

Ghyllside Primary School

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

4th April 2025

April 2025 newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers.

I hope this letter finds you all well.

I hope you have all been able to enjoy the good weather we have been having. We were reflecting this week that we have run cross country club weekly since February half term and have not had a wet session yet! The good weather looks set to stay with us for at least the first half of the Easter break, so I hope you can make the most of it, and it stays with us for the Summer term.

Residential visits thanks

We have an extensive programme of residential visits for our KS2 (junior) children at Ghyllside. Our Y3's are going on their Romans residential to Hadrian's Wall in June, Y4's are going to Brathay Hall in May, the week before last Y5 were out in the Lakes on an outdoor residential, and Y6 went to York last week and have the opportunity to take part in our expedition club in the Summer term. (The local authority tells us we are the only school in Cumbria to run an expedition club of this sort.)

When I hear stories of schools not going on residential / cancelling residential it constantly reminds me that we are exceptionally lucky with the people in our Ghyllside community who are willing to give their time to helping our children. As a result I would like to take this opportunity to thank –

The staff who spend a lot of time planning, risk assessing, liaising with parents and trying to ensure everybody on the residential has a great time.

The parents who give up their time (often taking holiday days / not working for the day / days) to help because they see the importance of these trips and the benefits they bring to the children.

The ex-parents who come back to help, again giving up work days, because they appreciate the opportunities we gave their children when they were here and want to see this offer continue. (As good examples the Y5 residential and Y6 expedition club could not have run this year without ex parents helping.)

Thank you to all the people involved in giving their time and expertise to enhance the experiences of all of our children.

Staffing changes

As I have previously informed you we are having a couple of staffing changes after Easter. I am sad (for us) to say that Mrs Baron in Y3 and Mr Duxbury in Y5 will be moving on to pastures new – Mrs Baron to work for Raspberry Pi Computing Foundation as Community Coordinator for the North West of England, and Mr Duxbury to take up a full-time role race organising for Lakeland Trails (the organisation he already works with part time).

These will be monumental changes for Ghyllside as both Helen and Dan are long serving well respected members of our Ghyllside team who will be missed by us all. We obviously all wish them well in their new jobs.

Our Mission: Ghyllside Primary School – Growing Hearts and Minds

Our Values: Inspiring Healthy Inclusive Nurturing Experiences

For the Summer term Mrs Karen Watson (who already teaches a day a week in Mrs Baron's class) will be teaching the Y3 class, and Mrs Michelle Bousfield will be teaching in Mr Duxbury's place in Y5. Both of these teachers have a lot of experience of teaching at Ghyllside, and with the Ghyllside team, so will provide great continuity for these classes.

Free Library Workshops for Easter

There will be free workshops on Thursday 17th April at:

Kendal Library 10.30 - 11.30am, children 0-5 with parents/carers, Rucksack of Rhymes
11.30 - 12.30pm, children 5+ with parents/carers, Wake up to Spring

Windermere Library 2 - 3pm children 0-5 with parents/carers, Rucksack of Rhymes
3 - 4pm children 5+ with parents/carers, Wake up to Spring

Ghyllside Nursery

From September we have Nursery places available. We offer completely flexible sessions and parents who are eligible for 30 hours free child care can use the hours for wraparound care and Holiday Club.

Ghyllside Nursery is child centred and play based. Our priorities are being happy and developing communication skills and these underpin all the experiences and opportunities available to every child.

We welcome visitors to Nursery and would be delighted to show you our exceptional Nursery environment and introduce you to our highly experienced Nursery staff.

Please contact us if you would like more information or to talk through how we can support your child and you. Contact the School Office on 01539 814930 or call into the Nursery, you will be welcome at any time.

World Book Day Competition

A huge well done to all the children who took part in the World Book Day Extreme Reading photo competition. The entries were brilliant. The team of year 5 and 6 judges loved marking them. A huge well done to this team too- they did a fantastic job. The following children won for their year group:

Nursery-Arthur Robinson

Reception- Rory Hay

Year - Grayson Rose

Year 2 - Erin Butler

Year 3 - Obie Haines

Year 4 - Esme Brooks

Year 5 - Rosie Butler

Year 6 - Thomas Austin

All entries will be displayed in school and all entrants should have received a special pencil.

Many thanks to the PTA for supporting this competition. Jane Reedy

Swimathon

A huge well done to all the Y4, 5 and 6 children who took part in the Swimathon at Kendal Leisure Centre on Saturday 15th March. You were all brilliant! So far, they have raised **£1434.50** for CancerCare and school funds. If there is any outstanding sponsorship money, please can this be paid as soon as possible. Many thanks, Jane Reedy

Parent Trustees (Governors)

We 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. I know I had a couple of parents who have previously expressed an interest in joining our Trustees when the opportunity arose. If you are one of these, or have not previously talked to me about it but are interested, 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.

Running club

Running club will continue to take place before school on Tuesday mornings through the Summer term. Running club will resume on the morning of Tuesday 29th April, **the second Tuesday of term.**

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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

Dates for the Diary

Tuesday 22 nd April:	Summer term begins
Monday 5 th May:	May Day bank holiday
Tuesday 6 th – Friday 9 th May:	Y5 Bikeability
Monday 12 th – Thursday 15 th May:	Y6 SAT's
Monday 12 th May:	Y3 Waterpark trip
Tuesday 13 th May:	Y2 Waterpark trip
Wednesday 14 th May:	Y5 Information evening, QKS, 6-7.30pm
Monday 19 th – Tuesday 20 th May:	Y4 Brathay residential
Friday 23 rd May:	School finishes for half term, 3.20pm
Monday 2 nd June:	School starts
Tuesday 3 rd June:	Dominic Kelly, storyteller visit
Monday 9 th – Tuesday 10 th June:	Y3 Residential
Friday 13 th June:	Y5 QKS experience day
Friday 13 th June:	Y6 Class photographs
Monday 16 th June:	Nur-Y5 Class photographs
Tuesday 17 th June:	Reception sports, am
Wednesday 18 th June:	Y1 sports
Thursday 19 th June:	Y3, 4, 5 and 6 sports, am
Friday 20 th June:	Y2 sports, am
Friday 27 th June:	Y5 Tech experience, KKS, am
Monday 30 th June:	Y6 KKS & QKS Induction day
Monday 7 th July:	Y3 Music concert, Hall, pm
Thursday 10 th July:	Y5 High School Musical, Brewery, pm
Friday 11 th July:	Y6 Leavers ceilidh
Friday 18 th July:	Y6 Leavers assembly, 9-10am
Friday 18 th July:	Term ends, 2pm

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