Kirby Hill C of E Primary School

NEWSLETTER

All things are possible for one who believes (Mark 9:23)

Friday 9th October 2026

Headteacher's Message

We have now completed five weeks back at school, and I have been so impressed by how well the children have settled back into school life and by the quality, quantity and variety of exciting learning that has taken place. It has also been lovely to see this reflected in parent/carer pride in their children's learning during the first round of our parent consultation meetings this week.

We do share our learning weekly and families are warmly welcome to join us every Friday morning for our celebration assemblies, where children share some of their work from the week. These assemblies are always my favourite time of the week, and I would encourage you to come along and see for yourself!

It was wonderful to welcome so many families into school for Anning's Stay and Play on Wednesday. It was a lovely opportunity to see the children in action and to see how well they have settled into life at Kirby Hill.

Last week, Year 4 took part in our first school sporting competition of the year, competing in hockey. The children worked incredibly hard, despite facing some very strong teams. Mrs Adkin was particularly proud of their sportsmanship, as they swapped teams, positions and equipment to ensure that every child had the opportunity to play three matches. Well done, Year 4! We also heard that the young leaders running the event singled out some of our children for their encouragement and support of others, which is fantastic to hear.

Finally, this week we launched this year's Junior Business Challenge with Year 6. The children are busy developing ideas in order to generate as much profit as possible from the £4 starting stake they will be given. I am looking forward to seeing the creative ideas they come up with! Thank you in advance for supporting the children and their business stalls.

Have a wonderful weekend,

Miss L Welburn
Headteacher

Effort Shield

The Kirby Hill Effort Shield is an amazing award to receive as it shows that particular children have valued their learning and fulfilled our school vision:

All things are possible for one who believes. ***Mark 9:23***

Well done to:
Jack (Y3)
Wren (Y5)

Dates for your Diary

A full list of dates for the year is on our website. Some upcoming dates are below.

8th, 9th, 12th October Bikeability
12th October - Applications open for Reception places 2027 opens
13th October – Parents Evening 2
14th October – BBHS Drama Workshop Y5/6 in school
16th October - Walk to School Day
16th October PTA coffee morning 9.30-10.15 after Assembly – everyone welcome.
19th October - Reception Welcome Service with Rev. Claire – Parents/Carers invited – 2.15pm
20th October – Y5/6 Girls Football Area Finals TBC
23rd October INSET Day 2
24th October – 1st November Half Term.
31st October – Closing Date for secondary school places
2nd November – Autumn Craft Competition.
4th November – Herd Farm parent information session 3.15pm

Role Model Award Winners

Well done to the following children who are living the 'Kirby Hill way' and showing they are always:

Ready, Respectful, Safe, Kind.

Izzy (Y1), Toby (Y1), Theo D (Y2), Elena (Y3), Halle (Y1), Flynn (Y1), Alice (Y4), Oscar (Y4)

Kirby Hill C of E Primary School is committed to ensuring the welfare and safety of all the children in school. If you have a concern about a child please speak to Miss Welburn (Designated Safeguarding Lead) or Mrs Houghton/ Mrs Adkin (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads)

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Year 5/6 Girls Football Success

Yesterday, 10 of our Einstein girls took part in the School Games Thirsk Area Girls' Football Tournament at Thirsk High School.

The competition was tough, but our girls were warming up from the moment they stepped off the bus! After a difficult first game, losing 5-0, they bounced back brilliantly, winning their next three matches 4-0, 5-0 and 5-2. Our final game ended in a 1-0 loss, but the team were not downhearted. There were many other fantastic disallowed goals due to the posts used as well as fantastic defending throughout, including from some girls playing their very first football match or being goalie for the first time.

Miss Lowther and I were so proud of their teamwork, determination and, most importantly, how much fun they had. There was even some Irish jigging during matches, which turned out to be an excellent defending tactic and one we're going to suggest to the England team! The girls, Miss Lowther and I didn't stop smiling all afternoon.

