

Friday 6th
March 2026
Newsletter



Ghyll Royd School
and Pre-School
A foundation for life

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Headteacher's Message

What a wonderful fortnight it has been at school so welcome to our BUMPER edition of the newsletter. Alongside a host of exciting activities, we also celebrated a truly joyful World Book Day yesterday. The children arrived in fantastic costumes inspired by their favourite characters, classrooms were filled with stories and the whole school embraced the magic of reading. From shared reading sessions to creative activities and lively book discussions, it was a brilliant reminder of how stories spark imagination and curiosity in our children. Thank you to families for supporting the day with such enthusiasm and we will be sharing the school's own story: "When the Clock Strikes Twelve" across social media soon.

Two weeks ago, we also launched the 1889 Foundation, which has been created to extend opportunity and secure the distinctive education that defines our small school. Teaser: we are quietly planning a special event in the next few months to celebrate the launch of our foundation. We cannot wait to share more with you soon!

Until then, enjoy your weekend!

Hadley

A magical Poetry Moment in the Headteacher's Office!

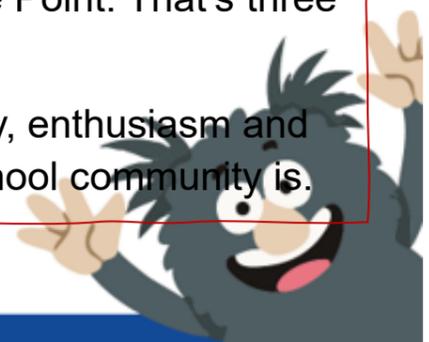


What a treat Form 3 & 4 gave us today! The children visited our Headteacher to share the poetry they created together and the office was instantly transformed into a Poetry Battle.

The room was buzzing with excitement as each pupil performed their work with confidence, expression and that wonderful spark of creativity we love to see at Ghyll Royd. Their imaginative language, teamwork and storytelling truly showcased the brilliant creative writing skills our pupils are developing further every day.

The Headteacher was so impressed that every single child received a Platinum House Point. That's three house points each! What a fantastic achievement!

We are incredibly proud of Form 3 & 4, not only for their beautiful poetry, but for the joy, enthusiasm and heart they bring to their writing. Moments like these remind us just how special our school community is.



World Book Day Magic!

Our pupils turned up in style dressed as their favourite book characters and brought in some *absolutely brilliant* books for our **World Book Day Book Swap**.

From exciting adventures and laugh-out-loud stories to mysteries, animal tales and beautifully illustrated favourites, there was something for every young reader to enjoy.

We can already tell there's going to be **some amazing reading taking place** over the next few days... and we can't wait to see the children discover new stories to treasure!



World Book Day at The Grove Bookshop!

Reception, Form One and Form Two had a brilliant visit to **The Grove Bookshop**, proudly spending their £1 World Book Day tokens. The children loved choosing from the special £1 titles or putting their voucher towards a book of their own choice.

There were lots of happy readers leaving the shop with new stories to enjoy, a perfect way to celebrate World Book Day!

Thank you to The Grove Bookshop for welcoming us so warmly. What a brilliant way to celebrate a love of reading this World Book Day!





Form 3 and Form 4 started our World Book Day celebrations a little early with a wonderful trip to Burley in Wharfedale Library!

The children explored the shelves, discovered new stories and each chose a book to borrow for the week. A huge thank you to the library staff for welcoming us so warmly.

The children will enjoy their chosen books throughout the week and Mrs Mellin will return them next Monday.

A great start to World Book Day Week and plenty of excited readers already!

Beautiful Ballet Moments in Nursery!

Some of our nursery children enjoyed a lovely ballet session with **Miss Becky** and they absolutely shone, just like the sunshine! The children practised simple movements, explored how their bodies can move to music and built confidence, balance and coordination, all while having so much fun. Their smiles said it all!

Full of joy... we just love seeing their confidence grow each week.



Friends of Ghyll Royd School will be running a second-hand uniform sale in the foyer on Thursday 12th March at the end of the school day and on Friday 13th March at drop off time in the morning.

George's County Cup tennis results



The boys did great at the weekend and came 2nd in a hard-fought competition.

The day was a great experience for Team Yorkshire with a lot of hard work and fun in equal measure. I just wanted to share a couple of fantastic achievements relating to George's recent progress with his tennis.

Firstly, George has been selected for the Yorkshire County Cup team, which consists of four players and takes place at the end of February. He has worked incredibly hard and has been training regularly with the Yorkshire squad, so being selected for the team is a great achievement.

Racing into the Record Books!

Huge congratulations to our very own running superstar, Leyton, for an incredible performance at the ISA Cross Country Finals yesterday!

Taking on the challenging course at Himley Hall, he showed fantastic grit and determination to finish 15th overall! A special shout-out is also in order as he was the 2nd runner home for Team North too!

Of course, no champion is complete without their support crew. His biggest fan, his younger brother Grayson in Form 3, was right there on the sidelines, cheering him on every step of the way.

We are so proud of your sportsmanship and achievement Leyton. Well done!



Form 5 and Form 6 enjoyed an unforgettable experience this week as they took part in a special journalism workshop and stadium tour at Manchester City's Etihad Stadium. The day began with the children watching match highlights before stepping into the role of sports reporters. Working in small groups, they practised presenting, commenting, and asking open-ended questions - developing confidence and communication skills along the way.



