

# January 2026 Newsletter

16<sup>th</sup> January 2026

## Happy New Year

Firstly, from all of us here at Ghyllside can I say I hope you all had a great Christmas and New Year holiday and were able to get out and enjoy the lovely weather we experienced.

The run up to the Christmas holiday in school was again fantastic and manic. We raised £207.45 on Christmas jumper day which will be donated to Derian House. 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.

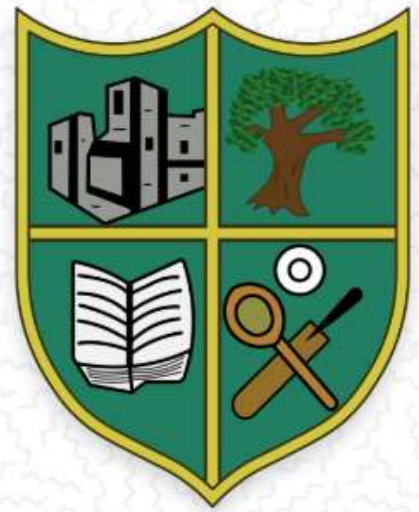
We have had a great start back to 2026.

## Attendance & Holidays during term time

Firstly, thank you for continuing to work with us to improve school attendance through last term. As you know improving school attendance continues to be 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. Please see our term dates attached with this newsletter.

If your child has a medical/dental appointment please let the School Office know. **Please be aware we have been directed by the local authority to see an appointment card/letter in these instances.**



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## Christmas Tree Festival

We are delighted to announce that we have raised £366.83 for Derian House by taking part in the Christmas Tree Festival at the Parish Church.



The Nursery and Reception children made decorations for the tree based on the carol "We Three Kings", and then got to visit their tree at the church. Thank you to everyone who visited the festival and put tokens in our bucket.



*We are extremely proud of our Cross Country Team who represented the school at Sedbergh School on Wednesday. Competing in cold conditions, they showed resilience, determination and excellent team spirit. Well done to all involved!*

## 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.

## For all keen Swimmers in Y5 and Y6.....

On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March 4.15pm at Kendal Leisure Centre, there is a 'Swimathon' organised by the Rotary Club. In the past, this has been a really popular event and raised nearly £2000 split between CancerCare and school funds.

Further details to follow. Jane Reedy

## Y6 Expedition Club – dates and help



As many of you will know, we run our Y6 Expedition Club through the end of this term, and the beginning of the Summer term in preparation for our three-day Y6 Expedition. This opportunity is open to all Y6 pupils who want to take part. I just want to give parents a heads up that the Expedition will run from **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June to Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June** with our practice mountain day on **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May**. All other sessions will be during the school day.

To run these sessions, we presently rely on parents of past pupils who are qualified Mountain Leaders and give up their time to voluntarily come back to help. If you hold an ML qualification, or have experience walking in the Lakeland

fells / helping with previous expedition clubs and would be interested in helping out with some of these days so we can spread the load a little, regardless of if your child is in Y6 or not, please email into the office and I will give you a ring to talk through what is involved. Many thanks.

## School Uniform

Please can I remind parents that school uniform is our green jumpers, grey 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 in their green Ghyllside jumper rather than branded tracksuit tops etc.

If you need grey trousers / skirts / shorts please look out for the next PTA second hand sale, or if it's urgent see the office. Many thanks for your help with this

## Dates for the diary

Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> January:	Y4 Crossfit trip, 9am
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January:	Y5 Beauty and the Beast, QKS, am
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> February:	PTA Disco, details to follow
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February:	School finishes for half term, 3.20pm

Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February:	School starts
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March:	World Book Day
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March:	Y5 Hawse End residential
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> March:	Swimathon. Leisure Centre
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> – Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March:	Y6 York residential
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> March:	Y4 Buddhist Centre trip
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March:	Term ends, 2pm

Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April:	Summer term begins
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> – Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> May:	Y3 Roman residential

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

**Our Mission:** Ghyllside Primary School – Growing Hearts and Minds  
**Our Values:** Inspiring Healthy Inclusive Nurturing Experiences