The girls were absolutely delighted to discover that they had finished 3rd out of 10 teams and have qualified for the Area Finals in a few weeks' time! The team were fantastic ambassadors for our school, but what made us most proud (aside from their wonderful, movie-worthy reaction to getting their medals!) was seeing them all go over afterwards to thank Duncan from Thirsk, who organised the tournament. A fantastic example of sportsmanship and the kind, respectful young people we want our pupils to be. Well done, girls - we couldn't be prouder! We have shared a photo on ClassDojo so you can see their brilliant, very smiley faces!

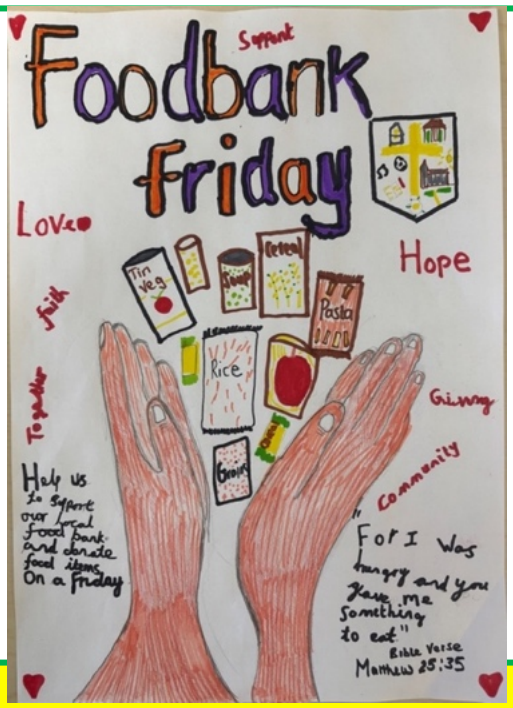
FOODBANK FRIDAYS

Each week, a different class is challenged to help fill our foodbank donation box.

Donations are welcome from all families. Whether it's an item from your cupboard that's in date but not needed, or something bought on your next supermarket trip with the children using their own pocket money.

Will your class fill the box?

16th October	Anning
6th November	Einstein
13th November	Darwin
20th November	Canady
27th November	Bell
4th December	Anning



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Residentials

Year 5/6 Residential – Birch Hall, Scarborough

This week, we shared information with families about our Year 5/6 residential to **Birch Hall, Scarborough**. Birch Hall is the new site for the residential that was previously held at East Barnby. The residential will take place in the Summer Term and will be a 3-night, 4-day residential (Tues-Friday). As a reminder, we will never 'advertise' residential trips to the children. We appreciate that these trips are a significant financial commitment for families, and we don't want children to feel under any pressure to attend. Information is therefore shared directly with families, allowing parents and carers to make the decision that is right for their family.

France

Thank you to all the families who responded to our consultation last year regarding a residential trip to France. As you are aware, our partner school is no longer able to take part in the trip, which has unfortunately left our plans uncertain. We explored the possibility of partnering with other local schools, but we understand that a trip of this nature is a significant commitment, and the schools we approached were not able to commit to or staff the trip for this school year.

In our consultation, we shared a provisional cost based on travelling as a single school, which was significantly higher than in previous years. The feedback from families was clear that you would still like us to offer a trip to France, or an alternative UK-based special experience, where possible.

We will therefore continue to explore our options for the 2027/28 school year and work hard to identify a trip that is educational, worthwhile and offered at a reasonable cost (as many families too did want a France trip but at a lower price), with the aim of being in a position to offer a suitable residential in 2028. Unfortunately, given the costs involved and the time needed to plan the trip properly, we have not been able to identify a suitable option for 2027. Madame Heap and I are still very keen for this trip to continue, so please rest assured that we will do our very best to find a fantastic alternative. Bonne chance!

Herd Farm Residential Y3/4

I visited Herd Farm this afternoon to look around the site ahead of our visit in November. While I was there, I asked all of the questions that the children had put forward, so we can make sure we have all the information they want to know. The children have asked for a photo pack, which Herd Farm don't provide so I will be making one over the coming weeks. We have shared with the children a sample itinerary of their trip but this is always subject to change nearer the date based on equipment, weather etc. Currently we are completing a number of self-led activities as well as Giant's Swing, Assault course, Archery, crate stack, night walk. The children will also be making a trip to Harewood house and its grounds.

I am really looking forward to sharing more details about the trip with families at our parents' information session on 4th November after school in Canady class.

