

Ghyllside Primary School

Gillinggate, Kendal,

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

8th November 2024

November 2024 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you all well and you all had a good half term.

As usual at this time of year we have a large number of upcoming events to let you know about as we close in on Christmas – please see the dates at the end of this letter. If you have any questions about any of these dates please do not hesitate to contact the office.

There is quite a lot to get through in this letter...

Harvest Festival

A huge thankyou to everybody who was able to bring in a donation as part of our Harvest Festival celebration before half term. We again had an extraordinarily generous response to this appeal so were able to provide the Kings Food Bank with a huge amount of support.

Reception 2025

If you have friends with children who are due to start Reception in September 2025 please let them know they are welcome to book a tour of school by contacting the office. Many thanks.

School Trustees Vacancies

We are recruiting school Trustees (Governors.) These are voluntary positions for people who are interested in helping direct the strategic direction of the school – continuing to help us move forward. If you feel that this is something that may be of interest to you please feel free to arrange a no obligations chat with me about what is involved.

Lunchtime Supervisor Vacancies

We have Lunchtime Supervisors vacancies in school at the moment. If you would like to join our lunchtime team we would love to hear from you! Please call the office for details.

Parents' Evenings

Next week you will receive a parent's evening appointment form to please be returned to us as soon as possible so staff can organise their meetings. I am sure you understand that we cannot always line up these meetings exactly when you have requested them, but please be aware that we do try our best. Please make every effort to attend these meetings. We will be running child care (mostly in the hall) for children coming in to parents' evenings with their parents.

Please be aware that this term these appointment letters **will not** be accompanied by the mini report that we have previously used. This is because changes we have made to our Maths and English curriculums this school year means we no longer carry out mid term assessments in the way we have done in the past. However, information on how your child is doing socially and academically, and their attendance, will continue to be discussed at the meetings.

Jewellery in PE

Children should not be wearing any jewellery in PE for health and safety reasons. This is a government directive. Ideally your child will not wear jewellery to school, but if they have studs in (no hoops or dangly earrings) please ensure they can take them out themselves.

Our Mission: Ghyllside Primary School – Growing Hearts and Minds

Our Values: Inspiring Healthy Inclusive Nurturing Experiences

Children in Need

Nationally Children in Need day is on Friday 15th November however we will take part on Thursday 14th November. We will be raising money for charity on the day - children will be able to wear their own clothes and if they wish, bring a £1 donation for the Children in Need charities.

PTA Christmas Disco & Raffle

Rather than a Christmas Fair the PTA will be running Christmas discos for the children and a raffle with tickets being sold by the children. The PTA newsletter will be coming out shortly.

Christmas Jumper Day

We will be having our Christmas Jumper day on Monday 16th December. To support families to access this, the PTA will be holding a Christmas jumper sale on Tuesday 10th December after school. If you have any washed, pre-loved Christmas jumpers that you do not need any more please send them into school before the date of the sale. Many thanks.

Music News

Junior Choir: Wednesday 8.15am – 8.45am

Junior Choir is open to all children in Years 3 to 6. It is all about the joy of singing together, having fun and developing our musicianship and singing skills. Information letters, including a consent form, are available from the office or Miss Crowley.

Boys Choir is open to all boys in Years 4 to 6. It will recommence this half term and will take place within school hours so no need to complete a consent form.

Instrumental Tuition

We still have spaces for lessons starting this term in the following instruments: piano, singing and all woodwind. Other instruments may have a longer wait although we will always do everything we can to start a child as soon as possible.

School Carol Service: Kendal Parish Church, Thursday 19th December, 1.30pm-2.45pm

The service will start at approximately 1.30pm when we have walked the children down and will finish at approximately 2.45pm. The children will walk back to school with their classes. Please do come and join us to celebrate Christmas and the (almost!) start of the holidays. If you are able to accompany your child's class, please let their teachers know. Your kind help is always greatly appreciated.

Winter Concert: School Hall, Thursday 12th December, 3.30pm- 4.30pm

Our termly concert all dressed up with a sparkly festive theme. Letters will go home in the next couple of weeks with all children who are playing or singing. Over half of our children at Ghyllside either play an instrument or sing in one of the choirs. Therefore, not everyone can perform at every concert. The music teachers are asked to select performers on the basis of the child having a piece that is ready to play and to prioritise the older children; eventually, everyone gets to be the older ones! Guest seats will be limited to two per family as we are always a bit tight on space. (Little ones on knees are fine). Many thanks for your support and understanding.

Mary Wakefield Festival 2025: Thursday 13th March, Kendal Town Hall, 5.00pm – 7.00pm

Many of you will be familiar with this but if not...

Taking place in Kendal, this biennial Festival has been part of Westmorland's musical life since 1885 when Mary Wakefield, daughter of a Kendal Quaker banking family and a keen musician, assembled local choirs to sing and compete together. Many of the trophies to be won by entrants to the various classes date from the earliest days of the Festival. It is highly prestigious, tremendous fun and a great opportunity for our Junior Choir to demonstrate their fantastic sound and gather feedback from the adjudicators. More details to follow in the new year but for now, we are entered! Michelle Crowley

As usual, if you have any questions about the content of this letter, or anything else, please do not hesitate to give the office a ring.

Kind regards



Huw Davies

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Dates for the Diary

Tuesday 12 th November:	Individual photographs
Thursday 14 th November:	Children in Need, mufti for £1 donation
Thursday 14 th November:	PTA Meeting, staff room, 7-8pm,
Tuesday 19 th November:	Parents evening (information to follow next week)
Wednesday 20 th November:	Parents evening
Thursday 21 st November:	Parents evening
Friday 22 nd November:	Y5 and Y6 Kendal Mountain Festival
Thursday 5 th December:	Y1 and Y2 to Kendal College Box Theatre, pm
Friday 6 th December:	PTA Christmas disco
Monday 9 th December:	Christingle assembly, am (children only)
Monday 9 th December:	Y6 Christmas party, pm
Tuesday 10 th December:	Y4 to Kendal College Box Theatre, am
Wednesday 11 th December:	Y3 to Kendal College Box Theatre, am
Wednesday 11 th December:	School Christmas lunch
Thursday 12 th December:	Y5 and Y6 to Kendal College Box Theatre, am
Thursday 12 th December:	Winter music concert, hall, 3.30-4.30pm
Monday 16 th December:	Christmas jumper/mufti day
Tuesday 17 th December:	Reception Nativity, pm
Tuesday 17 th December:	Y5 Christmas party
Wednesday 18 th December:	Nursery Christmas play, am and pm
Wednesday 18 th December:	Y2 Nativity, pm
Wednesday 18 th December:	Reception and Y3 Christmas parties, pm
Thursday 19 th December:	Y1 Christmas play, am
Thursday 19 th December:	Nursery Christmas party
Thursday 19 th December:	Carol service, Parish Church, pm
Friday 20 th December:	Y1 and Y2 Christmas party
Friday 20 th December:	Term Ends, 2pm
Monday 6 th January 2025:	Children return to school for Spring term
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

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