



# Giggleswick Primary School Newsletter



## December

A member of The Ribblesdale Federation of Schools – *fostering a love of learning through collaboration and fun*



Welcome to our **December Newsletter**. As we approach the end of another year we are pleased that our lovely reception pupils have almost made it through their first term, on the start of their school journey with us. These children have settled into school life very well and are enjoying their day-to-day activities.

As you can see from our Diary Dates, we have a busy two weeks ahead before the end of this term.

As usual, we are looking forward to our Christmas dinner this year as our school cook always does such an amazing job. If anyone chooses to have a packed lunch but would like to be included and have a Christmas dinner with us, you are very welcome (please contact the school office to let us know so that we know how many pupils to cater for). We'll also be having our Christmas Party on the last day of term, following lunch. A very special guest will also be attending! Pupils are welcome to come to school wearing appropriate party wear and suitable footwear (no football kits please) on this day.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a very happy 2025 from Mrs Maddocks and The Federation Team. We will close for the Christmas holidays on the 20th with school reopening for the Spring Term for pupils on Tuesday 7th January 2025.

### A message from the Chair of Governors

On behalf of the Governing Board, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new members of staff to Hellifield and Long Preston schools. I hope they have enjoyed their first term at the Ribblesdale Federation of Schools. It is good to have settled and stable teams in all our schools, with positive results being seen already.

A special mention must go to the children at Hellifield and the whole staff across the Federation for the recent successful OFSTED inspection. It is a credit to them all.

Some of you may wonder what governors do. The Governing Board is responsible for ensuring the following three core functions. The core functions of the governing body are as set out in (regulation 6) and include, but are not limited to ensuring:

- that the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school are clearly defined
- that the headteacher performs their responsibilities for the educational performance of the school
- that the sound, proper and effective use of the school's financial resources.

In practical terms, that means we are involved in a wide variety of things ranging from setting the price of school dinners, approving and monitoring the School Improvement Plan to the appointment of the Executive Headteacher.

This Autumn term has seen the link governors for SEND, Safeguarding and Health and Safety visit our schools, which involved speaking to the relevant staff about their work, enabling them to gain an insight into what is happening in school. Visits such as these gives the Board confidence that everything is being done as it should be in each of our schools. As Chair of Governors I will meet the Headteacher every 2 to 3 weeks, or more frequently if needed, to catch up and be updated on matters relating to the schools/federation.

Finally, how did I become a school governor? Prior to Federation, when my son started school at Long Preston Primary, I was approached by a parent governor who wondered if I would volunteer to be the other parent governor on the school's Board. So I agreed! The commitment involves 6 full governors' meetings a year and 2 or 3 visits to the schools. The highlights of which are speaking to the children and of course eating a fantastic school dinner with a sponge and custard pudding if I'm lucky!

The rewards are many, including the satisfaction of knowing I am supporting three local schools, the stakeholders and putting a little something back into my community.

On that note I would like to wish all of you a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

**Andrew Bradley, Chair of Governors Ribblesdale Federation of Schools**

### Dates for Diaries 2024/25

*(Please note diary dates may change due and dates will also be added throughout the academic year)*

<b>Wednesday 11th December</b>	Panto - Jack and the Beanstalk
<b>Friday 13th December</b>	Christmas Jumper Day for Save The Children  Harrison Class singing at Castleberg Hospital 2pm
<b>Wednesday 18th December</b>	Nativity in St Alkelda's 5.00pm All Welcome  Pupils' Christmas Lunch
<b>Friday 20th December</b>	Christmas party and a visit from Santa  School closes 3.30pm for Christmas Holiday
<b>Monday 6th January</b>	Teacher INSET day
<b>Tuesday 7th January</b>	School re-opens for pupils
<b>Thursday 9th January</b>	Swimming starts for Alkelda Class
<b>Wednesday 15th January</b>	Deadline to apply for a Reception place
<b>Friday 14th February</b>	School closes 3.30pm for half term holiday
<b>Monday 24th February</b>	School re-opens to pupils
<b>Thursday 6th March</b>	World Book Day
<b>Friday 4th April</b>	School closes 3.30pm for Easter holiday
<b>Tuesday 22nd April</b>	School re-opens to pupils for the Summer
<b>Monday 5th May</b>	May Day Bank Holiday
<b>Friday 23rd May</b>	School closes 3.30pm for half term holiday

**November 2024**  
Whole School Attendance

98.05%





**School Nativity:** This year our Nativity is 'Born In A Barn' on Wednesday 18th December, in St. Alkelda's church. We hope as many parents/carers and family members as possible are able to come along and enjoy the performance. The Nativity starts at 5pm.

Children will come home in their costumes and return to school 4.30/4.45pm in their costumes. For our new families, if one parent drops off and the other saves a seat in church as it does get busy.