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Reception Welcome Service

Parents and carers of our Reception children are warmly invited to our Welcome Service on Monday 19th October at 2.15pm.

The service will be led by myself and Rev Claire and we will officially welcome our newest pupils into the Kirby Hill C of E school community. The children will be supported by their Year 5 and 6 buddies, who will be there to help make this a special occasion for them.
We look forward to welcoming you and celebrating our newest members of Team Kirby Hill!

Please complete the Microsoft Form to let us know numbers to expect for the service.

Kirby Hill New Parent Governors

We are delighted to announce that, following our two-week nomination period, we received two valid nominations for our two parent governor vacancies.

We are therefore pleased to welcome **Katherine Hartley** and **Shelley Windress** as our new Parent Governors.

We look forward to welcoming Katherine and Shelley to our Governing Body and working with them as they begin their roles. We would like to thank them both in advance for the time, commitment and enthusiasm they will give to our school as volunteers in this important role.

We are very grateful to have them joining our team and look forward to the contribution they will make to the continued development of Kirby Hill C of E Primary.

Harvest Festival

A huge thank you to everyone who generously donated to our Harvest Festival collection. We were delighted to gather a wonderful selection of food to share with those in need through our local foodbank. Every tin, packet, jar and bag makes a difference, and we are incredibly grateful for your kindness and support.

A special thank you goes to our Collective Worship Team for helping to organise, sort and prepare all the donations, and to Rev. Claire for helping to lead our Harvest Festival service. We enjoyed a lovely celebration filled with singing, drama and poetry, giving us all an opportunity to reflect on the importance of gratitude, generosity and helping others.

Thank you to everyone who helped make our Harvest Festival so special!

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Class DoJo

How We Use ClassDojo at Our School

We know that every school uses ClassDojo in its own way, so we thought it would be helpful to explain how and why we use it at our school, and what you can expect from the platform.

Why did we introduce ClassDojo?

Before ClassDojo, we used Marvellous Me to share examples of children's work, positive messages and quick reminders with families.

Last year, we made the decision to move away from sharing identifiable photographs of children in our newsletters and website. We know how lovely it is for parents and carers to see what their children have been learning and creating, and we wanted to find another way to celebrate this. ClassDojo allows us to share children's work while keeping all photos private to only school families.

Celebrating success and sharing positive messages

At our school, ClassDojo points are used selectively. We see them as something very special, awarded when we really want to shine a light on exceptional work, positive behaviour or a school Christian value that a child has demonstrated.

We believe that the most meaningful recognition often happens face to face, through praise in the classroom, team points, a special visit to my office for a sticker or prize, or a quick celebratory chat at the classroom door. These personal moments are incredibly important to us, and we want to ensure that children receive immediate, meaningful praise for their efforts and achievements. Please don't worry if your child hasn't got lots of points – it's more likely these will be in plentiful supply in school.

Sharing reminders and curriculum updates

Teachers also use ClassDojo to share useful information with families, such as changes to PE days, reminders about bringing items into school for Design and Technology (DT) or other projects, curriculum updates and links to class newsletters.

Class newsletters and other useful links are also available on each class's webpage, which can be accessed through the school website.

Can I message my child's teacher through ClassDojo?

Some schools use ClassDojo as a private messaging service between parents and teachers. **This is not how we use ClassDojo at our school.**

Staff are unable to view or respond to messages sent through the platform. We ask that all messages, including information about absences and any quick queries, are directed through the school office.

There are two important reasons for this. Firstly, having one central point of contact helps us ensure that messages reach the right person, even when a member of staff is absent or not available. Secondly, it helps protect the wellbeing of our hardworking staff, allowing them to focus on what matters most: teaching, supporting and caring for the children. Anning class may use this feature only to message families if their child has slept or is unsettled during drop-off but this is rare.

Thank you for your understanding and support. We hope this clarifies how we use ClassDojo and why we believe it is a valuable tool for celebrating children's achievements and keeping families informed about life in school.

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World Mental Health Day & Christine's SAFEgarden & PTA Coffee Morning

A huge thank you to our wonderful Wellbeing Champions and Mrs Houghton for organising such a fantastic day today to celebrate World Mental Health Day! The children enjoyed a range of activities, including Cosmic Yoga, a gazebo disco hosted by DJ Tigers, and some calm, mindful colouring-in. It was lovely to see everyone taking time to focus on their wellbeing while having lots of fun!

