

# March 2026 Newsletter

13<sup>th</sup> March 2026

## Message from the Head

I hope this newsletter find you all well. I am writing while on the Hawse End outdoor residential with our Y5 classes. All is (so far) going well! Being here, and seeing what the children get out of the trip, has made me reflect on how lucky we are at Ghyllside to have staff and past parents who are keen to provide the children with these opportunities in their own time.

We are equally as lucky to have an amazing PTA who put on a large number of social and fundraising events that enables them to financially support the trips and activities we put on, and so reduce the costs for all families.

Many thanks to all those who give their free time to improve the experiences of our children.

## Fundraising

Following on from the above I just wanted to take the opportunity to highlight the trips and resources that the PTA has funded during the last year -

- Part funded Playdale
- Part funded woods/forest school area resources
- Playground markings coming this spring / summer 2026 (100% funded)
- Wholly or part funded lots of school trips including York, Coniston Water Park, Hadrian's Wall, outdoor activity centres, theatre trips
- Jewellery club (100%)
- Karaoke machine for after school club (100%)
- Basketball hoop (100%)
- Gym mats for the whole school (100%)
- Den making kits (100%)
- Part funded hoodies for Y6 leavers several years running
- Christmas parties for the whole school (100%)
- Author visits (100%)
- Visit from a mobile zoo (100%)
- Prizes for World Book Day, raffles and more

As I have said above, we are extremely lucky to have such an active and committed PTA.



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## Staff Changes

I am sad (for us) to say that Mr. Phillips will be leaving us for pastures new after Easter.

This is a monumental change for Ghyllside as Andy is a very long serving and valued member of our Ghyllside team who will be

missed by us all, and many of the children both past and present. We obviously wish Andy all the best in all that he does in the future.



Mr. Daniel Bush, who is presently teaching at Stramongate School, will be taking over Andy's class for the Summer Term – you may see him around school in the coming couple of weeks as he will be in a lot to ensure a smooth handover from Andy.

**COMIC RELIEF – FRIDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> MARCH – Children may come to school wearing mufti which can include an item of red for a cash donation.**

# Boys Choir Celebrate Win!



At the Mary Wakefield, Junior Choir came a fab 2<sup>nd</sup> in their class and the Boys Choir 1<sup>st</sup> in theirs. So much hard work and relentless dedication from every child in both choirs for months working towards this. Both choirs received honours scores in the high eighties which is very unusual, especially for a primary aged choir. They and their families should be immensely proud of them. We, as staff, should be proud of them and of the impression of Ghyllside they have given to hundreds of people; the senior and adult choirs were arriving as they were singing. It is quite humbling to work with them.

Miss Crowley

## Nut Allergy

There are several children in school who have an allergy to nuts including:

- Peanuts
- Peanut Butter
- Nut Oils
- Nut Flavourings etc.

Touching, eating or even inhaling these items may provoke a severe allergic reaction. For the safety of these pupils, we are asking parents not to send any food containing **ANY** nut products to school.

Thank you for your support and co-operation in this matter.



## School Meals and Free School Meals

Please can we remind parents that if a School Meal has been ordered and your child is not in school or is bringing a packed lunch, please cancel the meal before 9.30am.

This also applies to children who may be entitled to free school meals (Reception, Y1 & Y2.)

If the meal has not been cancelled in time you will be charged, as school has to pay for those meals ordered.



# Activity days for Easter Holidays



These sessions are for children aged 5–11 who are in receipt of free school meals, held at Kendal Leisure Centre. The Multi sports programme will be a mixture of sports, activities, Bouncy Castle, games and crafts and your child will enjoy a fun filled day, and every child will have access to a free lunch, each child to bring their own drinks bottle & a snack, Sessions will be delivered by qualified coaches from Better Kendal Leisure Centre

All bookings must now be made via the Council website using this link: [BOOK HERE](#)

## Dates for the diary

Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> March:	Swimathon, Leisure Centre, 4.15pm
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Y2 and Y5, Ben Soffa, Jewish speaker
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March:	Comic Relief day, wear red/mufti for a cash donation
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> – Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March:	Y6 York residential
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March:	Y5 Moving up evening, KKS, 5.15pm
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> March:	Y4 Buddhist Centre trip
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March:	Y3 Roman residential meeting, LA classroom, 5.30pm
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March:	Term ends, 2pm
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April:	Summer term begins
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April:	Y3 Waterpark trip
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> April:	Y2 Waterpark trip
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> – Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> :	Y4 Brathay Residential
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May:	May bank holiday
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> – Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> May:	Y6 SAT's
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> – Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> May:	Y3 Roman residential
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May:	School finishes for half term, 3.20pm
Monday 1st June:	School starts
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> June:	Class photographs
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> June:	Dominic Kelly, storyteller in school
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> July:	Y6 Leavers Ceilidh, 6 - 8.30pm
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July:	Y6 Leavers assembly, 9 -10am
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July:	Term ends, 2pm

*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

