

27th February 2026

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It has been a truly wonderful first week back at school and it is a joy to see our classrooms buzzing with energy and enthusiasm once again after the break as we settle back into our routines.

The arrival of the new half term brings with it the beautiful transition into springtime and our curriculum is already blooming with exciting learning opportunities across every year group. This sense of curiosity will be at the heart of our activities next week as we celebrate World Book Day on Thursday. In tandem with our love for reading, we are also hosting Careers Week, where children will have the unique chance to meet professionals from a variety of industries. These sessions are designed to spark imagination, encourage thoughtful questions and give our pupils the space to reflect on their own aspirations and what they might like to achieve when they grow up.

It is our pleasure to share a warm welcome to our new teachers Mrs Hall (Year 4), Miss Jewitt (Year 1) and Mr Salu (Reception). We are delighted for you all to join our Gawthorpe team and know that the children have made you feel incredibly welcome this week! We are also delighted to welcome our new Trust Assistant Headteacher! A Wakefield local who attended Ossett Sixth Form, Mr Stephenson joins us with six years of Primary leadership experience and will be working across both Gawthorpe and Towngate.

We would like to take this opportunity to inform you that our Chair of Governors is officially standing down. We would like to express our deepest gratitude to Mr. Clements for his incredible dedication and years of service to our school community. His unwavering support for the staff team and his commitment to the success of our pupils have left a lasting impact and he will be greatly missed by us all. During this transition, Mr. Duncan Smith has kindly agreed to stand in as the temporary Chair of Governors. We look forward to another productive and inspiring term together.

Finally, may we extend a very warm Ramadan Kareem to all our families who began their observations this week; we wish you a peaceful and blessed month ahead.

Mrs A Berry
Executive Headteacher

Mrs A Bateman
Head of School

 Be Respectful

 Be Responsible

 Be Reflective

 Be Ready to Learn

Mrs A Berry
Executive
Headteacher

Mrs A Bateman
Head of School

Mrs S Davies
Assistant Headteacher

Chair of Governors: Mr D Smith
Safeguarding Officers: Mrs A Berry, Mrs A Bateman,
Miss D Croisdale, Mrs L Dearnley, Miss J Darby

World Book Day 2026

We are thrilled to celebrate World Book Day on Thursday 5th March, with a focus on fostering a lifelong love of reading, aligning with the National Year of Reading 2026. Children are invited to **dress up as a word** to spark creativity and develop our language. We will have fun and engaging activities designed to help children discover the joy of reading for pleasure and develop their vocabulary.

Extreme Reading Competition!

We are thrilled to announce our school's upcoming Extreme Reading Competition, a fun-filled initiative to celebrate World Book Day by challenging students to enjoy their favourite books in the most unusual, creative, and wacky places imaginable. Whether you are perched high in a tree, cozying up in a homemade blanket fort, reading upside down on the sofa, or sharing a story with your pet in the garden, we want to see it!

To enter, children should ask a parent or carer to take a photograph of them reading in their "extreme" spot and submit it to their class teacher via Dojo on **Monday 2nd March**. The most creative and imaginative entries will win a prize and all submissions will be displayed to inspire our school community to love reading anywhere and everywhere. Remember: the more bizarre the location, the better, but please make sure to stay safe and ask for an adult's permission before starting your adventure.

Learning Mentor Coffee Afternoon

Miss Croisdale will be holding half-termly coffee afternoons for parents, this is an open invite to join us for a drink, chat and ask any questions you may have or seek any advice from Miss Croisdale and a family hub support practitioner in an informal setting. Our first afternoon will be held Thursday 12th March at 2:30pm. We hope to see you there!

Attendance

Here is our weekly attendance update. Well done Year Reception who have achieved the best overall attendance this week. **As a school, we strive to ensure our weekly attendance is at least 97%** and your continued support is vital.