**Sporting Events Round-Up:** We had a busy few weeks on the sporting front at the end of last month. Our Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 pupils took part in the Cross Country event at Giggleswick Junior School, along with our other two schools and primary schools in the Cluster.

They all ran with so much heart and determination and it was lovely to see. They showed the Federation at it's very best and we should be so proud of them!

Year 2 had a fantastic morning at Bentham Primary School, testing and developing their sporting skills in a fun environment, along with other children from the Craven Primary Cluster.

Finally, the Football Tournament for Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 took place at the end of the month, after being postponed from before the half term break due to bad weather. Once again our pupils did us proud and thoroughly enjoyed their afternoon at Ingleton Primary School.

These events are a great opportunity to meet up with and get to know children from our other Federation schools as well as those from local primary schools.

Thank you to Mrs Mercer and Mrs T Jones for organising these events and to all of the staff who supported them.



**Weather:** Please make sure that pupils come to school with a waterproof coat and warm accessories. It is extremely rare for us to close because of the weather and this will be only be in the interests of health and safety for staff and pupils. If we need to do so, you will be informed via a text message and we aim to let parents and carers know as early as we can. If weather conditions deteriorate during the school day and there is a need for early closure, we will again send parents a text message notification. Please can you ensure that we have up-to-date contact numbers for you. Thank you.

### The Ribblesdale Federation Governing Board

**Executive Headteacher:** Mrs Catherine Maddocks:

**Chair of the Governing Board:** Mr Andrew Bradley

**Vice Chair:** Rev Sue McWhinney

**Foundation Governors:** Mrs Emmy Hodgson & Mrs Christine Padley

**Parent Governors:** Mrs Laura Boyd

**Staff Governor:** Mrs Paula Clay

**Co-opted Governor:** Mr Carl Shuttleworth

**Safeguarding and Attendance Link Governor:** Rev Sue McWhinney

**Health and Safety Link Governor:** Mr Andrew Bradley



The next meeting of the Federation Governing Board will be held on 3rd February 2025

### **Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator: Mrs Erin Jones**

If you have any worries or concerns regarding your child having SEN or mental health issues and well being problems, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Jones, via the school office. All correspondence will be treated confidentially.



**Safeguarding information: Giggleswick Primary School**

**Designated Safeguarding Lead:** Mrs Catherine Maddocks, Executive Headteacher

**Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads:** Miss Rachel Mounsey, Mrs Helen Haynes and Miss Rachel Houghton.

The Ribblesdale Federation is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all of the children who attend our three schools.

**Staffing 24/25 The Ribblesdale Federation of Schools : Giggleswick Primary School**

**SLT**

**Executive Headteacher:** Mrs Maddocks

**Assistant Head Teachers:** Miss Mounsey & Miss Houghton

**Federation Business Manager:** Mrs Middleton

**Tems Class Teacher:** Miss Mounsey & Miss Preston (Supported by Miss Bousfield)

**Alkelda Class Teacher:** Mrs Leach (Supported by Mrs Greaves & Mrs Clay)

**Harrison Class Teacher:** Mrs Haynes (Supported by Mrs Clay & Mrs Vickery)

**Midday Supervisor (MSA):** Mrs Clay & Mr Combes

**School Administrator:** Mrs Jarrom

**School I.C.T Technician:** Mr Freytag

**School Cook:** Miss Knowles

**Dining Room Assistant:** Mr Coombes

**School Caretaker:** Mr Tindale

To follow 'The Ribblesdale Federation of Schools' via X (formerly known as Twitter) - please go to '@FedRibblesdale' This is a protected account and only confirmed followers will have access to the posts and our complete profile. We also have our school Facebook page and lots of information available vis our website: <https://ribblesdalefed.n-yorks.sch.uk/>

*Please help our followers to grow! Thank you for your continuing support from all the team at Giggleswick Primary School, part of The Ribblesdale Federation of Schools.*

**Thank you from Settle Town Council**

On behalf of the Council I would like to pass on my thanks to Giggleswick Primary School and the pupils who performed at the Switch On event.

It was lovely that the school could be part of the festivities. I hope all the children (and staff!) enjoyed performing and it would be lovely if you would consider being part of future events.

Thank you once again.

Best wishes.

Kind regards,

Katie Dugdale

Town Clerk/RFO



This is what we've been getting up to:



Recently some of our pupils attended the Settle Harriers end of season presentation night. Their hard work and dedication all year competing in races has clearly paid off. They brought in their t-shirts and medals to show us. A special mention to Iris who raced in 20 out of a possible 25 championship races this season! She finished 2nd place overall in the girls championship table and was also awarded 'Settle Harriers Athlete of the Year.' Well done!



Take part in our

## North Yorkshire *Women's Health Survey*

Help us address the **health needs** of **women and girls** in our communities.

Fill in the survey before **Sunday 15 December 2024** online at [www.northyorks.gov.uk/WomensHealthNY](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/WomensHealthNY) or scan the QR code. Paper copies are available in our libraries (please ask at the help desk).