Their tour of the stadium provided plenty of excitement too. Pupils visited pitch side and explored both the home and away changing rooms, discovering how each space is carefully designed to create a unique atmosphere for the players. A real highlight was walking through the players' tunnel while crowd sound effects echoed around them, giving a vivid sense of match-day buzz! The children also learnt about how the world-class pitch is maintained, gaining insight into the hard work and science that keeps the surface in perfect condition season after season. It was a brilliant, inspiring day, full of hands-on learning and behind-the-scenes discoveries the children will remember for a long time.





Young Voices 30th Anniversary Concert

This year marked the 30th Anniversary of Young Voices and our sixteen Form 5 and 6 pupils had the incredible opportunity to perform alongside choirs from across the country. The concert was a breathtaking celebration of music, enriched with stunning sound, impressive lighting and exciting special guest performances. Young Voices is more than just a concert, it is a year-long, inspiring programme designed to build confidence, support wellbeing, and create unforgettable musical memories.

Accompanied by Mr Laycock and Mrs Hudson, the children travelled to the Co-op Arena in Manchester, one of several venues that host Young Voices concerts nationwide. After rehearsals began at 2pm, they took part in a magical evening of music, returning to school after a long day, but an incredibly rewarding one at 11:15pm!

The children had been rehearsing since September, learning a vibrant mix of sea shanties, ballads, disco and pop. Professional musicians and singers worked with them on the day, helping to bring the performance to life and ensuring it was a truly memorable experience shared with thousands of other young performers.



Form 3 & 4's Big Adventure at Nell Bank!



Our Form 3 and 4 children had an unforgettable trip to Nell Bank in Ilkley, packed with outdoor fun, teamwork and exciting challenges from start to finish!

The children took part in a variety of amazing activities, including: Following the Habitat Trail; Enjoying a beautiful woodland walk; Taking a magical night-time walk around the grounds, spotting owls, bats and even frogs; Fun team-building activities; Brilliant den building, where they worked together to build cosy woodland shelters!

And after all the outdoor adventure, the evening was just as special! The children tucked into pizza for tea and as it was Oscar's birthday, we all enjoyed some delicious birthday cake too!

The excitement didn't end there, the children even slept over! For many, it was their first night away from home and they did amazingly well. A night full of fun, chatter, bravery and memories they'll treasure for years to come.

A huge well done to all the children for embracing the outdoor spirit and making the most of every moment of their Nell Bank adventure!

Reception Trip to Lotherton Hall



Our Reception class had a wonderful adventure at Lotherton Hall in Leeds! The children were excited to see the penguins waddling, swimming and enjoying their feeding time. They also explored the nocturnal house, where they spotted fascinating creatures and some impressively big owls. And of course, the flamingos were a huge hit, there were so many of them! It was a fun-filled day packed with discovery, laughter and lots of wide-eyed wonder.



Cross Country Success at the weekend!

What a fantastic afternoon of cross-country running for our pupils and plenty of muddy fun along the way! A huge well done to all our runners who represented the school so brilliantly.

Reception Superstars!

In the photos you'll spot Wren, Coleman, Ace and Albie, all taking part in their very first ever race! Their excitement was infectious!

And a special congratulations to Wren, who finished 1st place!

Year 2 Team – Amazing Turnout! Our Year 2 runners showed great determination and team spirit. A big congratulations to:

William D – 1st place

Oli H – 2nd place

Fantastic achievements for Year 3 Girls! Well done to Bella, who gave a brilliant effort in the Year 3 girls' race, a tough course and she tackled it with a smile!

It may have been very muddy, but the atmosphere was full of energy, encouragement and pride. A huge thank you to Mrs Smithson at Ashlands Primary School for organising such a well-run and enjoyable event.

We are so proud of all our runners - what a great afternoon!

MARCH 2026

Mon 9: Reception swimming

Thurs 12: Swimming Gala F3-6;
Mother's Day Tea Party (Rec & KS1 - arrive at 2pm for a 2.15pm start)

Fri 13: Celebration Assembly @ 8.50am

Sat 14: Wharfedale League Nell Bank relays

Mon 16: Reception swimming; Year 5/6 Fire Safety Talk

Tues 17: KS2 'Young Musicians Concert' @ 2.15pm

Weds 18: Red Nose Day EARLY (actual date is 20th)

Thurs 19: Swimming Gala F3-6

Fri 20: House Assembly; U11 Football Cup @ Brackenfield; Reports out

Mon 23: Reception swimming; Swimming Gala @QE

Tues 24: KS2 'Choir in the Community'; Optional Parents' Evening 4-6pm

Weds 25: KS2 Inter-league Cross Country

Thurs 26: KS1 swimming

Fri 27: End of Term Awards Service: 2.15pm

**Mon 30 March – Thurs 2 April
GHYLL ROYD SPORTS CAMP**

West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service

Year 5/6 Fire Safety Talk – Leeds District

We're delighted to let you know that our fire safety session is all set for Monday 16th March at 9:30am, led by the amazing team from Otley Fire Station.

During the visit, the children will learn about different fire scenarios, such as:

- An overturned car
- A kitchen fire
- A living room fire
- An electrical socket fire
- A bedroom fire
- An e-bike fire and explosion.

The fire crew may also give a short demonstration of how a smoke detector works and sounds. If any pupils are sensitive to loud noises, please let them know in advance so they can feel comfortable and prepared.

PHOTOGRAPHY DAY

WEDNESDAY 6TH MAY FOR CLASS AND INDIVIDUAL PHOTOS

IMPORTANT

Ghyll Royd School Trophies

We're now gathering all cups and trophies back in so we can get everything ready for this year's exciting awards ceremony. We'd really appreciate it if you could return them to the school office as soon as possible, all cleaned and polished if you're able to.

Thank you so much!

