

Ghyllside Primary School

Gillinggate, Kendal,

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Headteacher: Mr.H.B.Davies (BA. Hons)

17th January 2025

January 2025 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Christmas

Firstly, from all of us here at Ghyllside can I say I hope you all had a great Christmas and New Year holiday. The run up to the Christmas holiday in school was again fantastic and manic. We got through Christingles, Nativities, the Carol Service, theatre visits, parties, discos and a music concert which all gave children opportunity to celebrate and shine. Many thanks to all the staff and PTA volunteers who helped to make all of these events happen.

Attendance & Holidays During Term Time

Firstly, thank you for working with us to improve school attendance through last term. As you know improving school attendance is now one of the biggest (if not the biggest) educational priorities of the present Government with a lot less freedom for schools to be able to authorise absences. If you have any questions about whether or not an absence can be authorised for an upcoming event I would advise that you contact us for advice before committing to it. Please can I also remind parents that they need to fill in a leave of absence form (holiday forms now no longer exist) for any absence from school. If your child has a medical/dental appointment please let the School Office know with as much notice as possible and provide the appointment card/letter.

Parent Trustees (Governors)

We continue to have a couple of Trustee vacancies on our Governing body. The Trustees are the voluntary body that works together to steer the strategic direction of the school. If you would like to find out more about these positions please can you phone the office to arrange a chat with me so I can talk you through what is involved and see if it is for you. Many thanks.

Music Matters: Love to Sing?

Singing Lessons in School - We currently have a few spaces for singing lessons in school with our fantastic teacher, Mrs Knaggs. If your child would like to take singing lessons, please ask the Office for a music lesson letter and return it to school.

Kendal Choristers

Jonathan Bielby is a close friend of Ghyllside School. He leads the Kendal Choristers at Kendal Parish Church. He is also one of the organists and has devoted his life to teaching music. He is a one in a million, truly gifted music teacher and we are incredibly fortunate to welcome him into school on a regular basis. He joins us for singing and is always involved in our Harvest Festival and Carol Service. He and the other Kendal Choristers are on the hunt for some more voices to join them. Several Ghyllsiders have been involved for a good few years. He is visiting us next Tuesday afternoon to hold some informal auditions for aspiring choristers. I know it's not all singing and hard work as I often see the group socially in Kendal enjoying trips out for pizza etc. Essentially, the youngsters receive a first class singing education with great social opportunities alongside. If you would like your child to meet with Jonathan next Tuesday, please pass their name to the Office or Miss Crowley.

Junior Choir: slightly later start time

Junior Choir has restarted joyfully. I want to thank all of the children and parents who help to make it happen. It is the loveliest sound at the start of the day. This is just to reiterate that Junior Choir will start at 8.30 on a Wednesday morning. Children will go straight from choir to their classes. Many thanks, Miss Crowley.

Our Mission: Ghyllside Primary School – Growing Hearts and Minds

Our Values: Inspiring Healthy Inclusive Nurturing Experiences

School Uniform

Please can I remind parents that school uniform is our green jumpers, grey or black trousers / skirts / shorts, and ideally black shoes. PE kit is the navy blue hoodies, light blue t-shirts and black shorts. Non branded black leggings or tracksuit bottoms are fine for PE if the weather is cooler. Please can I ask that the children are dressed in uniform on non PE days, and if they have not got the correct PE kit for PE days they come in their green Ghyllside jumper rather than branded tracksuit tops etc. If you need second hand uniform please look out for the next PTA second hand sale, or if it is urgent see the Office. Many thanks for your help with this.

Lost Property

Many of you have spent hard earned money on school uniform / coats etc. for the beginning of term. Please can we ask that you label all items children wear to school as we already have a large collection of unnamed clothing in our lost property. Many thanks.

Free School Meals

If you are entitled to certain benefits you may be able to claim 'Free School Meals and Clothing Vouchers' from the Local Authority. Children in Reception, Y1 and Y2 are entitled to 'Universal Free School Meals' but this is different so please still apply. All schools receive extra funding for children entitled to 'Free School Meals and Clothing Vouchers'. The extra funding continues for the following six years and is called 'Pupil Premium'. There are advantages for children who are eligible, such as:

- The Local Authority provide a clothing voucher for each child to the value of £50
- School milk is provided free
- Financial help is given to parents when paying for school trips and residential visits
- Free uniform pack consisting of a sweatshirt, polo shirt and PE kit

If you think you may be eligible please visit

<https://www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/schools-and-education/free-school-meals-and-clothing-vouchers>

Dates for the Diary

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| Thursday 23 rd January: | Y5 QKS performance, am |
| Friday 14 th February: | School finishes for half term, 3.20pm |
| Monday 24 th February: | Staff inset day, children not in school |
| Tuesday 25 th February: | Children return to school after half term |
| Thursday 6 th March: | World Book Day |
| Thursday 6 th March: | PTA Book sale, after school |
| Thursday 19 th March: | Mary Wakefield Music Festival |
| Wednesday 19 th - Friday 21 st March: | Y5 Hawse End residential |
| Monday 24 th - Wednesday 26 th March: | Y6 York residential |
| Monday 31 st March: | Y5 KKS Moving up evening, 5.30-6.30pm |
| Friday 4 th April: | Term ends, 2pm |
| Tuesday 22 nd April: | Summer term begins |
| Monday 5 th May: | May Day bank holiday |
| Monday 12 th – Thursday 15 th May: | Y6 SAT's |

As always, if you have any questions about any of this information please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards



Huw Davies

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