

## Headteacher's Message

What a truly heartwarming and energetic start to the term it has been!

Last week, we had the absolute pleasure of welcoming our wonderful grandparents into school. What a joyous occasion it was! The smiles, laughter and stories shared across generations brought such warmth to our classrooms and corridors. It was a beautiful reminder of the important role grandparents play in our children's lives, and we were delighted to give them a glimpse into the daily magic of our school community. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us and who shared their experiences over a cup of coffee and slice of cake afterwards.

In other exciting news, our sporting calendar is already off to a flying start! It's been fantastic to see so many of our students giving their all on the sporting field, showing true team spirit, determination and passion. From thrilling matches to nail-biting finishes, our teams have represented the school with pride and enthusiasm. A big well done to all involved. I'm looking forward to many more fixtures to come.

As always, thank you for your continued support. It is what helps make our school such a vibrant and thriving place to learn and grow.

## Headteacher's Commendations



**Week commencing: 29.09.25**

**Reception:** Nurvi for always doing the right thing, listening well and being kind to her friends

**F1:** Felix for his fabulous predicting skills in English. He was thoughtful with his ideas and his explanation to help others understand.

**F2:** Olivier for super attention to detail, showing great focus and challenging himself in English to create a wonderful character description.

**F3/4:** Idris for his mature approach to Form 4 challenging work, and for the way he has shown eagerness in his role as Class School Councillor. Well done, Idris.

**F5:** Monty for being such a well-rounded, honest, caring young man who is a great friend to all in his class.

**F6:** Matthew for his eager involvement in Computing and the Humanities, articulating well his thoughts and reasoning at a very high level. Well done

## Harvest Festival on Friday 17th October

We're looking forward to celebrating Harvest Festival in our school assembly on Friday 17th October!

As part of our celebrations, we're inviting families to bring in donations for Ilkley Food Bank, helping to support local people in need. Every contribution makes a real difference.

You can find a list of items the Food Bank can accept here:

[Ilkley Food Bank - Donate](#)

We're also delighted to welcome Reverend Zoë from St Mary's Parish Church, Burley in Wharfedale, who will be joining us for the assembly.

Thank you for your generosity and for helping our children understand the importance of kindness, community, and giving to others this Harvest season.





**Ghyll Royd School and Pre-School**  
A foundation for life

**Nursery Open Morning – Thursday 14th November, 9:00–11:00am**

We're delighted to invite all families, friends, and members of our community to our Nursery Open Morning on Thursday 14th November. Come along and see our wonderful Early Years setting in action!

Join us for a relaxed "Stay and Play" session, meet our friendly EYFS practitioners, explore our three vibrant nursery rooms, and even try out a fun gymnastics class with your little one. It's a fantastic opportunity to experience the warm, nurturing environment that makes our nursery so special.

We're currently taking registrations for the next three years so whether your child is ready to join soon, or you're planning ahead for a baby not yet born, it's never too early to secure your place!

Please spread the word, everyone is welcome! We can't wait to welcome you and share what makes our nursery such a happy place to learn and grow.

**Date:** Thursday 14th November

**Time:** 9:00am – 11:00am

**Venue:** Ghyll Royd School Nursery



**Stay & Play Nursery**



Dear parents, we would be grateful if you could share the following information with family and friends as everyone is welcome!

**Reception Class Experience Morning – Open to ALL Children due to start in ANY school in September 2026!**

Is your child due to start school in **September 2026**? We warmly invite you and your child to join us for a **Reception Experience Morning** at Ghyll Royd School in Burley-in-Wharfedale.

This special event gives children the chance to **experience a real morning in Reception**, enjoying exciting lessons, meeting teachers, and getting a feel for what school life is like. Parents are encouraged to stay and join in too!

During the morning, children will take part in:

An **art lesson** with our specialist Art Teacher

A fun **gymnastics session** with our Head of Sport

A delicious **snack/brunch in our school diner**

And a **Reception class activity** with our Early Years team

**Location:** Ghyll Royd School, Pre-School and Nursery, Greystone House, Ilkley Road, Leeds LS29 7HW

Spaces are limited, so please **book your place** by contacting Yvonne Hare at [yvonne.hare@ghyllroydschool.co.uk](mailto:yvonne.hare@ghyllroydschool.co.uk).

