

September 2025 Newsletter

5th September 2025

WELCOME BACK

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. Thank you to all of you for helping us make the start of the new school year go so smoothly. We would like to welcome Lauren Thompson who has joined our office team this term.

Ofsted

As many of you will remember we had the pleasure of Ofsted visiting us during the last week of term! This was a lot sooner than expected as they had only visited exactly four terms previously, and during that inspection we had been told to expect their return between January and July 2026. However, after the initial shock the staff rallied magnificently; there was a really strong, supportive team spirit in school. From the Ofsted team feedback I am aware that many of you returned your parent feedback forms, and that the support we received from you the parents, was some of the most positive that they had seen. So, on behalf of all the staff and trustees I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the time you gave to this and the support you have given us, the staff are extremely appreciative.

Due to the earlier than expected inspection date, it did not go as well as we would have hoped as we did not have sufficient time to move our curriculum changes on as far as we were hoping to between the two inspections. We have not received the finalised report yet, but when we do we will share it with parents and the community and give opportunity for parents to discuss this with me / ask any questions they have in relation to the report and what it means.

Harvest Festival

We shall be having the Harvest Festival at the Parish Church once again this year. The date will be confirmed shortly and will be either the end of September or the beginning of October.



Ghyllside Primary School

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Year 6 Leavers

We had 61 of our children leave us at the end of last term to go on to secondary education. On the way in to school these past three days I have passed numerous gaggles of recent ex Ghyllsiders in green or maroon blazers, (some of which have obviously been bought to 'grow into') who are off to pastures new.

As you are aware the last week of last term was a little fraught but despite this the Y6's last week, and leavers assembly, provided them with a fitting send off at the end of a year where they had thoroughly enjoyed their learning, residentials, expedition club, concerts, plays, sports clubs, building cars and amongst all this gained the best set of Y6 SATs results (way above national averages) that the school has ever had.

We wish all of them all the best in the future!

Start and finish times

Please see below for school start and finish times

Reception - 8.50-9am

3-3.15pm

Y1 - 8.50-9am

3.20pm

Y2 - 8.45-8.55am

3.20pm

KS2 - 8.50am

3.20pm

End of day arrangements

Please ensure that you notify your child's class teacher if there is a different arrangement for the collection of your child at the end of the day.

An example of this may be if they are going home with a friend or a family friend or relative is going to collect them. This applies to all children in all year groups, even Years 5 and 6.

We are unable to dismiss your child from school, unless parents have notified us of the clear arrangements for the end of the school day.

EXCITING OPPORTUNITY - Kendal Music Centre now enrolling for 2025-2026

As some of you are aware, the **Kendal Music Centre** takes place on a Tuesday after school at Ghyllside. KMC has something for everyone and is incredible value for money. We are now enrolling for the school year and would love more pupils to join us.

Kendal Music Minis - Tuesdays 4-5pm - Songs, movement and instruments for children aged 4-7

Kendal Music Makers - Tuesdays 5-6pm - A creative music making club for children aged 7-12

Kendal Young Strings - Tuesdays 5-6pm - For violin, viola, cello, and double bass players - from beginners to Grade 2

Get in touch and come for a free trial session by following this link [Kendal Music Centre – Cumbria Music Hub](#) or emailing musicservice@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk

Jewellery in PE – Reminder

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.

Change of Date

Y3 Stone Age Workshop Day led by Historic Workshops will now be on Tuesday 9th September.

School uniform

Please ensure that all items of your child's uniform and clothing are clearly labelled. Each year, we experience an increasing amount of lost property that cannot be returned due to it being unnamed. Many thanks for your support.

Dates for the diary

Tuesday 9 th September:	Y3 Stoneage workshop
Tuesday 9 th September:	Meet the next teacher, 3.30pm, 4.00pm and 5.30pm
Friday 12 th September:	Y4 Swimming starts, pm
Friday 12 th September:	PTA Playdale celebration
Tuesday 16 th September:	Y6 Open evening, KKS, 5-8pm
Wednesday 17 th September:	Y6 Open evening, QKS, 5.15-8.15pm
Tuesday 14 th October:	Y5 Hawse End meeting, 5pm
Friday 17 th October:	PTA Halloween disco
Monday 20 th October:	Y6 Smartphone education day
Tuesday 21 st October:	Reception 2026 open day, 1.30-3pm or 5-7pm
Thursday 23 rd October:	School tour for Reception 2026, 9.30am
Friday 24 th October:	School finishes for half term, 3.20pm
Monday 3 rd November:	School starts
Wednesday 5 th November:	School tour for Reception 2026, 9.30am and 1.30pm
Thursday 6 th November:	School tour for Reception 2026, 9.30am
Monday 10 th November:	Individual and sibling school photographs
Tuesday 11 th November:	School tour for Reception 2026, 1.30pm
Friday 14 th November:	Children in need
Tuesday 18 th November:	Nursery stay and play
Tuesday 18 th November:	Parents evening
Wednesday 19 th November:	Nasal flu immunisations, Rec-Y6
Wednesday 19 th November:	Parents evening
Thursday 20 th November:	Parents evening
Friday 21 st November:	Y5 and Y6 Kendal mountain festival, am, Leisure Centre

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