



Churwell Primary Academy Newsletter

Spring Term 1

It seems like the snow and ice of the first week of term have faded into a distant memory as we approach the end of Spring Term 1! The weather has continued to feature, as we have navigated storms and high winds.

The snow and ice did not stop our Year 6 children from enjoying their residential to Robinwood. They had a fantastic time, and it was wonderful to talk to them about the activities they enjoyed and the memories that they made. Their growth mindset muscles were in overdrive, and they worked together as a team to encourage each other; super skill building for the future.

This term has also marked our official joining of Resilience Multi Academy Trust, although we have already made firm connections prior to joining.

Our focus on Children's Mental Health Week has been great; this year the focus has been on 'know yourself, grow yourself'. The children have engaged with activities to support them to be self-confident and encourage self-growth. The growth theme has also linked to the growth of our school and during this half terms Buddy Swap the children worked together to design pens for students across the Resilience Multi Academy Trust schools. They included a positive quote about growth to encourage all students to develop across the Trust.

Diary Dates – please also see the dates overview sent at the start of the term

Thursday 13th February – Friends of Churwell disco and school finishes for half term

Monday 24th February – back to school for Spring Term 2

Thursday 6th March – World Book Day focus and Bedtime Stories event – letter to follow this week

Friday 21st March – Wear Yellow for Sunshine and Smiles

Friday 4th April – School closes for the Easter holidays

Tuesday 22nd April – School reopens for Summer Term

Training Days 2025-2026

The training days for the **next** academic year are:

Friday 24th October 2025

Monday 3rd November 2025

Friday 13th February 2026

Monday 20th July 2026

Tuesday 21st July 2026



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Staffing updates

Miss Holland is our new SENDCO and started on 3rd February; she will be working with children and families on SEND needs and we very much look forward to working with her.

Mrs Dearden will return from maternity leave after half term.

We have appointed three new support assistants; Mrs Lee, Miss Hall and Miss Arnold, we are looking forward to them embarking on their new roles with us in the next few weeks.

Parent/Carer Questionnaire – November 2024

The Governors looked at the written feedback captured last term from parents and carers and discussed it at their last meeting. The Governors looked at patterns of responses and discussed the feedback. There was not an identifiable theme of feedback, there was individualised themes that different parents/carers had raised but at this stage did not require a response from the Governing Body.

STEAM Project

Each year we the children take part in a whole school STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and maths) project. This year the project is based around Conservation.

Our theme days for each subject allow the children to learn about an aspect in more detail, enables time for exploration and opportunities to ask questions and find answers. It also helps them to make links with subjects and the world of work.

So far this year we have had a Science and Maths focus day. For Science the children focused on the science of conservation and the children thought about how we can preserve and encourage habitats in our local area and different locations around the world.

For Maths we once again worked with Mrs Day, a maths consultant, and she used the numbers of endangered species from around the world to support children to create a range of data graphs, charts and pictograms.

Wellbeing Work

Mrs Oakley led a very successful growth mindset workshop for parents/carers last week. It was great to be able to share our work with everyone and how this can be developed at home. Each key stage also has a focused 'Mindset Monday' where they discuss a specific mindset muscle and talk about how this links to the work they will be doing in class for the next fortnight.

We have also been working on Zones of Regulation with all our children. This support adults and children to work together on the universal language around feelings and emotions. The children continue to have a mindfulness session after lunch everyday together with an 'In the Zones' check in.



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Asda Cashpot for Schools

Thank you to parents/carers who chose to make a donation to our school whilst shopping at Asda. We have received the amazing news that school will receive £965.99. This is wonderful! The money will be spent on new books for our libraries in school.

Wear yellow for Sunshine and Smiles – Friday 21st March – Lucy's Legacy

We have supported this worthwhile charity for many years now and when Lucy left us to move on to high school, we decided to continue to mark her positive contribution to our school and our understanding of Downs Syndrome. Children are invited to wear anything yellow on Friday March 21st, this could be a ribbon, hat, socks or t-shirt, in exchange for a donation of £1, or more if you are able. Please can I ask that football kits are not worn for this charity occasion. Sunshine and Smiles are a local charity that relies entirely on charitable funding to support children with Downs Syndrome and their families.

I will send a reminder nearer the date.

Domestic Violence reporting and Safeguarding

The school is part of an initiative that runs jointly between schools and West Yorkshire Police. This supports children who are resident in households where there are incidents of domestic violence and abuse. We know that children can be significantly, physically or emotionally, hurt by being either present in the house or directly witnessing an incident of domestic violence.

The domestic violence and abuse school notification system provides confidential notification to schools on any incidents of domestic violence and abuse which occur within a child's household that might have an impact on a child.

The initiative ensures that a member of school staff is trained to allow them to use the information that has been shared, in confidence, and ensure that the school is able to make provision for possible difficulties experienced by children, or their families, who have been involved in or witnessed a domestic violence or abuse incident.

We are keen to offer the best support possible to our pupils and we believe this is extremely beneficial for all those involved.

The Safeguarding team in school are Mrs Barson, Mrs Seedhouse, Mrs Hutchinson and Mrs Tindale and you may be contacted by one of the team if there is a notification from the Police.

If you would like further support or information about domestic violence and abuse, please go to www.leedsdomesticviolenceandabuse.co.uk

PE Partner Half term Club

PE Partner are running a holiday club at school in half term. Parents/Carers from Churwell can access these sessions. If you would like to book your child/ren a place, please see the link:

<https://pepartner.coordinate.cloud/list>



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Another super half term in school. So much to celebrate and be proud of at Churwell. It is great to be part of the next chapter of our school journey and work with Resilience Multi Academy Trust. We have made so many connections already through French, art, history, leadership training, Trust conference day, staff wellbeing training and minibuses to take the children to more events. There are so many more collaborations to be made. We hope you liked the new jumper or cardigan – the children look super smart in them!

I wish you all a safe and happy half term, whatever you are doing – enjoy!

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours in learning

Mrs Rupa Barson

Headteacher