

Newsletter

May 2026



Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Governors,

Welcome back to the start of our final summer term. This is always the busiest, brightest, and most rewarding term of the school year. So busy in fact that this newsletter is slightly delayed in getting to you, and please accept our apologies for that. We hope you all enjoyed a wonderful half term break, making the most of the beautiful weather.

Our Year 6 pupils successfully completed their SATs tests last term. I am incredibly proud of every single child. They approached each test with outstanding focus, determination and maturity. Thank you to our wonderful staff for their hard work, and to you, our parents, for your brilliant support from home. We look forward to celebrating their hard work with some exciting post-SATs activities over the coming weeks.

Whilst we enjoy the summer term, we are also preparing for the new academic year in September. Our transition days will be Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th July 2026. Children will come to school via their normal classroom on Wednesday 8th July 2026. They will then be collected via their new classroom at the end of the same day. On Thursday 9th July 2026, the children are to enter via their new classroom and again they need to be collected via the same classroom. Further details will follow regarding the classes and teachers.

As we enter the final half term, inevitable changes will happen and it is completely natural for children—and parents—to feel a little anxious about moving to a new class and changing teachers. Change can feel daunting, but it also brings wonderful opportunities for growth, new relationships, and fresh perspectives. Our staff work incredibly hard to ensure smooth transitions, and we always find that our pupils adapt beautifully and thrive under new guidance. By staying positive and embracing these updates together, we can help our children build vital resilience and see that change is a very healthy, exciting part of growing up.

We are fortunate to have several exciting changes coming up to enhance our school community. We will work closely as a team to make sure that everything runs as smoothly as possible during this time.

Thank you for your continued partnership. Let's make this final half term of the year memorable and successful for all our children.

Warm regards,

Mr McAlinden



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Staffing news

We would like to share a few staffing updates with our school community.

Mrs Ellis was successfully appointed as the Assistant Headteacher of Armley Park Primary School back in the Spring term. Whilst she will be greatly missed, she will be a huge asset to her new school. Mrs Ellis wanted to complete the academic year with her wonderful cohort and as such decided to start in September rather than April. We thank Mrs Ellis for this commitment to our children.

Further congratulations to Mr Dehdashty and Mr James who have been appointed as Year 6 and Year 5 teachers respectively at a school in north Leeds. Mr Dehdashty is relocating and Mr James, who has been with us for 10 years, has decided that now is the time for a new challenge. Both will be brilliant additions to their new school, and we wish them all the best for the future. We are very grateful for all the support they have offered our children during their time here.

We are pleased to welcome Mr Wright who joins us as Mr Dehdashty's replacement and Miss Howlett who joins us as Assistant Headteacher in place of Mr James. Both will join our Key Stage 2 teaching team.

We have also said a special goodbye to a cornerstone of our school family: our wonderful Teaching Assistant, Mrs Greaves. Her connection to our school runs deeper than most. She first walked through our doors as a young child in her school uniform, and later returned to spend her entire working life dedicated to our classrooms. Across this time, she has poured her heart into supporting generations of local children, bringing a unique warmth to her role every single day. It is rare to find someone who has dedicated their entire life journey to one school community. We thank her from the bottom of our hearts for her unparalleled service, and we wish her all the very best in her next chapter.

We will soon welcome Miss Harness who replaces Mrs Greaves. Miss Harness is unable to join our team until September and as such we have secured the temporary recruitment of Miss Sams until the end of the academic year.

Finally, this term we must prepare to say a deeply heartfelt, emotional goodbye to a true school legend: our wonderful caretaker, Mr Westmoreland. After many years of dedicated service, he is hanging up his keys. To say he will be missed is a huge understatement. Mr Westmoreland is a massive personality around our school. From fixing broken desks to sharing jokes in the corridors, his infectious energy and constant kindness have shaped the very heart of our school community. He has kept us safe, dry, and smiling through every season, always going above and beyond for our children and staff alike. We wish him the most wonderful, well-deserved retirement.

Filling his shoes is Mrs Robinson who will take on the role of Site Manager. Mrs Robinson is no stranger to Oulton in her role of Breakfast Club Manager.

The latest news in Nursery and Reception

In EYFS, we've welcomed a new group of children into Nursery and have been busy helping them to settle in and explore their new setting. The Nursery children have been learning about things that grow. They've loved learning about the life cycle of a butterfly, watching the caterpillars grow and releasing them once they were butterflies! In Reception, the children have been learning about the weather, animals and landscape of the island of Madagascar. They've enjoyed listening to different stories about lemurs and watching a musical story about the baobab tree. However, the highlight was going on their first school trip to Askham Bryan Wildlife Park to meet the lemurs, they were very cute!



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The latest news in Years 1 and 2 (KS1)

This term, our topic has been Home Sweet Home. As part of this topic, we had a fantastic Learn With Us and the children really enjoyed using their knowledge of strengthening structures to build houses which were strong enough to withstand the Big Bad Wolf! We have familiarised ourselves with the tale of the Three Little Pigs and started to innovate our versions of this story. We look forward to sharing our finished pieces next term.

In Geography, we have been using our map skills to direct each other around a map and creating keys for our very own maps. It is unfortunate that our Sports Day had to be postponed but we have been practising our events and will be prepared for the rescheduled date after the half term holidays. In Music, we have been exploring different pitch and have had the opportunity to use a variety of instruments to represent the weather which we have thoroughly enjoyed. In both Year 1 and Year 2 Maths, we have covered the topics of Time and Money this half term and it would be useful for these important life skills to continue to be developed at home. Keep up the good work on Numbots and TimesTables Rockstars as we have had lots of successes with these in KS1 so far.