Over the next week, the children will count all the donations collected, and we will let you know the grand total as soon as we can. Thank you to everyone who has contributed so generously and worn Yellow. All the money raised will go towards funding elements of Christine's SAFE Garden, so the donations will be put to very good use in supporting our children's wellbeing. We are also excited to be creating a 'Silverwood Patch' in this space as part of wellbeing and reflection. The Silverwood boys worked hard this morning, coming up with lots of ideas about the different fruits and vegetables they would like to grow. We can't wait to see their ideas take root!

PTA Coffee Morning

Next Friday, we will be hosting our first PTA-supported coffee morning of the year. Parents are warmly invited to stay after assembly to enjoy a chat over a coffee and perhaps a biscuit or two. We look forward to seeing lots of you there! During this, I would be very keen to hear from any families who have ideas or could offer support with our SAFE Garden so I can begin to generate a plan. We would love to hear your views and suggestions, so please do get in touch if you would like to get involved.

Attendance

Our whole-school attendance is currently at 97.83% which is above the National average.

Attendance last week: 98.15%
Attendance this week: 98.26%

Kirby Hill

C of E

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Reception 2027 open Days

TO BOOK A SCHOOL TOUR

PLEASE EMAIL: ADMIN@KIRBYHILL.N-YORKS.SCH.UK

OR CALL: 01423 322713

ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE FOR ONE WHO BELIEVES. MARK 9:23

"**Pupils thrive** because of the **high-quality support** they receive."

Ofsted 2026

"**Strong personal development** and **wellbeing** which "consistently **develops pupils' character** and a **secure sense of belonging** within the school and the local community."

Ofsted 2026

"Pupils feel valued from the moment they arrive."

Ofsted 2026

Parents value the "**culture of care and compassion",** and say that **pupils are "known and loved as the unique person they are."**

SIAMS 2023

www.kirbyhillprimary.org.uk

Ofsted

Read our report

Find us on Facebook:
Kirby Hill C of E Primary School

If You Believe It, You Can Achieve It

SEND COFFEE CATCH-UPS

WE'RE HOLDING A SERIES OF INFORMAL COFFEE CATCH-UPS ACROSS THE SCHOOL YEAR, WITH A FOCUS ON SUPPORTING FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH SEND (SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES). THESE SESSIONS ARE OPEN TO ALL PARENTS AND CARERS – WHETHER YOUR CHILD ALREADY HAS IDENTIFIED NEEDS, YOU HAVE CONCERNS, OR YOU'D JUST LIKE TO LEARN MORE AND JOIN THE CONVERSATION.

THESE SESSIONS ARE A CHANCE TO:

- MEET AND CHAT WITH OTHER PARENTS WHO ARE ON A SIMILAR JOURNEY
- SHARE EXPERIENCES - THE CHALLENGES AS WELL AS THE CELEBRATIONS
- SPEAK WITH OUR SENDCO AND ASK QUESTIONS
- OFFER FEEDBACK, FIND OUT ABOUT SUPPORT AVAILABLE, AND DISCOVER SIGNPOSTING TO OTHER SERVICES

EACH COFFEE MORNING WILL START WITH A SHORT UPDATE ON SCHOOL PROCESSES AND SEND DEVELOPMENTS.

YOU ARE VERY WELCOME TO ATTEND EVEN IF YOUR CHILD DOES NOT HAVE AN IDENTIFIED ADDITIONAL NEED, BUT YOU HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT THEIR DEVELOPMENT OR LEARNING NEED.

Dates:

Wednesday 7th October (2pm-3pm):
Friday 27th November (9.30am-10.30am)
Tuesday 19th January (8.45am-9.45am)
Tuesday 16th February (8.45am-9.45am)
Friday 21st May (9.30am-10.30am)
Wednesday 6th July (2pm-3pm)

A Microsoft Forms sign up link will be shared prior to each Coffee Catch up.

We hope to see you there!
Miss Welburn (Headteacher) & Mrs Adkin (SENDCO)