This event is **completely free** and open to all families, you don't need to be considering a place at Ghyll Royd School to take part. Our aim is simply to help children (and parents!) feel confident, excited, and ready for their first steps into school life.

**Date:** Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2025

**Time:** 8.45am until 11.30am

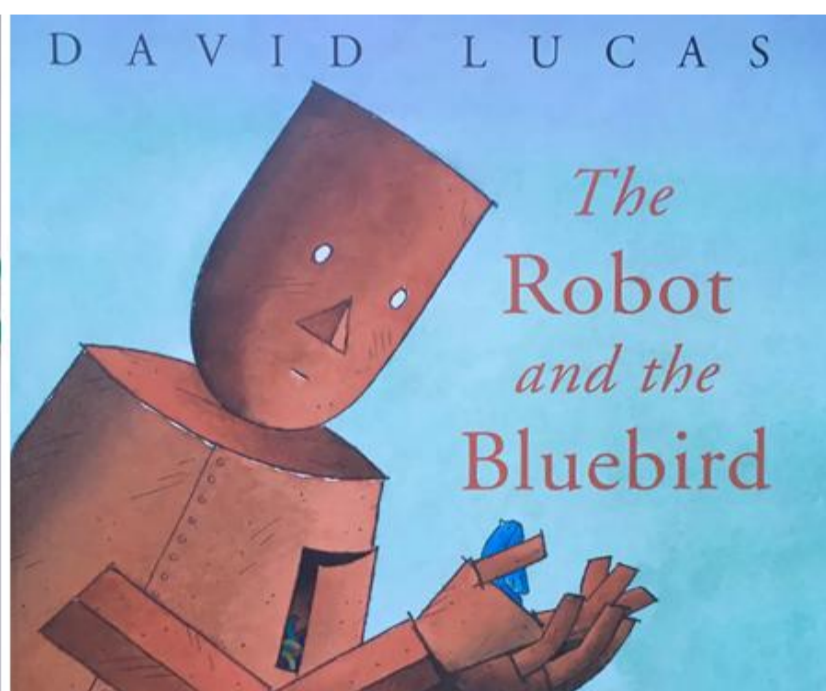
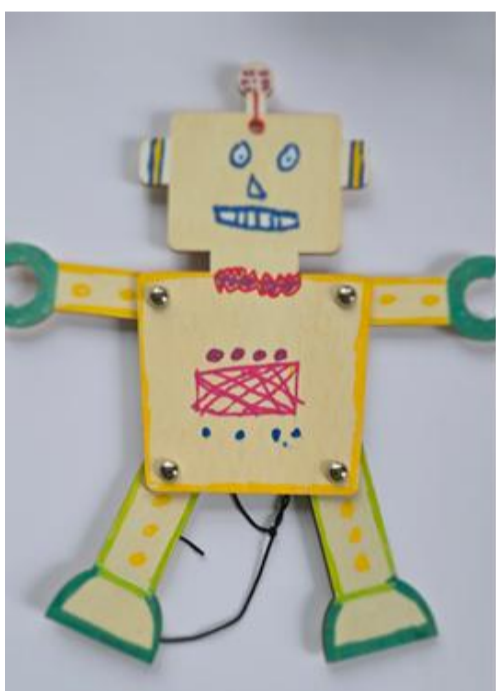
# Buckden House Residential



**Adventure Beckoned at Buckden House!** From Wednesday 1st to Friday 3rd October, our intrepid explorers from Form 5 and Year 4 girls set off on a thrilling residential to Buckden House. The days were packed with excitement and challenge, from scrambling through gills on Wednesday, to scaling ropes and venturing into caves on Thursday, and finishing with a peaceful deer walk through the countryside on Friday.

Our pupils showed incredible independence, packing their own bags and making their beds like seasoned adventurers. When indoors or enjoying downtime, their favourite game of Blockie brought laughter and teamwork to life.

It was a journey of courage, friendship, and unforgettable memories!



**Form 2 have greatly enjoyed our exploration of the book *The Robot and the Bluebird*, a moving story that explores the themes of kindness, friendship, selflessness, and resilience.**

The children reflected thoughtfully on the importance of supporting others, demonstrating empathy, and recognising how even small acts of care can make a meaningful difference.

