



Kirk Smeaton Church of England Primary School
 Main Street, Kirk Smeaton, Pontefract
 West Yorkshire, WF8 3JY
 Tel: 01977 620497 Email: admin@kirksmeaton.n-yorks.sch.uk
 In association with Went Valley Pre-School
 Tel: 01977 621521



Headteacher: Mrs H Cuddy

Date: Friday 20th December 2024



After School Clubs – Autumn Term 1

Day	Club	Time	Booking
Monday	Multi Sports (Debbie Drake)	3:10pm to 4:30pm	Arbor
Tuesday	After School Club	3.10 to 5.30pm	Arbor
Wednesday	After School Club	3.10pm to 4.30pm	Arbor
Thursday	After School Club	3.10pm to 4.30pm	Arbor

After School Clubs (Private Providers)

Day	Club	Time	To Book
Monday	Cheerleading (ages 6-11)	5.00pm to 6.00pm	Abbie Lynds dkcheer@outlook.com or 07507 891130
Wednesday	Performing Arts	4.30pm to 5.30pm	07376 625143 admin@legacysportfoundation.co.uk or 07376 625143
Thursday	Multi Sports	4.30 pm to 5.30pm	Mr Steel – 07477 683305
Friday	Multi Sports	3.10 pm to 5.30pm	Mr Steel – 07477 683305

Latest information for all

- **Happy Christmas to all!** On behalf of all the children and staff, we would like to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas, and a healthy and prosperous New Year. We look forward to welcoming children back into school on Tuesday 7th January.
- **Thank you:** To everyone that has supported us at our Christmas events, we raised £174 from the raffles and sales of refreshments. All monies will be put back into school for equipment and experiences.
- **Volunteers needed to support reading in School** - We are seeking parents and carers to help support reading in our school. This rewarding role requires a regular weekly commitment and a DBS check. To ensure fairness and privacy, we will place you in a class where your child or loved one is not present. If you're interested in developing a love of reading, we'd love to hear from you. Please get in contact with Mrs Cuddy through the admin email.
- **Dates for next term** – Please see the diary dates at the end of this week's newsletter.
- **Christmas Fair Success.** A heartfelt thank you to all the parents and carers who contributed to the success of our Christmas Fair! Your hard work and support are invaluable. Together, we raised over £600, which will be used to enhance school resources and fund special activities.

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- **Book Donations.** Thank you to all the parents and carers who have generously donated books for Christmas book initiative. Your kindness will allow other children to enjoy and cherish them.
- **Book Fair** – Thank you to everyone who purchased a book at our recent book fair. Together we raised a fantastic £212.91 for our school to spend on books.
- **Raffle** – Thank you to all those parents, families and local businesses that generously donated prizes to the school raffle and tombola. Congratulations to all the winners too!
- **Sports Competitions** – Well done to all those that attended last week's athletics' competition with Legacy Sports!
- **School Drive** - A gentle reminder that the school drive should not be accessed between 8.25- 9.15am and 2.55-3.25pm to ensure that children and adults can walk to and from school safely during the busy periods. If you do use the drive outside of these hours, please use the parking bays to park vehicles in between the lines and park considerately for all users and neighbours.
- **Highways and Traffic Safety update from the Parish Council.** On behalf of the Parish Council we are pleased to share an update regarding important highways and traffic safety improvements that affect our village and school community. These matters have been previously discussed with the School Council, and I know many of you will be interested in the progress being made:

Speed Monitoring on Wentedge Road: Excessive speeds were recorded where the 30mph zone starts and ends. To address this, North Yorkshire Council has proposed a traffic calming scheme, including the installation of rumble strips on the approach to the village. This project will be submitted for planning approval and, if approved, should be implemented in the new budget year starting in April.

20mph Zone Near the School: Monitoring near the school showed average speeds of around 20mph. Based on this, North Yorkshire Council plans to apply for approval to establish a formal 20mph zone through the village, specifically before and after the school. They will inform residents and the school community about this proposal around March, and your support will be crucial at that time.

Double Yellow Lines: The Parish Council has also followed up on the installation of double yellow lines on the bends before and after the school. North Yorkshire Council is reviewing this and will provide an update shortly.

Footpath and Bridleway Proposal: There is an ongoing proposal to connect Wentbridge to Kirk Smeaton via a safe footpath and bridleway. This initiative, currently under review, is being led by the quarry in consultation with local councils. If approved, it will improve pedestrian safety and address drainage issues along the road.

While progress can sometimes be slow due to budget constraints, it is encouraging to see these important issues being addressed. The Parish Council continues to work hard to make our village safer for everyone, and we are pleased to share their ongoing efforts with you. I hope our School Council and Eagles class, who have been learning about the role of the Parish Council, will find these updates both informative and inspiring. Thank you for your continued support in keeping our school community safe.

Arbor Reminders

- Meal choices for January 2025 onwards are now available to select on the portal. Even if your child is on a packed lunch, please select this option from the menu. **Please ensure all choices are made by Friday 20th December, to allow an accurate food delivery for the new term.**
- Eagles Trip to Tropical House – Is now available to book and give consent until Friday 31st January.
- For those that pay for school meals, please ensure that your balance is topped up regularly.

General Reminders

- **Mobile Library** – North Yorkshire's Mobile Library is in the village on the 7th January. There a number of outstanding books on loan to the children which are now overdue. Please have a look at home and return any books back into school.
- **School Winter Uniform** - All pupils must wear black sensible school shoes (not trainers) for indoor and general outdoor use. Children may wear wellingtons to and from school, but must change into school shoes

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once they are in the classroom. From November to March we ask that children wear trousers or tights to keep warm in the winter months and have an outdoor coat which can be fastened.

