

Knowleswood Primary School

Autumn Term Newsletter



Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we reach the end of our first term, we are delighted to reflect on the many achievements and memorable moments at Knowleswood. Thank you for your ongoing support in making this term such a positive experience for our children. Let's take a look back at some of the highlights and important updates from the past few months.

Promoting a Love of Reading

We continue to foster a love of reading through our 'Starbooks' initiative, which rewards regular reading at home and in school. Students have been excited to reach milestones and receive special recognition for their efforts. We encourage all families to keep up the fantastic reading routines at home; every page makes a difference and may win you a trip!



Sporting Events: Building Team Spirit and Confidence

This term, our students have truly shined in a variety of sporting opportunities. Year 3 enjoyed golf coaching sessions, discovering new skills and building confidence. Our Key Stage 2 football teams (boys and girls) proudly represented the school in local tournaments, showcasing teamwork and sportsmanship. We were also thrilled to take part in the Winter Olympics event, where students who access the Hub embraced friendly competition and celebrated personal bests. Well done to all our athletes and thank you to those who came along to support.



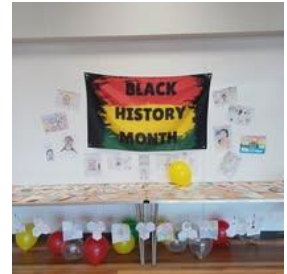
National Events and Community Celebrations

- **Hello Yellow Day:** Our school community wore yellow to raise awareness for children's mental health, sharing messages of positivity and kindness.
- **Anti-Bullying Week:** Through assemblies and classroom activities, students learned about respect, inclusivity, and how to stand up for others.
- **Macmillan Coffee Morning:** Thank you to everyone who contributed treats and donations. Together, we raised funds for a wonderful cause.



Black History Month: Learning and Celebrating Together

Black History Month was a special focus, with students engaging in lessons about key historical figures and contributions. We were especially proud of the creative work produced for our whole-school exhibition. Thank you to all our children who contributed to this.



Staff News: Leavers

We say a fond farewell to some staff members who are moving on to new opportunities; Gemma Hall, Yolande Colton, Ellie Fay and Kate Barrett. Their dedication and care will be greatly missed. Thank you for the invaluable contribution you have all made to Knowleswood children and families. We wish you all every success for the future.

Jess O'Shea will teach Cherry class full time from January.

Site Safety and Access Updates

To keep everyone safe and our site more secure, we have introduced new entrance procedures and vehicle restrictions at drop-off and pick-up times.

From 5th January 2026, you will only be able to access the school site through the front entrance. The back gate will remain locked at all times.

For those coming the back way, the snicket will allow access to the front of school. Please use the zebra crossing at the end of the snicket to cross to the drive and enter the site through the pedestrian gate. This also includes Nursery midday pick up and drop off.

In order to keep the crossing safe, vehicles will no longer be able to access the site between 8.25 and 8.40am. This includes taxis. The barrier will remain closed during this time to prevent any vehicles from being on the drive whilst children and families are crossing. Despite our best attempts, there are still a number of unauthorised vehicles coming down, at speed, and many of you have rightly raised concerns about this.

Blue Badge holders will need to enter before 8.25am to have access to the disabled parking bays and remain in the carpark until 8.40am when the barrier lifts. Cars without a Blue Badge will not be allowed access.

In the afternoon, the barrier will close at 3.05pm and reopen at 3.20pm. Again, during this time there will be no access to vehicles. Cars in the car park will need to remain there until 3.20pm when the barrier opens.

Please remain polite to staff who will be on duty on the gates – they are following instructions to keep our children safe. We will not tolerate any abuse to staff.

Punctuality and Attendance: Every Minute Counts

Arriving on time and attending school every day helps students build routines, friendships, and confidence in their learning. Let's continue to work together to ensure all children make the most of each school day.

School opens at 8.30am and lessons start at 8.40am. Doors will be closed at 8.40am to allow the lessons to begin promptly. Phonics, English and Maths are taught in the morning, it is really important children are in school for the start of these lessons to give them the best chance of success. Please be mindful that you may need to allow for a few extra minutes on your journey due to the new access arrangements to the site.

Christmas Celebrations: Festive Fun and Cheer

- **Pantomime:** Students enjoyed a magical performance in school with their friends! It was wonderful to see their smiling faces and belly laughs!
- **Christmas Jumper Day:** The school was filled with color and festive spirit as students and staff dressed up in their best Christmas jumpers! We all enjoyed a delicious Christmas dinner made by our talented catering team.
- **Santa's Grotto:** The children had a magical time visiting Santa in the grotto!
- **Class Parties:** Our children had a great time with their friends at their class parties. They took part in games, dancing and eating party food!

- **Nativities and Carol Concerts:** A huge thank you to staff and children for putting on some fantastic performances. It was lovely to have our school filled with singing! Thank you to all those who came along to support.

Important Dates for Your Diary

Event	Date
School reopens	Mon 5 th January 2026
Training day (school closed to pupils)	Fri 30 th January 2026
Half Term Break	Fri 13 th February 2026 (1 week)

Keeping in Touch

Stay up to date with news and reminders through the Arbor app, regular emails, and our school Facebook page. Please remember, Facebook is for celebrations only. The inbox is not manned. If you need to contact us directly, the school office is always happy to help. We value your feedback and encourage you to reach out with any questions or suggestions.

School Dinner Price Update

Please note that, beginning January 2026, the price of school dinners will increase to £2.35 for Nursery meals and £2.55 for Primary meals (Y1-Y6).

Exciting Educational Trips and Experiences

- **Year 3:** A hands on history experience at Murton Park brought classroom learning to life.
- **Year 6:** Students were inspired by their visit to Into University, exploring future pathways, visiting the Industrial Museum and 'graduating' at Bradford University.
- **Year 1:** Engaged in an exciting storytelling workshop at Holme Wood library.

- **Visitors:** We were visited by West Yorkshire Fire Service in November. The Fire Officers spoke to us about keeping safe on Bonfire Night. Our local PCSO visited to teach us about the risks of anti-social behaviour and how we can prevent it.



Introducing OPAL: Outdoor Play and Learning

This term marked the launch of OPAL, our new approach to outdoor play and learning. With new equipment and creative play spaces, children are enjoying more active, imaginative, and inclusive playtimes. We look forward to developing this initiative further and seeing the positive impact on our school community. So far we have, den making, digging, mud kitchen, gardening and sports equipment. We can't wait to continue on this journey!



Walking Bus

Well done to everyone for getting up and walking to school with your friends! It was great to get so many of you to school and on time. The support and the beeps from the community was great as we danced our way to school! Look out for the next one!





Thank You and Season's Greetings

We are grateful for all your support this term, it really makes a difference to our children. We would like to wish everyone celebrating a happy Christmas and for everyone else, a restful break and a happy new year.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 5th January 2026 for another exciting term ahead!

With warmest wishes,

Miss Truesdale

Deputy Headteacher