativity Dress Rehearsal 2pm	
Weds 3		
Thurs 4	Swimming KS2 ONLY	Early Years and KS1 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	
Weds 10	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



Burley Christmas Lights – Volunteers Needed! Shared on behalf of Cllr Duncan Ault, Burley in Wharfedale Parish Councillor



We're gearing up for the annual **Village Christmas Lights Switch-On** on **Saturday 29th November**, with festivities running throughout the afternoon. Expect a vibrant **Street Market, Christmas entertainment, a craft fair, a visit from Father Christmas, and refreshments** in the Queens Hall. Posters with full details will be available soon.

 **Lights Assembly Begins: Saturday 11th October** We're looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help with assembling the village lights. If you'd like to lend a hand, please meet the organising team in the village at **9am on the 11th**  Let's make this year's celebration magical together! 

Trust Membership

All Burley residents are invited to join the Trust for a small annual fee (**£15** for Individuals, **£20** Family, **£150** for Individual Life membership). If you are a taxpayer and are able to Gift Aid your membership we can claim a very valuable tax benefit.

You can join the Community Trust by either:

- * Complete an [Online Form](#)
- * Or [download the form here](#)

Support your Community....



..... join Burley Community Trust

[Who are we?](#) A registered charity based in Burley in Wharfedale run entirely by volunteer trustees.

[What do we do?](#) Raise, manage and provide funds for services and facilities for the benefit of all of the village community. We help coordinate and run the Christmas Lights, street and craft markets, the Duck Race and Teas in the Park, the Wharfedale Wombles litter pickers and Burley Summer Festival. We maintain certain village assets including the Scalebor Pavilion and playing fields, Cornmill Pond, Fountain of Life, Pudding Tree and Jubilee Gardens

[Our recent achievements:](#) The Trust has refurbished the Fountain of Life and Roundhouse Garden, helped fund the new playground, herb and vegetable gardens, installed information boards around the village, funded extracurricular school activities and developed the new Discover Burley website

[Our future plans:](#) Assisting with funding for people through the Primary Schools & Youth Outreach, raising funds for the Pump and Balance Bike tracks, supporting the sports clubs, other facilities and voluntary organisations in the village.

[Our Partners:](#) Burley Parish Council, The Co-op, Ilkley Round Table, Ilkley Cycle Club, National Lottery Community Fund, volunteers and volunteer groups.

Please support us by joining the Trust for only £15 as an individual, £20 for a family or £150 for an individual lifetime membership

For more information visit our website at www.burleycommunitytrust.org.uk or follow the QR Code below



JOIN OR RENEW ONLINE
www.burleycommunitytrust.org.uk

If you are already a member, or have renewed online, please consider passing on this form to someone who isn't a member, and encouraging them to join.

If you'd like to become more involved with the work of Trust, how about coming along to one of our monthly Wharfedale Wombles Litter Picks on 1st Sunday of the month? For more information please email wharfedalewombles@outlook.com or look for us on Facebook. It would be great to see you and would help keep our village litter free.