As part of this learning journey, the children were delighted to welcome their Grandparents into the classroom to share their understanding of the story. They performed a retelling of the book with enthusiasm, followed by a creative session designing and decorating their own wooden robot puppets. Each creation was distinctive, showcasing the individuality and imagination of its maker and with the fantastic support from all the Grandparents that came to visit the classroom.

# Grandparents Morning and MacMillan Coffee Morning

Grandparents Morning!



COME FOR  
COFFEE AND  
CAKE

Macmillan Coffee Morning



We had such a special morning on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September, welcoming our grandparents of Year 1 to Year 5 pupils into school. After joining us for assembly, grandparents spent time in classrooms with their grandchildren before enjoying a hot drink and a delicious slice of cake at our MacMillan Coffee Morning.

A huge thank you to our wonderful parents and grandparents who baked or donated cakes for the event. Thanks to your generosity, we raised an amazing £164 for MacMillan Cancer Support!

#hellowyellow for world mental health day



## World Mental Health Day – Hello Yellow!

Today, our school was a sea of sunshine as children and staff wore **bright yellow** to mark **World Mental Health Day**. Everyone looked **fantastic**, and it was wonderful to see so many smiles and such enthusiasm for supporting this important cause. Through your generous donations, we raised **a fantastic amount** to support **YoungMinds**, helping to show children and young people that they are **never alone** with their mental health.

Children also took part in a special **House Assembly**, led by our **House Leaders and Captains**, where they enjoyed activities and discussions focused on **wellbeing and positive mental health**. A huge **thank you** to all our families for your support. Together, we made a real difference!



## Reception were all smiles for World Mental Health Day!

Dressed in cheerful yellow, our little ones had a blast at their house assembly, sharing heartwarming moments with their buddies about what makes them happy. It was a joyful celebration of positivity, connection, and sunshine vibes all around!

The annual ISA Art Competition is underway, beginning with the regional round where independent schools from across the North are invited to showcase their creative talents. Our entries have been personally delivered to Manchester, where the work of our young artists will be judged and it will be decided whether their work will go through to the next stage of the competition.



**Felix** - Snowy Owl; **Langa** - Father Christmas; **Jackson** - Abstract Flowers in watercolour; **Nell** - Whitby in Acrylics; **Dylan** - Ghyll Royd through my eyes; **Jackson** - Rainbow Dragon; **Charlotte** - The female Angler fish is the deadliest of the species; **Max** - I Love You Turtles

Winners of the regional competition will go on to the prestigious national finals in Coventry this November, fingers crossed for our talented crew! We're incredibly proud of each artist and can't wait to see how their work is received at the competition. **Good luck, team!**

Our Year 3 and 4 boys had an amazing time at Clip 'n Climb this week!

While some of their classmates were away on residential, the boys took on exciting climbing challenges, showed great teamwork, and pushed themselves to new heights. Well done to everyone for their fantastic effort and enthusiasm





## Congratulations to Seb!

We're so proud of Seb for earning a grey belt in Jujitsu! This achievement shows fantastic dedication, discipline and perseverance. Well done Seb, keep up the amazing work both on and off the mat!

## Outstanding Tennis Achievement George's Rising Star Moment!

We're thrilled to share some incredible news about George's tennis journey!

Last week, he received a prestigious invitation from the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA), the official governing body for tennis in Great Britain, to attend a Performance Camp for the North of England. This invitation is a testament to George's dedication, skill, and passion for the sport.

Even more impressively, he is one of only two boys from Yorkshire to be selected for this elite opportunity; a truly remarkable achievement! George's progress on the court continues to inspire, and we couldn't be prouder of his hard work and commitment. Watch this space, there's no doubt he's serving up something special!



## A star in the making!

Viren (Form 1) performed in Stage 84's Junior Production of Beauty and the Beast over three days, delivering four wonderful sold-out shows. His enthusiasm, confidence, and love for the stage shone through in every performance.

Viren's resilience and commitment to his drama school has been evident in the many hours of rehearsals leading up to the production. Parents and sister, Nurvi, were immensely proud of his achievement. Thank you to all Ghyll Royd friends and families who came to watch and support Viren.

Bookings for our October Holiday Sports Camp are now open on Class For Kids and places are filling up fast already!

