



HELLIFIELD Community 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 'Whoops-A-Daisy Angel'. We were delighted to see the hall so full and we hope all of our families enjoyed this 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. Finally, we would like to thank our wonderful cook, Mrs Eggleston for the fantastic Christmas dinner she prepared and served during the final week of last term...and also a big thank you to Friends of Hellifield CP 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. Friends of Hellifield CP School's commitment to the school is greatly appreciated and we also value the support given by parents and to their fund raising events. We are looking forward to more being arranged for 2026.

Travelling Nativity: This year we had a travelling nativity going out to families during December. For those who did have a travelling nativity for a few nights, thank you for all of the comments, photos and pictures that have been added to the accompanying books. The comments have been lovely to read and we are pleased that both the children and their families have found hosting the travelling nativity 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 **£25.38** 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.

Table Manners: It would be appreciated if parents could support their child/ren to use knives and forks correctly when eating. While our staff look to do this during school lunches, their time is limited, so any extra support parents can give at home will make a difference.

Dates for Diaries 2025/26

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

Tuesday 6th January	Swimming starts for SAPLINGS 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
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



December 2025

Whole School Attendance

Long Preston EVA Primary School: 96.26%



Attendance Ladder



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: Hellifield Community Primary School

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Catherine Maddocks, Executive Headteacher

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads: Mrs Rebecca Shaw, Miss Rachel Houghton, Miss Laura Sargison 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—Hellifield Team

SLT

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Maddocks

Assistant Head Teacher: Miss Houghton

Federation Business Manager: Mrs Middleton

ACORN Class Teacher: Mrs Williams (supported by Mrs Rawsthorne & Mrs Dugdale)

SAPLINGS Class Teacher: Mrs Shaw & Miss Johnson—who is temporary cover each Monday for Mrs Preston who is on maternity leave (supported by Mrs Fortune)

OAK Class Teacher: Miss Sargison (supported by Mrs Dawson)

SENCO: Mrs McGregor

School Administrator: Mrs Middleton / Ms Morton

School I.C.T Technician: Mr Freytag

School Cook: Mrs Eggleston

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 Hellifield Community Primary School.

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



Parent / Carer Workshop

Toilet training support

Specialist advice for parents of children with SEND

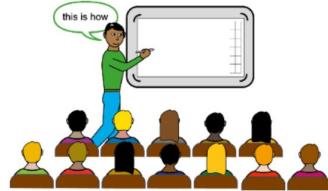
Delivered by the Children's Learning Disability Team Craven



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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THE DANGERS OF FROZEN WATER

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 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.

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.

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 sides and keep your legs together

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



StayWise



NORTH
YORKSHIRE
COUNCIL

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

