



Giggleswick Primary School Newsletter



Welcome to our **January Newsletter** and to the start of 2026 and our new term. We hope you were all able to have a restful Christmas and that the children have had the opportunity to relax and get ready to start another exciting year of learning. We are pleased that we have already seen a very positive start to the new term with the children being enthusiastic about their learning.

Updates from December 2025: Thank you to everyone who came along to the School Nativity 'A Twinkly Nativity'. We were delighted to see the church so full and we hope all of our families enjoyed our retelling of the Nativity story. It is always good to see so many parents, grandparents and friends join us at this special time of year.



Our children really did us proud at the Settle Christmas lights switch-on with their performance during the afternoon. Thank you to Mrs Haynes for organising, rehearsing and accompanying the children and to everyone who came along and gave them such wonderful support. The children also sang brilliantly when they visited Castleberg Hospital, and it was very much appreciated by everyone there.

Finally, we would like to thank our cook, Miss Dixon, and all of the members of staff who helped to provide and serve such a fantastic Christmas dinner during the final week of last term...and also a big thank you to the Friends of Giggleswick Primary School for funding the books that a very special guest - Father Christmas - handed out to each child at the party on the last day of term. The Friends' commitment to the school is greatly appreciated and we also value the support given by parents and carers to their fund raising events. We are looking forward to more being arranged for 2026.



Travelling Nativity: We again had the travelling nativity going out to families during December. For those who had it for a night, thank you for all of the comments, photos and pictures that have been added to the accompanying book. The comments have been lovely to read and we are pleased that both the children and their families have found hosting the travelling nativities a rewarding experience.

2025 Poppy Appeal: Thank you to everyone who made a contribution to the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal collection, which we held in school during late October and early November last year. At school we raised an amazing **£82,88** and this contributed to the district total of **£10,540.12** going to such a great cause.



SchoolMoney: As we start the new year, please can we ask that you check your child's SchoolMoney account regularly. It was noted that at the end of last year there were a number of payments which were still outstanding on individual accounts. Please can accounts be at £0 if possible for the start of each new half term. As you can appreciate, we aim to stay within our school budget and outstanding arrears can put a strain on our finances. By now, everyone should also be booking after school club places in advance via your child's individual SchoolMoney account.

Dates for Diaries 2025/26

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

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
Monday 4th May	School closed for May Day Bank Holiday
Monday 18th to Wednesday 20th May	Y6 Residential Trip to East Barnby
Friday 22nd May	School closes at 3.30pm for half term
Monday 1st June	INSET Day
Tuesday 2nd June	School reopens
Friday 17th July	School closes for summer holidays



December 2025 - Whole School Attendance

Giggleswick Primary School: 93.33%

Attendance: If your child is unable to attend school, please contact us by email or by telephoning school (you can also leave a message on our answer machine). We wish to remind our families that we do need to state why a child is absent on our daily electronic register system (Arbor). If no reason is given, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised. We will do home visits if we do not know why a child is absent and we cannot get hold of a parent/carer. This is why it is very important for you to let us know why your child cannot attend school.

We also wish to clarify that any holidays taken in term time will be recorded as an unauthorised absence if not agreed in advance with the Executive Headteacher. The school cannot grant leaves of absence retrospectively; therefore, any absences that were not approved by the school in advance will be marked as unauthorised.

If your child has a week off school for a holiday, this is classed as 10 sessions missed (which may trigger a Penalty Notice being issued by North Yorkshire Council). For a child to fall below the 96% target they would have to miss 5 full days of lessons.

Two penalty notices can be issued for the same child to the same parent in a three-year rolling period. The first Penalty Notice will be charged at £80 if paid within 21 days; payment after 21 days but within 28 days is £160. A second Penalty Notice will be charged at a standard £160. A third absence of this kind may be subject to legal proceedings.

We also encourage making medical appointments out of school time, wherever possible.

More information can be found on the [Attendance section of our website](#), which also includes our [Attendance and Absence Policy](#).

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in working with us to keep our school's attendance rating as high as we possibly can. We always have your child's best interest at heart when monitoring individual attendance.



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: Giggleswick Primary School

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Catherine Maddocks, Executive Headteacher

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads: Miss Rachel Houghton Mrs Haynes, Miss Mounsey and Mrs 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— Giggleswick PS Team

SLT

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Maddocks

Assistant Head Teacher: Miss Houghton

Federation Business Manager: Mrs Middleton

Harrison Class Teacher: Mrs Miller & Miss Hodgkinson (Tues) (Supported by Mrs Chapman)

Alkelda Class Teacher: Mrs Haynes (Supported by Mrs Greaves and Mrs Vickery)

Tems Class Teachers: Miss Mounsey (Supported by Mrs Clay)

SENCO: Mrs McGregor

PE: Mrs Mercer

School Administrator: Mrs Jarrom

School I.C.T Technician: Mr Freytag

School Cook: Miss Dixon

MSA: Mrs Clay

Dining Room Assistant: Vacant

School Cleaner: Mr Tindale



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 Giggleswick Primary School.

