

Dates for Diaries 2025/26

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

Wednesday 10th December	School Nativity - 2.15pm at school. All welcome
Thursday 11th December	Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day
Tuesday 16th December	Christmas lunch for pupils
Thursday 18th December	Carol Service at St Mary's Church, 2.30pm. All welcome
Friday 19th December	School Party School closes at 3.30pm for Christmas holidays
Monday 5th January 2026	Inset Day
Tuesday 6th January	School reopens for Spring Term
Wednesday 7th January	Swimming starts for Starlings Class
Tuesday 13th January	Cross Country Race at Ingleton Primary School - Y3, 4, 5 & 6
Thursday 15th January	Deadline for applying for a Primary School place for 2026/27
Friday 13th February	School closes at 3.30pm for half-term
Monday 23rd February	School re-opens
Thursday 5th March	World Book Day
Friday 27th March	School closes at 3.30pm for Easter holidays
Monday 13th April	School reopens for Summer term

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 really well and are enjoying their day-to-day activities.

As you can see from our Diary Dates, we have a busy week ahead before the end of this term. We hope that all of the children enjoyed their trip to see the 'Snow White' pantomime at Blackburn Empire Theatre. We know they really enjoyed the special attention Mr Scott received from the pantomime dame and we are sure they will have told you all about it!

As usual, we are looking forward to our Christmas dinner this year as our school cook, Mrs Vickery, 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 and there will be a very special guest coming along! Pupils are welcome to come to school wearing appropriate party wear and suitable footwear (no football kits please) on this day.

Mrs Maddocks and The Federation Team wish you a Merry Christmas and a very happy 2026. We will close for the Christmas holidays on 19th December, with school reopening for the Spring Term on Tuesday 6th January 2026.



Christmas Carol Singing: The Long Preston and Hellifield school choirs did us proud when they performed so brilliantly at the Settle Station open day....and, when joined by Giggleswick, at the Christmas Sing Along last week. The choirs sounded amazing and we would like to thank the children and teachers for their hard work in learning and performing the songs so well. Thank you also to all of the parents who have supported their children taking part in these events.

We hope all of the families enjoyed getting into the festive spirit at these performances.

Christmas Card Competition Winner: Huge congratulations to Margot in Owls Class, whose creative Christmas card design has been chosen as a local winner by the Rt Hon Sir Julian Smith MP (Skipton & Ripon) in his annual Christmas card competition.

We are very proud of all of the entries submitted by our children and well done again to Margot.



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.



November 2025

Whole School Attendance

**Long Preston EVA Primary
School: 95.39%**



Plug Planting — Children from Owls and Starlings Classes took part in plug planting to help restore a hay meadow on land belonging to Mr James Newhouse last month. The initiative, which the school also supported last year, is run by the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust and Mr Newhouse.

Thank you to the children who took part so enthusiastically in the planting, to the staff who made it possible, and to Mr Newhouse for the invitation.



Federation Policy Updates: The following policies have been updated on the Ribblesdale Federation website:

- Developing Performance Policy
- Resolving Issues at Work Policy and Procedure
- Pay Policy
- Appraisal Policy and Procedure
- Charging, Remissions and Lettings Policy
- Disciplinary Guidance
- Volunteer Policy

The Ribblesdale Federation Governing Board

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Catherine Maddocks

Chair of the Governing Board: Mr Andrew Bradley

Vice Chair of the Governing Board & EYFS Link Governor: Mrs Christine Padley

Foundation Governor: Mrs Emmy Hodgson

Parent Governor: Mrs Laura Boyd

Parent Governor: Mrs Ruth Taylor

Staff Governor: Mrs Paula Clay

Co-opted Governor: Rev Stephen Dawson

LA & Safeguarding Governor: Mrs Helen Monks

Health and Safety Link Governor: Mr Andrew Bradley

Pupil and Staff Wellbeing: Mrs Laura Boyd



The next meeting of the Governing Board is on: Monday 2nd February 2026.

Safeguarding information: Long Preston EVA Primary School

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Catherine Maddocks, Executive Headteacher

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads: Mr Andy Scott, Miss Rachel Houghton Mrs Claire Cawood and Mrs Alison McGregor.