Year Group	This week's school attendance %
Reception	96.43%
Year 1	94.44%
Year 2	86.64%
Year 3	94.17%
Year 4	90.18%
Year 5	90.83%
Year 6	90.00%
Whole School	91.77%

School Diary Dates		
Date	Event	Year Group
28.02.26	Nursery Open Morning 9.30am -11.30am	New Nursery Parents
02.03.26	Careers Week	Whole School
05.03.26	World Book Day - Dress as a Word	Whole School
09.03.26 to 11.03.26	Bikeability	Year 5
09.03.26	Meet the Teacher 3.30pm	Year 1 & 4
09.03.26	First Steps Together	New Nursery Parents
16.03.26	First Steps Together	New Nursery Parents
18.03.26	INSPIRE Afternoon 1.30pm	Year 2
20.03.26	Red Nose Day	Whole School
26.03.26	Spring Fair 10am - 11.30am	Nursery and Reception
27.03.26	Break Up Today	Whole School Including Nursery
13.04.26	Return To School	Whole School Including Nursery
27.04.26	Parent's evening 3:30pm – 6:00pm	Reception - Year 5
29.04.26	Parent's evening 3:30pm – 6:00pm	Reception - Year 5
01.05.26	Sports Day	Whole School
06.05.25	Class School Photos	Whole School Including Nursery
07.05.26	INSPIRE Afternoon 1.30pm	Reception
11.05.26	KS2 SATs Week	Year 6
20.05.26	Grandparent's Day	Nursery
21.05.26	Break Up Today	Whole School Including Nursery
22.05.26	INSET Day	Whole School Including Nursery
08.06.26	Return To School	Whole School Including Nursery
W.C 08.06.26	Phonics Check Multiplication Check	Year 1 Year 4
23.06.26	Open Classroom	All classes
13.06.26	Nursery Open Morning	New Nursery Parents
19.06.26	Farm Trip	Reception
09.07.26	End of Year Disco	Year 6
17.07.26	End of Year Performance	Year 6
20.07.26 - 22.07.26	Residential	Year 6
21.07.26	End of Year Performance and picnic	Reception and Nursery
24.07.26	Celebration Afternoon	Year 6 Families
24.07.26	Break Up Today	Whole School

Coffee afternoon with Miss Croisdale



Come along to join me for a drink, a catch up and a friendly chat.

*Thursday 12th March
2:30-3:00*

Gawthorpe Community Academy **Nursery Open Day**

**Saturday 28th February
9:30 - 11:30**




Gawthorpe
Community Academy

Come along and meet our wonderful team and see what our provision and staff have to offer you and your child.

Take part in a stay and play and enjoy free craft activities. 15 and 30 hour places available for your child as soon as they turn 3 with breakfast and after school club options.

Mrs A Berry
Executive
Headteacher

Mrs A Bateman Mrs S Davies
lead of School Assistant Headteacher

Chair of Governors: Mr D Smith
Safeguarding Officers: Mrs A Berry, Mrs A Bateman,
Miss D Croisdale, Mrs L Dearnley, Miss J Darby



THE
lightbulb
MOMENT

Contact us any time to find out more or book a place
jenny.pash@thelightbulbmomentpda.com | 07447 636826
leanne.jaques@thelightbulbmomentpda.com | 07779 090451

ARE YOU STRUGGLING AT HOME WITH A HIGHLY
DEMAND-AVOIDANT
CHILD?



Come and join us
FREE, informal advice and support
Monthly sessions throughout 2026
Face-to-face / online / no commitment

Delivered by PDA Advocates from
THE LIGHTBULB MOMENT who are
also parents with lived experience.

Ossett - The Fire Station, WF5 9TR
Halifax - Maurice Jagger Centre, HX1 1UZ
Keighley - Highfield Community Association, BD21 2QG



Jenny Pash, PDA Trainer,
Advocate and parent

Sessions will help with:

- Understanding Pathological Demand Avoidance (PDA)
- Common myths ("can't" not "won't")
- Avoiding every-day tasks
- Low-demand parenting
- School anxiety and your child's rights
- PDA responses to crisis
- Demand-avoidance of things they enjoy
- Preparing for transitions
- Overwhelm and shut-down
- Surviving the parental journey