# HOLIDAY SPORTS CAMP

## FOR PRIMARY AGED CHILDREN



Book your place through Class for Kids

Email: [information@ghyllroydschool.co.uk](mailto:information@ghyllroydschool.co.uk)



**BOOK NOW!**

We are delighted that our Summer Holiday Sports Camp was our busiest and most successful ever! We received numerous calls and emails from parents to say how much children were enjoying themselves and asking if they could book on for extra days. Thank you to our very own Mr O'Connor for making the camp such a huge success!

Bookings for our October Holiday Sports Camp are now open on Class For Kids and places are filling up fast already.

Please visit: <https://ghyll-royd.classforkids.io/camp/9> to book your child's place. Places are limited and on a first come, first served basis



## Junior Golf Final Year Competition Update

The Final Year Junior Golf Competition was a tremendous success! Alexia, former pupil delivered an outstanding performance on the course, and it was a real joy to see Astrid take part as well, what a fantastic display of talent and enthusiasm from both girls.

If you're aware of any other young Ghyllroydian golfers who currently hold a handicap and would like to play a round of golf with these girls, please let us know and we will pass the message on.





**Share the Moments That Matter!** We're excited to introduce a new mobile number where you can send in your child's stories, achievements, and photos to be featured on our social media sites and in the fortnightly newsletter.

We've loved celebrating the incredible accomplishments of our boys recently, but **we'd love to shine a spotlight on our amazing girls too!** Let's make sure every child's success is celebrated: 07852484265

### Easy Fundraising – Shop & Support

Support Ghyll Royd every time you shop online, at no extra cost to you. Simply visit [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) and select Ghyll Royd School as your chosen cause.



Thousands of retailers (including Amazon, John Lewis, and Marks & Spencer) will donate a percentage of your purchase directly to our school.

*It's a simple, effective way to make a difference, all while doing your usual shopping.*



# YOUNG VOICES

### 🎵 Young Voices – Important Reminder for Parents

A quick reminder that the deadline to purchase tickets and t-shirts for the Young Voices concert is **31st October**.

Orders placed after this date may be subject to higher prices and will **not** be delivered to the school. Additionally, late ticket purchases may result in seating allocations that are **not grouped with other Ghyll Royd families**, so we strongly encourage ordering before the deadline to ensure the best experience.

Thank you for your support, we can't wait to see our pupils shine on stage!

# HEDGEROW PLANTING PROJECT

Join us for some community planting **this NOVEMBER** to bring back Burley's hedgerows!

## PLANTING LOCATIONS:

Leather Bank by the underpass, opposite Ghyll Royd School

### WHEN?

Sat 15<sup>th</sup> and Tues 18<sup>th</sup> (10-12 only) Nov

Ghyll Royd School sports field, Leather Bank

### WHEN?

Sun 16<sup>th</sup> and Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov

**10:00-15:00** each day - join us for as long as you like! Under 16s must be accompanied by an adult. Meeting point GR for both sites: **SE 16277 46962**

Bring suitable footwear, a waterproof coat, lunch and a hot drink. Snacks and tools will be provided!

Please contact [HedgerowsBurley@outlook.com](mailto:HedgerowsBurley@outlook.com) if you have any questions



If you'd like to join in, please see the poster for more details. Together, we can make a lasting difference for wildlife and our environment.

## New Hedgerow Planting Project at Ghyll Royd!

We are thrilled to be taking part in a brand-new hedgerow planting project, supported by Community Infrastructure Levy funding and run in partnership with **Burley in Wharfedale Parish Council** and the **Wharfedale Wombles**. Thanks to this initiative, Ghyll Royd School has been chosen as one of the sites where new hedgerows will be planted and our school community will play an important part in making it happen!

On **Wednesday 19th November**, **Form 5** will take part in a short, fun learning session all about the importance of hedgerows; the wildlife they support and why they are so valuable for our environment. Afterwards, the children will get hands-on by planting hedgerows in our school grounds. The following day, **Thursday 20th November**, it will be **Form 6's** turn to do the same.

We would also love to involve our parents and the wider community! Volunteers are needed to help with planting on several weekend dates, including **Sunday 16th November** and **Saturday 22nd November**, right here at Ghyll Royd.

