



GHYLLSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Learn • Grow • Achieve • Together
A happy place to learn and belong

SEPTEMBER
2026

NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers.

I hope this letter finds you all well.

We have had a great start back to school. The children have moved into their new classes and classrooms brilliantly and appear to really be enjoying the start to the new school year. They were all amazing in our first assembly of the year today.



STAFF CHANGES

Welcome Emma! Emma Graham will be joining our office team on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. This is Emma's third school office team job so she brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to our already strong admin' team and has really hit the floor running this week.

Wayne and Paul. Wayne, our site manager, will be finishing with us at the end of this month. Wayne has been one of the rocks that Ghyllside has been built on in the time I have been here so will be sorely missed; all the staff here wish him all the best in his retirement. Wayne's post is going to be filled from the end of the month by Paul Stevenson who will be joining our staff team and living on site. Paul is presently the site manager of a similar size school to ours in Coventry. Paul brings a huge amount of knowledge and experience of school site managing and will be a great addition to our Ghyllside team.

Leadership transition. As you are all aware I am moving on to pastures new in January 2027. At the end of last term the Governors appointed Graham Carrick to be my successor. Graham is presently the Head Teacher of Penny Bridge School near Ulverston and has worked in primary education for many years. Graham will be visiting Ghyllside a number of times through the Autumn term to ensure a smooth handover with myself.



A FEW REMINDERS –

ATTENDANCE & HOLIDAYS DURING TERM TIME

Please can we take this opportunity, at the start of a new school year, to remind parents of the importance of –

Ensuring as good attendance as is possible for your child

Your child being in school on time

Not taking holidays in term time

This year schools are going to be set individual school attendance targets by the Department of Education (a new initiative) which we need to achieve. Many thanks for your help with this.



CONTACT DETAILS

If you have changed your mobile number and / or email address over the Summer please could you contact the office to let us know. This is important so we can contact you easily in the event of an emergency.



SCHOOL UNIFORM

Many of you have spent hard earned money on school uniform for the beginning of term. Please can we ask that you label all items of uniform as we are already collecting new unnamed clothing into our lost property. Many thanks.



5 MILES WITH SMILES

We have been made aware of a community initiative which could be a fun challenge for Ghyllside families this Autumn. A number of local charities have created 5 Miles with Smiles – a simple challenge to share journeys up to 5 miles and win a range of prizes at Kendal Mountain Festival. This link explains the initiative <http://www.fivemileswithsmiles.org.uk/> and you can see some example entries on Instagram here <https://www.instagram.com/5mileswithsmiles>



CUMBRIA OPERA WORKSHOPS

We are thrilled to announce that Joe from Cumbria Opera will be visiting us on Monday 28th September. He will be hosting fabulous, free workshops throughout the day for children in Year 1 to Year 6. This is a wonderful opportunity for our pupils to experience the magic of opera!



ALLERGIES

Due to several severe nut and food allergies, we kindly ask that you do not send cakes, sweets, or any other food items into school to be shared with other children for birthdays or celebrations. Please also do not send any food containing nuts/nut products in your child's lunch box or for breaktime snack.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Wednesday 9 th September:	Y3 Stoneage workshop
Friday 11 th September:	Y4 Swimming starts, pm
Tuesday 15 th September:	Y6 Open evening, KKS, 5-8pm
Wednesday 16 th September:	Y6 Open evening, QKS, 5.30pm onwards
Tuesday 22 nd September:	Reception reading and phonics evening, 6-7pm
Monday 28 th September:	Opera workshops, Y1-Y6
Tuesday 20 th October:	Reception 2027 open evening, 5-7pm
Friday 23 rd October:	School finishes for half term, 3.20pm
Monday 2 nd November:	School starts
Monday 9 th November:	Individual and sibling school photographs
Monday 16 th November:	Nasal flu immunisations, Rec-Y6
Tuesday 17 th November:	Parents evening
Wednesday 18 th November:	Parents evening
Thursday 19 th November:	Parents evening
Friday 20 th November	Y5/6 Kendal Mountain Festival
Monday 23 rd November	Y3 / 4 Keswick Theatre Trip

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.

Huw Davies

USEFUL CONTACTS

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