



# Menston Primary School Newsletter

Friday 15th December 2023

## My Happy Mind myHappyMind.

We have now completed our first unit in the MyHappyMind programme. Children across school have learnt all about how their brain works and how techniques such as 'happy breathing' can help us to remain calm in difficult situations. This week, we have chosen our first group of, 'Happiness Heroes,' who will be working across school to help us to promote MyHappyMind. Next term, we will be starting our new unit called 'Celebrate.' We will be learning all about our character strengths and building self-esteem. We can't wait! If you haven't already done so, please remember to download the parent app. Just go to <https://myhappymind.org/parent-resources> and enter your name, email, and authentication code, which is: **149938**. Or scan this QR code to sign up!



## Christmas Shows

Thank you to all of our families who came into school to support and watch the children in their Christmas shows. The staff did an amazing job with their organisation and the children's hard work during rehearsals certainly paid off. The shows were fabulous, well done everyone!



## Keighley and Shipley Family Hub

The Keighley and Shipley Family Hub, part of Bradford Children and Families Trust have updated their timetable. This can be accessed via the FYI website on the [main page](#), under 'Family Hub Timetables.' We would like to highlight the 'Jump Aboard' sessions on Wednesdays from 1-3pm where parents can talk through any concerns they have for their child with an Educational Psychologist. This could include help with ADHD, Autism, Speech and Language difficulties, social, emotional and sensory needs.

## Message from Annet Nottingham—Chair of our Local Governing Board

Since September we have been operating as an academy of the Moorlands Learning Trust. It is entirely likely that you will not have experienced much, if any change, as school continues to operate in many ways as before under the leadership of Mrs Wilson and her team. Behind the scenes though, work has been done to streamline systems and policies across the Trust. Collaborating more closely with the other primary schools in the Trust (Ashlands Primary and Burley Oaks Primary) has already brought benefits in terms of school improvement and sharing good practice.

In our most recent Local Governing Board meeting we focused on 2023 pupil progress and achievement. Although preliminary results had been shared with schools much earlier, these figures have only recently been officially published. It is one of the main responsibilities of the Board of Governors to analyse and monitor these outcomes in detail. This year's KS1 and KS2 results show further improvement on last year, which were the first since the 2019 pre-Covid results, but are not quite back to the level before Covid. This is the case nationally and in other local schools, but there is clear evidence that children in our school are making strong progress. At EYFS 83% of children achieved Good Level of Development, which is an excellent outcome. We congratulate all staff and pupils on these results and thank them for their hard work.

Areas for further action have been identified and these are included in the School Improvement Plan that guides the school's work to raise standards even further. As important as these results are, of course governors recognise fully that our children's education is not just about academic performance, and we equally value children's general development, wellbeing and happiness.

In the new year the governing body is looking to recruit two new governors: one staff governor and one parent governor. More details will be circulated soon, but I hope you will consider putting yourself forward for this responsible and rewarding role.

Governors wish to thank all staff and pupils for their hard work and send their very best wishes to pupils, staff, parents and carers for Christmas and 2024.

## Message from Mrs Wilson

I want to extend a huge thank you to all of our families for your support again this term. Parents play a crucial role in supporting children's learning and research shows a strong correlation between levels of parental engagement and better academic outcomes. It has been wonderful to see some of the home learning projects that children have brought into school—projects and pieces of work which show how engaged children have been in our school curriculum topics.

Thank you for all of your support for our wonderful Christmas shows. It has been such a privilege for me to see all of the performances and to see how confidently our children speak, act, sing, dance, play musical instruments and perform in other ways. The children and staff worked really hard to bring their shows together and I know that treasured memories will have been made for everyone who came to see them.

If you are still looking for ideas for Christmas gifts for children, you can visit [The School Reading List](#) or [Books for Topics](#) websites, where you will find recommended books for children of all ages.

Warm wishes on behalf of all of our staff for a happy and peaceful Christmas.



## Attendance

This week's whole school attendance was 96.84%

The class with the highest attendance this week is Lime with 100% attendance!

