



# *Kirkstall St Stephen's*

## *Newsletter 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025*

### Diary Dates / PTA Events 2025

Forthcoming Events	Date
PTA Mother's Day cards to be designed (further information to follow)	WC 20 <sup>th</sup> January
PTA film night in school	Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> February
Break up for February half term	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February
School re-opens	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February
Parents Evening Phone calls taking place throughout the week	Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March 3.45-7.00
World Book Day	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> March
Science week in school	WC 10 <sup>th</sup> March
PTA disco Rec/KS1 3.30-5.00 KS2 5.00-6.30pm	Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> March
Break up for Easter holidays Church service 2.30pm	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April
Return to school after Easter	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April

### Chilly weather!

A big thanks to all families and staff for being flexible and understanding this week with a challenging period due to the snow, ice and arctic conditions. A special thanks to Mr Whitaker, our Superintendent, for the amazing work he has done keeping the school site cleared and safe. It hopefully looks like milder weather next week!

### Attendance

The class with best overall attendance this shorter week was year 1 with 98.82%  
Overall school attendance for the week was 92.72%

**To report an absence please ring the school on 0113 3821960 and choose option 1, or message Mrs Wren on School Gateway or Class Dojo (not class teacher as this may not be seen).**

**If you choose the option for the school office and it has not been possible to answer your call it will go to voicemail and you can leave a message. All messages are picked up and you do not need to ring again.**

### Important Communications to Parents

The bad weather this week has highlighted the importance of school communicating with parents/carers about school closures or changes to opening times.

**We will always put messages out as early as possible if school has to close. This will be posted on Class Dojo.** If you do not access Class Dojo please speak to Mrs Skelton. This is used not just for this but for newsletters and merit and VIP awards so it is vital that parents have access to this to get important information.

School closures can also be seen on the Leeds City Council website which will list all schools that are closed and late start times of all schools in the Leeds area.

## PAFRAS Xmas Gifts

A message from Evie Russell-Cohen from the PAFRAS organisation. Well done to everyone involved!

*I'm writing to express our many thanks for the Christmas gifts that you donated to PAFRAS via Horsforth Town of Sanctuary.*

*We were able to give them out to the families we work with at our Christmas Drop In. 65 families came to the drop in, and in total we were able to give gifts to 114 children. There were also a few more families who collected gifts outside the drop in, so in fact this number will be higher! People have really loved the gifts and it was very special to be able to provide good quality items to people who would not have been able to afford it otherwise.*

*It wouldn't have been possible without your kind donations. Please can you pass on your thanks to all the children who collected gifts.*

## Headingley & Kirkstall Band

I have been asked by Mr Robertson, Headteacher at Kirkstall Valley Primary, to inform you that there is an exciting opportunity upcoming for all budding musicians in the area!

*'I am writing to invite your school to join us in supporting our band project aimed at providing children across Headingley and Kirkstall with the opportunity to participate in a local brass, wind, keyboard, and percussion band. This initiative builds on an existing band and is designed as a progression route for children who show promise in whole-class music lessons or other musical opportunities, particularly those who may not have access to paid individual lessons.*

*The band will be open to children from all local schools, ensuring inclusivity and accessibility for all.*

*We believe this initiative represents excellent value for money, enabling us to offer children a high-quality music outcome which supports their musical development.*

*To overcome logistical challenges, we propose hosting rehearsals at Kirkstall Valley Primary School, which is fairly central to all schools. We recognise that travel to another school site may remain a consideration for some families, but we are confident that the benefits of participation will outweigh these challenges.'*

Dates and timings for rehearsals to be confirmed. Fees will be around £25 per child per term and will cover essential costs such as teaching, instruments, sheet music, and other equipment. However, there will be financial support for those families that cannot afford this.

Please can I ask that you email school **by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025** if you are interested in your child participating.

Have a lovely weekend everyone!

**Head Teacher**  
**Mr P Sheppard**