



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 25th October 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

We have come to the end of our first half term and what an exciting one it's been. Everyone has settled in so well into their new classes and made some new friends. As we approach Christmas, we have lots of events planned and we will share these in due course, so please keep an eye out on dojo and our diary dates at the end of this newsletter. On behalf of all of us at school, have an enjoyable half term and we look forward to welcoming you all back into school on Monday 4th November.

Latest information for all

- **Healthy eating and drinking in school:** When children are in school or on attending after-school events, they are encouraged to bring a healthy snack i.e. Piece of fruit, healthy crackers. Please avoid sending chocolate or sweets. We also kindly ask that parents provide water only for their children. Drinking water has numerous health benefits, including keeping children hydrated, supporting their concentration and promoting overall wellbeing. Thank you for helping to encourage healthy habits for your children. Please see the schools healthy eating policy attached to this weeks newsletter.
- **Growing up in North Yorkshire survey-** Last academic year, children in Years 2, 3, 5, and 6 participated in the Growing Up in NYC survey. Below are the key findings:

Let God's love shine as we care for each other and learn together.

KS1 (Current Year 3 and Year 4 children)

Positives:

- Children are learning about staying safe online.
- More children are swimming regularly.
- Fewer children are using iPads in bed at night.

Areas for improvement:

- Diet: Many children are not eating enough fruit and vegetables. It's important to continue promoting healthy eating and the importance of their "5-a-day" (or "7-a-day").
- Physical Activity: Boys mentioned they find it difficult fit physical activity in after school.
- Oral Hygiene: Some children are brushing their teeth only once a day. Encouraging twice-daily brushing is essential.
- Handwashing: Not all children wash their hands before eating.
- Bedtime Stories: There's been a drop in parents reading bedtime stories to their children.
- Online Safety: Children reported that not all parents have internet safety on their internet at home.

KS2 (Current Year 6 and Year 7 children)

Positives:

- Children have a good understanding of PSHE topics, including smoking, health, and body changes.

Areas for improvement:

- Online Safety: A growing number of children added people they don't know to their contacts.
- Diet: Many children are not eating enough fruit and vegetables. It's important to continue promoting healthy eating and the importance of their "5-a-day" (or "7-a-day").
- Eye Tests: Not all children had regular eye tests. We recommend parents ensure their children have yearly eye tests.

- Please take a moment to review the Parent and Carer Behaviour Policy for our school, that's also attached to this week's newsletter. This is a gentle reminder that all interactions with the school, staff, and children should be respectful and positive, both in and around the school premises Thank you for fostering a supportive and encouraging environment for our children and families.
- **Bikeability**. Year 6 had a brilliant time on their Bikeability course this week and learned some valuable skills for safe cycling – Well done everyone!
- **Year 6 transfer to year 7**. The closing date for secondary school applications is 31st October 2024.
- **Reception 2025**. Calling all nursery parents! Applications for a reception place starting in September 2025 are now open. The closing date is 15th January 2025.
- **Parent Dinners** – Thank you to those parents that have attended our parent dinners this term, we hope you enjoyed it? If you have any feedback, we would love to hear from you, you can share via email or using the parent and carer post box at the top of the school drive. There will be more parent/carers dinner sessions next half term.
- **Legacy Sports Camp** – There's a few remaining spaces available for next week's holiday camp in school. To confirm and book your space please contact Legacy Sport on admin@legacysportfoundation.co.uk
- **Holiday fun**: This half-term, Adult Learning North Yorkshire is offering free Halloween-themed family activities at multiple locations across the county. The Family Fun with Crafts sessions are designed for parents, carers, and their children to come together and create eco-friendly Halloween decorations using basic, sustainable materials.

Session highlights:

Craft spooktacular Halloween decorations: Using basic, sustainable materials, participants will create unique Halloween crafts.

Inclusive for all skill levels: Everyone is welcome to join in the fun, whether a beginner or an experienced crafter.

Family bonding: Spend quality time together while making eco-friendly decorations.

Guidance provided: All materials will be supplied, and the friendly teachers will be on hand to assist throughout the session.