All children have an attendance target of at least 97% and attendance that falls below 95% will be followed up.



## Bear Cub Adoption

Menston Primary has officially adopted our bear cub, who goes by the name of 'Woody,' one of 48 bear cubs who took part in the Leeds Bear Hunt 2023! The money raised from Leeds Bear Hunt will provide much-needed funding for Leeds Children's Hospital. Learn more or make a donation by [clicking here](#).





## School Lunches—w/c 01/01/2024 Week 1

Please [click here](#) for updated information and pricing for the school meal menu.

School meals are free for all children in Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2. **For Years 3 to 6, the cost of school meals is £2.20 per day/ £11 per week from Monday 30 October.** Please ensure your

ParentPay account is in credit prior to meals being taken by children. If you have any questions relating to payment for school meals please contact Facilities Management on 07973 841632.



**Tuesday:** Pasta Bolognese, Arrabiata Pasta; Jacket Potatoes or Ham, Cheese or Tuna Sandwiches

**Wednesday:** Roast of the Day, Halal Roast Chicken Breast; Cheese & Broccoli Quiche; Panini or Ham, Cheese or Tuna Wraps

**Thursday:** Cheese and Tomato Pizza; Jacket Potatoes or Ham, Cheese or Tuna Sandwiches

**Friday:** Fish Fingers; Southern Fried Quorn Burger; Panini or Ham, Cheese or Tuna Wraps

### Message from Menston Library

It has been lovely welcoming your children on their regular library visits from school, however our shelves are looking a little bare!



Please could you take some time to play 'hunt the book' and pay the library a visit with the books you find during the holidays.

We will be closed on Christmas Day and New Years Day otherwise we are planning to keep our normal opening hours:

Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm. Saturdays 10pm till 1pm.

If you're not sure what you're looking for please give us a ring on 01943 876539

Please can I also remind you to make sure your child has their library card on library visit days as it helps the visits run smoothly.

Following on from our very successful Summer Reading Challenge we are promoting the winter mini challenge which can be found at [www.wintermini.org.uk](http://www.wintermini.org.uk)

We will have a selection of colouring sheets and word searches available and a nice colour certificate for all finishers.

### Christmas Crafts!



We have had an amazing Christmas Jumper day with a fun-filled Christmas craft morning. Our EYFS and Y6 buddies had a great time crafting together!



### FoMPS



FoMPS are pleased to announce that the Christmas fair, held as part of the Menston Light Switch On event, raised £3,015 for our school. That is a fantastic amount of money that will support children across school in 2024. Thank you again to everyone who came along and supported the school and our wonderful village that day.

We would like to wish all our school children, the staff and governors and all your families and loved ones a fun, yet restful holiday.

We look forward to seeing you at FoMPS events in 2024, beginning with some disco evenings in February - look out for more details next term.

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

### Dates to Remember for 2024!



**Tuesday 2 January:** School re-opens for the Spring term.

**Saturday 3 February:** Cross Country at Ben Rhydding

**Monday 5 February:** Parent Consultation Evening

**Thursday 8 February:** Parent Consultation Evening

**Friday 9 February:** School closes for half-term

**Monday 19 February:** School re-opens

**Saturday 24 February:** Ghyll Royd School Cross Country (rearranged date)

Please see Year Group Newsletters for Key Stage specific diary dates.

### School Vacancies:

#### Care Club Playworkers



Permanent playworkers at our very popular before and after school Care Club

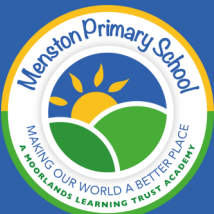
We are particularly keen to recruit candidates who are able to work some afternoons from 3.00 to 5.30pm, term-time only, although other positions may be available.

#### Lunchtime Supervisor

There is an exciting opportunity to become a Lunchtime Supervisor at Menston Primary. Regular or casual posts are available. If you or anyone you know would be interested in this position, please check the MPS website for more details.

Click below to view our recent vacancies:

<https://menstonprimary.co.uk/about-us/vacancies/>



# MENSTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Making Our World A Better Place