- **Sport Competitions.** If your child has been on competition and used the schools kit, please wash it and return it ASAP so that other children can wear it for the next competition please.
- **Parking-** a polite reminder to all parents and carers, please park responsibly. The Shoulder of Mutton Pub kindly allow parking for drop off and pick ups at school.
- **Collective worship** Parents and carers are invited to attend the SHINE collective worship every Monday at 2.30pm. This is a Collective worship where we recognise the achievements for the week.
- **School Fundraising Group** We are deeply grateful to parents and friends for fundraising efforts, which allow us to afford many luxuries for our children. We are seeking parents and carers to lead the fundraising group next year. If you are interested, please let the school office know.
- **Jewellery in school** Can we please remind parents of the school's earrings and jewellery policy in school, in that we do not allow jewellery to be worn in school with the exception of a wristwatch, which must be removed for PE. We ask that any piercings are done in the school holidays so that they can be removed in time for school.
- **Please let the office know of any appointments or absences** rather than teachers on Dojo – they often don't have time to check these on a morning. In the case of any absence due to illness, please do let the office know by 9.00am on the day of the absence.
- **Late pick ups-** As per our policy, if a child is picked up 10 minutes or later, there will be a charge of £2 per 10 minutes they are late – this relates to normal school collection as well as after school club.

Important Diary Dates

***NEW/UPDATED DATES IN RED* Subject to change.**

Friday 20 th December	School Closes
Monday 6 th January	Inset Day
Tuesday 7 th January	School opens
Tuesday 7 th January	Mobile Library
Thursday 9 th January	Epiphany Service in Church 1pm – Parents welcome
Monday 13 th January	SHINE Collective Worship
Thursday 16 th January	School Census day lunch
Thursday 16 th January	Eagles Basketball Competition
Monday 20 th January	SHINE Collective Worship
Wednesday 22 nd January	Y3 Parent dinner 12.15-12.45
Thursday 23 rd January	Lions Basketball Competition
Monday 27 th January	SHINE Collective Worship
Wednesday 29 th January	Y4 Parent dinner 12.15 -12.45
Thursday 30 th January	Dolphins Basketball Competition
Thursday 30 th January	Chinese Dance Workshop in school
Monday 3 rd February	SHINE Collective Worship
Tuesday 4 th February	Mobile Library 10.00am -12.00pm
Tuesday 4 th February	Young Voices
Tuesday 4 th February	KS2 Swimming Gala
Friday 7 th February	Internet Safety Day
Monday 10 th February	SHINE Collective Worship
Wednesday 12 th February	Y5 Parent dinner 12.15-12.45
Thursday 13 th February	Candlemas Church Service 1pm – Parents welcome
Thursday 13 th February	KS1 Gymnastics Competition
Friday 14 th February	Valentine's Day Lunch
Friday 14 th February	School Closes for half term

Reminders

We are a nut and coconut free school. Please do not send in packed lunches or snacks.

We are a healthy school. Packed lunches should not contain chocolate or sweets.

Useful Contacts

School Office: 01977 620 497
admin@kirksmeaton.n-yorks.sch.uk

Debbie Drake – 07879 687847

Connor Steel 07477 683305

Abbie Lynds 07507 891130

After School Club Emergency Line: 07521 952 373

Mobile Library Dates

in the Shoulder Car Park

7th January

4th February

4th March

Attendance for This Year 2024/2025 - TARGET 96%

Current National Attendance for All Schools: 92.8% (2023/2024)

W/C	Starfish	Dolphins	Lions	Eagles	Whole School	National
09/12/2024	98.57%	98.57%	99.62%	93.20%	97.49%	
02/12/2024	100%	100%	100%	97.60%	99.14%	92.7%
25/11/2025	87.86%	98.81%	99.23%	97.60%	96.99%	-
18/11/2024	98.57%	92.14%	97.69%	97.78%	96.14%	-
11/11/2024	95%	93.57%	97.69%	97.20%	96.03%	-
04/11/2024	97.86%	100%	98.08%	99.17%	98.94%	93.9%
21/10/2024	100%	93.21%	97.31%	99.60%	97.01%	93%
14/10/2024	100%	97.5%	97.69%	96%	97.21%	-
07/10/2024	95.68%	97.5%	99.23%	99.20%	97.88%	94.1%
30/09/2024	98.4%	97.5%	100%	98.4%	98.31%	-
23/09/2024	100%	100%	99.62%	96.8%	98.5%	94%
16/09/2024	97.86%	97.5%	97.31%	99.2%	96.88%	-
09/09/2024	95.71%	98.93%	97.69%	97.6%	97.19%	-
03/09/2024	96.43%	98.66%	96.63%	100%	97.99%	-
Autumn Term 1	98.03%	97.57%	98.27%	98.31%	97.95%	-

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Where attendance falls below 96%, parents will be issued with an attendance letter. Persistent absence may result in a fine from your local authority, or even prosecution.

Children with attendance less than 90% are missing more than 4 weeks of school each year, and across their time with us this can reach 1 full school year of absence, making it almost impossible to keep up with the work.

Attendance	Days Absent	
100%	0	Excellent
99%	1.9	
98%	3.8	
97%	5.7	Average
96%	7.6	
95%	9.5	
94%	11.4	Below expected national standard
93%	13.3	
92%	15.2	
91%	17.1	
90%	19	