## Wild Explorers

**Where nature, fun and adventure collide!**

A child-led, fun and nurturing holiday club set in beautiful woodland on the Broughton Estate.

**We are an OFSTED registered outdoor holiday club where children can play, enjoy a campfire, woodland crafts, tools and much more!**



### Price

£35 per child per day  
Childcare vouchers accepted

### Age

Reception - Age 13

### Christmas Holiday Club

23rd, 27th, 30th & 31st December  
and 2nd & 3rd January

*Birthday parties also available year round  
email us for more info*



### Time

9.30am - 3.30pm

### Location

Broughton Hall Estate



[hello@wildexplorers.org.uk](mailto:hello@wildexplorers.org.uk)



[www.wildexplorers.org.uk](http://www.wildexplorers.org.uk)




# MUSIC @ SKIPTONMUSICCENTRE

## Musical Opportunities for all...

Join a thriving musical community with activities for all ages and abilities.

Membership is **FREE** for the first half term

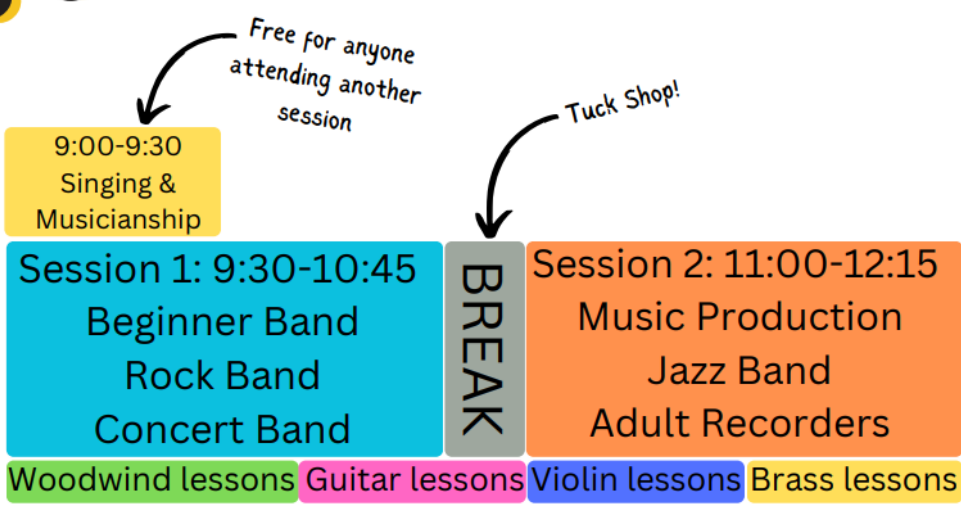
For more information, please contact:  
**isobel.mortimer@northyorks.gov.uk**

 facebook.com/SkiptonMusicCentre

[www.skipton-music-centre.org.uk](http://www.skipton-music-centre.org.uk)



SKIPTONMUSICCENTRE



Saturday mornings at The Skipton Academy

# SUNDAY MORNING SPORTATHON

**FREE MULTISPORTS FOR 3-5 YEAR OLDS  
WITH ADULT PARTICIPATION**

**FUN** Play Tennis and Multi-Skill Activities as a family to encourage healthy, active lifestyles

**LEARN** New skills and games. Build PE confidence. Improve school readiness with physical literacy and fundamental movements

**WHO?** Any families living in Craven with children 3-5 years old with an adult participating

**WHEN?** 9.30am Sundays, 6 weeks blocks, term time

**WHERE?** Indoors in Sandylands Sports Hall, Skipton. Free parking available.

**OPEN TO ALL FAMILIES ACROSS CRAVEN**

*"A great way to get the family together and do some exercise"*



Call, Text or WhatsApp Andrea at HomeStart Craven  
07903 892108 to book a place



*"Fantastic child centered sessions that we have all enjoyed"*

**Try  
Learn  
Play  
Enjoy**

*"Enjoyable sessions, my son has learnt new skills and worked as a family team"*

Funded by

**HOME  
START**





# NEW YEAR CAMPS 2025

Awarded LTA UK Club of the Year | Reception to Age 12



TENNIS | FOOTBALL | MULTISPORTS

**Dates :** Thurs 2 & Fri 3 Jan 2025

**Drop off :** FREE from 8:30am

**9:00am - 3:30pm :** £25 / day

**3:30pm - 5:00pm :** £5 / day



## UNRIVALLED FACILITIES :

5 Tennis Courts | Padel Courts | Club House  
4G All-Weather Pitch | Sports Hall



SCAN TO BOOK

BOOK YOUR PLACE ONLINE AT [skiptontennis.com](https://skiptontennis.com)

**SKIPTON  
TENNIS CENTRE**

07875 643780

info@skiptontennis.com

www.skiptontennis.com