## Burley Christmas Lights – Volunteers Needed! *Shared on behalf of Cllr Duncan Ault, Burley in Wharfedale Parish Councillor*

We're gearing up for the annual **Village Christmas Lights Switch-On** on **Saturday 29th November**, with festivities running throughout the afternoon. Expect a vibrant **Street Market**, **Christmas entertainment**, a **craft fair**, a visit from **Father Christmas**, and **refreshments** in the Queens Hall. Posters with full details will be available soon.

✦ **Lights Assembly Begins: Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October** We're looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help with assembling the village lights. If you'd like to lend a hand, please meet the organising team in the village at **9am on the 11<sup>th</sup>** ✦ Let's make this year's celebration magical together! ✦ If you would like to help, please email [BWCT@burleycommunitytrust.org.uk](mailto:BWCT@burleycommunitytrust.org.uk)



## Burley Community Trust Membership

All Burley residents are invited to join the Trust for a small annual fee (**£15** for Individuals, **£20** Family, **£150** for Individual Life membership). If you are a taxpayer and are able to Gift Aid your membership we can claim a very valuable tax benefit.

**You can join the Community Trust by either:**

- \* Complete an [Online Form](#)
- \* Or [download the form here](#)



## Term Dates & Autumn Term Calendar

October		
Mon 13	Eden Camp: F3, 4	
Tues 14	U/9 Rugby @ Terrington Hall	
Weds 15		
Thurs 16	Swimming	Reception 2026 Play Date 9.00am
Fri 17	Harvest Assembly 8.50am	

November		
Date		
Mon 3		
Tues 4	F3&4 Games Afternoons start: Hockey	Form 5 visit to Burley village to prepare planters for Remembrance Day
Weds 5		
Thurs 6	Swimming	Reception 2026 Play Date 9.00am
	NHS Height & weight measurements - form 6 - Thursday 6th November 2025 at 10am	
Fri 7	House Assembly	F5&6 Games Afternoons start: Rugby
Mon 10		
Tues 11	Remembrance Day	
Weds 12		
Thurs 13	Swimming	
Fri 14	Celebration Assembly 8.50am	Grandparents' Morning for Rec, F1 & 6 8.30am to 11.00am
	U/11 Rugby @ Giggleswick	Including.... 'Children in Need' Bake Sale by the School Council
Sat 15	Wharfe League Cross Country @ Ilkley Swimming Pool 9.00am	
Mon 17		
Tues 18		
Weds 19		
Thurs 20	Swimming	
Fri 21	Celebration Assembly 8.50am	U/11 Rugby CUP @ KRUF C
Mon 24		
Tues 25	U/9 Hockey @ BRHC Hosted by GRS	
Weds 26	Year 3/4 trip to Murton Park	
Thurs 27	Swimming KSI ONLY	Polar Post Box Arrives
Fri 28	Celebration Assembly 8.50am	U/11 Hockey @ BRHC Hosted by GRS

December		
Mon 1		
Tues 2	Nativity Dress Rehearsal 2pm	
Weds 3		
Thurs 4	Swimming KS2 ONLY	Early Years and KSI Nativity Production 2pm
Fri 5	Christingle Service 9.00am	End of Term Reports
Sat 6		
Mon 8	School Christmas Day and Lunch <b>NO PE lessons</b>	Parents' Evening 4.00-6.00pm
Tues 9	Christmas Carol Service Rehearsal Children in Form 3 to 6 to be dropped off at the church from 8.30am	
Weds 10	Form 1 & 2 Pantomime trip to Harrogate Theatre	
Thurs 11	No Swimming	Christmas Carol Service 4.00pm @ St Mary's Church, Burley Reception to Form 6
Fri 12	End of Term Awards Service 2.00pm	

Term dates from September 2025 to July 2026		
Autumn 2025	School Closes	Friday 17th October
	School Opens	Monday 3rd November
	School Closes	Friday 12th December
	Nursery Closes	Friday 19th December
Spring 2026	School Opens	Monday 5th January
	School Closes	Friday 13th February
	School Opens	Monday 23rd February
	School Closes	Friday 27th March
Summer 2026	School Opens	Monday 13th April
	MAY DAY	Monday 4th May
	School Closes	Friday 22nd May
	School Opens	Monday 8th June
	School Closes	Friday 17th July

Please note that we will no longer be running the wreath-making class this year. However, if you're still interested, one of our wonderful parents runs the **Wreath Bar**, and there are spaces available on selected dates. We're sure she'd be delighted to have your support!