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.

THE DANGERS OF FROZEN WATER

Every year children are at risk when they are tempted to play on the ice formed on open waters and adults find themselves at risk as they attempt to save them. Over 50 % of ice related drowning involved an attempted rescue of another person or a dog.

Areas with frozen waters can be beautiful to look at but they are also extremely dangerous. Here are some useful tips to help you enjoy these areas safely.

TOP TIPS TO STAY SAFE

NEVER GO ON THE ICE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES

This includes attempting to rescue another person or animal who may have fallen through the ice.

ONLY USE WELL LIT AREAS

Try to take walks in the daylight but if you must walk in the evening, only use well lit areas and avoid anywhere with water.

KEEP AWAY FROM THE EDGE OF THE WATER

Never go close to the edge or lean over to touch the ice. You may overbalance or trip and fall in.

ALWAYS WALK WITH AN ADULT OR A GROUP OF FRIENDS

Look out for each other and if someone does fall through the ice there will be others around to raise the alarm and get help.



WHAT TO DO IF YOU FALL THROUGH THE ICE

Keep calm and shout 'help'

Spread your arms across the surface of the ice in front of you

Try to kick your legs and pull yourself out of the water and on to the ice

Lie flat, spreading your weight across the surface and pull yourself to the bank. you may find it easier to roll

If you cannot climb out, wait for help and keep as still as possible. Keep your head above the water, press your arms by your side, and keep your legs together

Once you are safe, it is important that you go to hospital immediately for a check up

WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE SOMEONE FALL THROUGH THE ICE

Shout for **'HELP'** and dial **999** or **112** if you can

DO NOT walk on to the ice to attempt a rescue

Shout to the person to **'KEEP STILL'** and offer reassurance.

If they are close enough, **LIE DOWN TO AVOID OVERBALANCING** and falling onto the ice, and try to reach them with a tree branch clothing tied together or anything else which can extend your reach.

If you cannot reach them, **SLIDE SOMETHING** which floats across the ice, such as a plastic bottle or a football, so that they can hold on to it to stay afloat whilst help is on the way.

If they are too far away, **WAIT FOR THE EMERGENCY SERVICES** and reassure the casualty from the safety of the bank.



Feeling the squeeze from rising costs?

You're not alone.

North Yorkshire Council can help point you in the right direction if you're struggling, whether that's emergency support with everyday living costs, benefits, food or energy bills.

There's information about money management, advice for families and free adult learning courses too.

Find out more at northyorks.gov.uk/NYcostofliving





Bradford District Care
NHS Foundation Trust

Parent / Carer Workshop

Toilet training support

Specialist advice for parents of children with SEND

Delivered by the Children's Learning Disability Team Craven

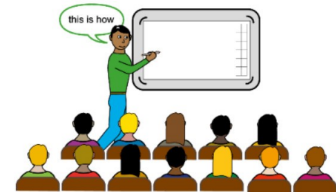


Almost all children can achieve toilet training, however children with additional needs may take longer and need more support. Receive specialist advice and support to help make this a consistent and positive journey.

12:30 to 14:30

16 January 2026

**at Fisher Medical Centre,
Community Hub Room, Millfields,
Coach Street, Skipton, BD23 1EU**



If you cannot attend in person, a virtual option will be available.

Book your place today! email:

ChildrensLearningDisabilities@bdct.nhs.uk



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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

Upcoming Dates

16th - 20th February 2026



Time

9.30am - 3.30pm

Location

Broughton Hall Estate



hello@wildexplorers.org.uk



www.wildexplorers.org.uk



Wild Explorers: Into The Wild

A 2-day experience for young people aged 10 - 16.
Into The Wild provides an opportunity for young people to unplug from technology and benefit from all that nature has to offer.

Into The Wild is a 2-day experience that will give young people (10-16 years) increased responsibility and challenge.

You will have the opportunity to set up your own shelter, make your own campfire, plan the menu and cook the food on the fire along with other activities on the day.

The 2 days will be centred around building confidence, leadership, teamwork and resilience.



Price

£95 per child for 2 days inc food
Childcare vouchers accepted

Age

10 - 16 years

Must be in year 5 or above

Upcoming Dates

16th & 17th February 2026

Please note: this is a 2 day experience.



Time

9.30am - 3.30pm

Location

Broughton Hall Estate



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www.wildexplorers.org.uk

