



Knowleswood  
Primary School

Knowleswood Primary School and Nursery  
Knowleswood Primary School, Knowles Lane, Bradford, BD4 9AE

Headteacher: Ryan Lewis  
Telephone: 01274 778177

## Easter Update

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

I just wanted to write with an update on how things are going in school, and with a few requests for your help.

We hope you are having an enjoyable Easter Break, and we're looking forward to welcoming you back on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

### The Environment in school

We have started to improve how the school looks. We want the school to look bright and welcoming, and we want to celebrate the achievements of children. When we return, you'll notice that we have started with the main entrance area, and the area when you come through into school. You can see a little bit of this work here:





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We'll be carrying on with this work during each of the coming holidays, with work planned to continue the redecoration of the school, add a new accessible toilet facility, extra toilets for the key stage 2 playground, improve the key stage 1 playground, and reception outside area.

We want our school to be a place we can all be proud of, and a place where our children thrive.

### Learning in school

Since September, we've worked really hard to continue to improve the school, and to do this quickly. We've worked hard to:

- Keep improving the curriculum – the children are really positive about what they're learning
- Make sure that poor behaviour doesn't disrupt learning, and that children feel safe in school
- Give all of our children the very best chance of success – we've added another SENDCo, made sure that all children can understand and enjoy what teachers

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Website: [www.knowleswood.co.uk](http://www.knowleswood.co.uk)



are teaching, and we've worked with Bradford Council to get Education, Health and Care Plans in place for children who need them

- Spend the school's money making things better for our children – we've got people who know how do things really well, helping us to do things really well; you'll see this in Early Years, in Phonics and Reading, and in Maths – to be honest, we're all working really hard to improve everything.

If there is anything that you feel isn't improving, or isn't improving fast enough, tell us. We're always listening and really want to work with you.

## Attendance

It's no use us working really hard to make the school better, and to give our children the very best start in life if they're not here to make the most of it. Looking back, there are children in school who have missed months of school when you add up their absence over time. We really need to work with you to help our children to get the most from school.

We've rewritten our attendance policy, you can find it on the policies section of the school website.

It highlights how much missed school damages children's chances in life:

***'We know that 90% of persistent non-attenders do not achieve expected levels of development at KS1 and KS2 and do not gain five or more good GCSEs. Around one third achieve no GCSEs at all.'***

***'Young people who regularly miss school without good reason are also more likely to become isolated from their friends, to underachieve in examinations and/or become involved in anti-social behaviour'***

At the minute, many of our children have attendance levels like this. It worries me that I can work really hard to give children the best education and start in life; unfortunately, I can't fix what they miss – and I can't fix the damage once it's done. I can only ask for your help with this.

Our new policy sets out a range of rewards for good attendance and punctuality, a few more than we've had before:

- Every week, the pupil in each Year Group who has the most improved attendance will win a Prize



- Every half term, whenever a pupil attends the academy and is on time every day, their name will be entered into a prize draw at the end of half term, where a significant prize will be awarded.
- Every week, every class that has achieved the Academy's target will be rewarded with hot chocolate/juice and a biscuit, also receiving an extra 10minutes of playing time
- Each term, those pupils who have 100% attendance will receive a termly attendance badge, a certificate, and they will be entered in the prize draw
- Further ad-hoc attendance initiatives and events will take place half termly across the year within year groups in order to boost and encourage full attendance. An example of this are random 100% attendance weeks where pupils are rewarded for gaining 100% all week.

We've tried really hard to make sure that everyone has a chance to be recognised for attendance. We'll always listen to your feedback on this.

The final important addition to the policy, is information about how we will work with the local authority to issue fines where we're forced; we don't want to, but we can't ignore the damage that missing school does to the life-chances of children, and we're working to make sure that everyone has every chance to succeed in school.

We're currently advertising for another attendance officer, to work with Mrs Donoghue, and Mrs Hall; this should help us to make sure that we can really improve attendance across school.

## Staffing

To help us to really make a difference at Knowleswood, we've added some colleagues to the team during the spring term:

Mrs Pearmain joined us as our Specialist Teacher for SEND. Mrs Pearmain knows Knowleswood, having worked here before, and has experience working in a special school. She'll be working to support Mrs Cosgrove and Miss Odedra in delivering the very best for our pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans.

In March, we welcome Mrs Hughes as the new Office Manager. Mrs Hughes is experienced in school office leadership, and will be working to make sure that we all receive great service from our admin team.

After Easter, we welcome Mrs Donnelly and Mrs Wainman, who join our Leadership Team as Assistant Headteachers. This means we now have an Assistant Headteacher for each part of the school:



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Mrs Donnelly – Early Years (Nursery and Reception)

Mrs Odedra – Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2)

Mrs Wainman – Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4)

Miss Noble – Upper Key Stage 2 (Year 5 and 6)

If you have a child in any of the above year groups, feel free to ask for the Assistant Headteacher. This will mean that Myself, and our two Deputy Headteachers, Mrs Cosgrove and Miss Truesdale will be able to give more time to you and the children when you need us most.

Yours sincerely

**Ryan Lewis**  
**Headteacher**