Locations and dates:

Knaresborough Library & Information Centre: Tuesday, 29th October, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Selby North Children and Families Hub (Pumpkin Carving Sessions): Tuesday, 29th October, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM and Wednesday, 30th October, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Selby Library & Information Centre: Thursday, 31st October, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Harrogate Library & Information Centre: Friday, 1st November, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Malton Library & Information Centre: Friday, 1st November, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

To enrol, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/FamilyFunCraftsHalfTerm10>

Contact Email: adultlearningservice@northyorks.gov.uk

- **School Bus** – An updated bus timetable has been sent to parents that utilise the school bus. If you have any questions or comments about this service, please contact North Yorkshire Transport services at schooltransport.services@northyorks.gov.uk

Arbor Reminders

- For those that pay for school meals, please ensure that your balance is topped up regularly.
- Parents Evening – Appointments are available to book till the 8th November.
- Dolphins trip to Ledston is available to book and give consent on Arbor. – If your child requires a school packed lunch, please let the office know by Monday 4th November.
- Robinwood 2025 deposit is available to pay until the 25th October.

General Reminders

- **Christmas Shoe Box Appeal.** We are supporting the Christmas shoe box appeal again this year. I will share this with the children during Collective Worship next week. Please see the link for how to make a Christmas box, please remember to add £5 shipping donation to the box too please.

<https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/how-to-pack-a-shoebbox-no-follow>

Christmas boxes can be dropped off at:

- Bentley Pentecostal Church DN5 0RY- no times given.

- The Entertainer Doncaster DN1 1SW- Open 8:00am, Closes at 5:30pm

- All Saints Parish Church Normanton WF6 1NT-

Wednesday 13th 3 pm - 5 pm Nov, Thursday 14th 4.30 pm - 6.30 pm- Friday 15th 3 pm - 5 pm, Saturday 16th 10 am - 12 pm

There are other locations, please see the Samaritan's website for more information.

- **Free School Meals:** You could save up to £450 a year with free school meals for your child. As well as saving you money, free school meals can also save you time and provide peace of mind that your child is enjoying a healthy, fresh, and nutritious meal at lunchtime. Free school meals are available to all Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils through the Universal Infant Free School Meal Scheme. If you receive certain benefits, your child could also get free school meals during all school years. To find out more and apply online, go to <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/educationand-learning/free-school-meals>
- **Allergens.** We have children in school with allergies. This is a general reminder that if you bring home baked goods into school, please include a list of ingredients in the tin/box so that we can ensure children are safe.
- **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.
- **Governor-** We are seeking two new co-opted governors to join our team. If you are interested in the role, please reach out to us. We are especially keen to hear from individuals with a background in law or education, who also have the time to invest in the school. Governors typically attend 9–10 meetings per year and spend approximately 3–10 days working directly with our children and staff. If you think you can help and be involved in our wonderful school, please get in touch via the school office.
- **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.

Let God's love shine as we care for each other and learn together.

- **The school day** - A reminder to all parents and carers, that school gates open at 8.40am and children should be fully in school by 8.50am. The teachers are in the classroom and will provide learning for all children who are in school at 8.40am.
- **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.**

Monday 4 th November	School Opens
Monday 4 th November	SHINE Collective Worship
Wednesday 6 th November	Y5/6 Netball Competition
Monday 11 th November	SHINE Collective Worship
Monday 11 th November	Remembrance Day – Children to attend Cenotaph
Monday 11 th November	Flu Vaccinations in school
Tuesday 12 th November	Mobile Library
Tuesday 12 th November	Parents evening 3.30pm to 6.00pm
Wednesday 13 th November	Y3/4 Netball Competition
Friday 15 th November	Children in Need
Monday 18 th November	SHINE Collective Worship
Tuesday 19 th November	Parents Evening 3.30pm to 6.00pm
Thursday 21 st November	Bags to School
Thursday 21st November	Dolphins Trip to Ledston
Monday 25 th November	SHINE Collective Worship
Thursday 28 th November	Y3/4/5/6 Athletics Competition
Friday 29 th November	None Uniform Day – Tombola Donations
Monday 2 nd December	SHINE Collective Worship
Tuesday 3 rd December	School Christmas Fayre
Thursday 4 th December	Cheerleading Competition
Monday 9 th December	SHINE Collective Worship
Tuesday 10 th December	Mobile Library
Wednesday 11 th December	Christmas Lunch
Thursday 12 th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 12 th December	Y1/Y2 Multi skills sports comp

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	

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.

Please send in your old

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

12th November 10am -12pm

10th December 10am -12pm