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

Staffing: The Ribblesdale Federation of Schools—Long Preston Team

SLT

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Maddocks

Assistant Head Teacher: Miss Houghton

Federation Business Manager: Mrs Middleton

Robins Class Teachers: Miss Westwell & Mrs T. Jones (Thurs pm) (Supported by Mrs Dakin)

Starlings Class Teachers Mr Scott & Mrs Mercer (Thurs am) (Supported by Mrs Coultherd and Mrs Hopkins)

Owls Class Teachers: Mrs Cawood & Miss Hodgkinson (Supported by Mrs Hopkins)

SENCO: Mrs McGregor

School Administrator: Mrs Middleton / Mrs Wearden

School I.C.T Technician: Mr Freytag

School Cook: Mrs. Vickery

Kitchen Assistant: Mrs Chadwick

School Cleaner: Mrs. Franco

Site Supervisor : Mr Atkinson



Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator: Mrs Alison McGregor

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 McGregor, via the school office. All correspondence will be treated confidentially.

You can follow the school on social media via our Facebook page, where we regularly post information about what is happening in school. There is lots of information available on the [Federation's website](#), which also has details specific for Long Preston Endowed VA Primary School.

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



Has your child had their eyes tested yet?



This leaflet provides important information on looking after your child's eyes and booking an eye test for children

Children in North Yorkshire should visit an optician for a free eye test

When should you get your child a free eye test?

Ideally children should start having regular eye tests from the age of 4. But they can be tested at any age, even if they can't read or speak.

How do you book a free child's eye test?

Please book your child an eye test at an opticians, even if you have no concerns about their vision. To do this contact your local opticians - use this link for local practices [Find an optician - NHS](#).

What will it cost?

Children under 16 are entitled to NHS-funded (FREE) eye tests. If your child needs glasses, they will receive a voucher to **help with the cost**.

Why should you get your child's eyes tested?

- ✓ Being able to see clearly will mean your child is able to learn and develop at school and socially.
- ✓ Eyes are still developing in early childhood. An eye test helps pick up and treat any problems. This can help to **prevent** longer-term eye problems.
- ✓ Even if you think your child has normal vision it is still important to get their eyes tested.
- ✓ They are no longer tested in school.

How can you tell if your child has an eye problem?

Some eye problems don't show any signs, so it is always best to **take your child for an eye test**.

Signs of a possible eye problem can include:

- having one eye that turns in or out
- difficulty concentrating
- behavioural problems
- headaches
- rubbing their eyes a lot
- sitting too close to the TV
- screwing up/closing one or both eyes
- holding things close to them



An eye test is very **important** especially if there's a **history** of early glasses use, childhood **eye problems**, **squint** or **lazy eye**, in your family.

Did you know?

Short-sightedness is on the rise and has been linked to a range of factors including **screen use**. Help your child's eyes stay healthy by **managing screen use** and encouraging them to **get outside often** (this helps their eyesight).

More Information:

- NHS information: [nhs.uk/conditions/eye-tests-in-children/](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/eye-tests-in-children/)
- Find an optician: [Find an optician - NHS](#)
- Information on Vision/Eye tests [Humber and North Yorkshire ICB](#)
- Information on Vision/Eye tests for families in [Craven, West Yorkshire ICB](#)
- Looking After Your Children's Eyes - [College of Optometrists](#)
- Children's eye health - [Association of Optometrists](#)



CHRISTMAS CAMPS

TENNIS | FOOTBALL | MULTISPORTS

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

**Mon 22, Tues 23 &
Mon 29, Tues 30 December**

🕒 9:00am - 3:30pm

£ £25 per day

🕒 FREE Early drop-off
8:30am - 9am

🎬 Late pickup 3:30pm - 5pm
£7.50 per day

👤 Reception to 12 yrs



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TO BOOK



UNRIVALLED FACILITIES : 5 Tennis Courts | 3 Padel Courts | Club House | 4G All-Weather Pitch | Sports Hall

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TENNIS CENTRE**

📞 07875 643780

✉ info@skiptontennis.com

🌐 www.skiptontennis.com