In RE, we have been learning about key parables and from the Bible such as Jonah and the Whale and Daniel and the Lion's Den. After the half term holidays, we are going to continue our work with Everyday Materials in Science and focus on how different materials are used in everyday life. We have been impressed with how the children have been over this last half term and it is clear to see the progress they have made since September. We are looking forward to a successful final half term!

The latest news in Years 3 and 4 (LKS2)

It's been a short but busy half term in Lower Key Stage 2. Packed with trips, learning and sports day practice. Although we were disappointed to postpone sports day, it linked perfectly to our Geography topic on weather and climate. Reminding us just how unpredictable the British weather can be!

A real highlight this half term was our trip to the Magna Science Adventure Centre. The children were fantastic throughout the visit, showing curiosity and enthusiasm as they explored each area. This was the second educational visit of the year for Year 3 and the third for Year 4. Providing the children with valuable learning experiences beyond the classroom. We are incredibly proud of how well they represented our school during each trip.

In Science, the children have been learning about what plants need to survive including light, water, nutrients and space. They particularly enjoyed carrying out investigations and learning about water transportation in plants, pollination, seed formation and seed dispersal.

It's hard to believe that this half term will be our final one before the summer holidays! On Wednesday 3rd and Thursday 4th and the week commencing the 8th June, Year 4 will complete their multiplication tables check. Throughout the year, the children have worked hard on their times tables, so please ask them to continue to practise over half term.

Sport's day has been rescheduled for Friday 5th May at 14:15pm. We're looking forward to showing you the races the children have been practising. We also have our final 'Learn with us' afternoon planned for later in the half term, where we will have the opportunity to celebrate the children's learning and achievements from across the academic year.

The latest news in Years 5 and 6 (UKS2)



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The Year 6 children have been absolutely fantastic throughout their SATs week, and we are incredibly proud of the determination and resilience they have shown. Every pupil approached the tests with a positive attitude and gave their very best effort, showing just how hard they have worked all year. The children behaved maturely, supported one another and faced each challenge with confidence and perseverance. A huge thank you to POPS, who kindly paid for all of the children to have breakfast each morning, helping them to start the day feeling calm, settled and ready to succeed. Well done to all of our amazing Year 6 pupils for being such a credit to the school.

The Year 6 children spent much of the half term revising and working incredibly hard in preparation for their SATs. Their commitment and dedication were clear to see and all of their effort helped them feel confident and ready for the week ahead. We are so proud of the positive attitude they showed and the perseverance they demonstrated throughout. Meanwhile, Year 5 have been thoroughly enjoying their exciting Titanic topic and have been fascinated learning about the famous ship and its history. The children have produced some fantastic work linked to the Titanic, including research, writing and some incredible watercolour pieces. It has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm and curiosity shine through during the unit.

Requests for help from school staff

We have recently received an increase in requests from parents and carers seeking help and support from school staff with the completion of paperwork for external agencies. Whilst we are always happy to help and work in partnership with you, we must kindly ask for a minimum of two weeks notice if you require such assistance so that staff can allocate the time they need to in order to help you. Thank you for your support with this.

Dates for your diary

Event	Date	Time
Future Summer learn with us events will be detailed in newsletters before the term where it falls.		
Multiplication check weeks (Year 4 pupils)	WC 2 nd June and 8 th June 2026	
KS1 Sports Day	2 nd June 2026	2pm
LKS2 (Years 3 and 4) Sports Day	5 th June 2026	2pm
Phonics Screening Check (Year 1)	WC 8 th June 2026	
National Sports Week	WC 15 th June 2026	
Year 6 residential	Wednesday 24 th June – Friday 26 th June 2026	
POPS Summer Fair	Saturday 4 th July 2026	TBC
New Nursery and Reception meeting	1 st July 2026	5pm
LKS2 (Years 3 and 4) Learn With Us	3 rd July 2026	TBC
Year 5 and 6 transition meeting for parents and carers	6 th July 2026	TBC
Year 3 and 4 transition meeting for parents and carers	7 th July 2026	TBC



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Year 1 and 2 transition meeting for parents and carers	8 th July 2026	TBC
Oulton Academy transition days	Wednesday 8 th July to Friday 10 th July 2026	All day
Oulton Primary transition days	Wednesday 8 th July and Thursday 9 th July 2026	All day – further details to follow nearer the time
Reports sent home	Monday 13 th July 2026	
Year 6 leavers performance	Tuesday 14 th July 2026	Doors open at 1:40pm Starts at 2pm
Year 6 leavers performance	Wednesday 15 th July 2026	Doors open at 5:40pm Starts at 6pm
Year 6 Oulton Fest	Thursday 16 th July 2026	All day
Nursery beach day and Reception pirate and mermaid day	Friday 17 th July 2026	All day
School closed for training day 4 and 5	Monday 20th July 2026 Tuesday 21st July 2026	All day

Confirmed training days for the 2026-27 academic year

- Tuesday 1st September 2026
- Wednesday 2nd September 2026
- Monday 2nd November 2026
- Monday 7th June 2027

We will not be confirming our final training day until a later date as we await confirmation of training being booked but I can confirm that this date will be in 2027 and not 2026.



