

Headteacher's Newsletter

Summer 1, 2026

13.04.2026



Welcome back

Welcome back! We hope you all enjoyed a restful and refreshing Easter break, filled with time to relax, recharge, and enjoy moments together as families. Whether you spent time visiting loved ones, enjoyed some spring sunshine, or enjoyed time at home, we hope it brought a welcome pause in a busy school year.

Last term was short but busy – we took part in British Science week, World Book Day, Red Nose Day, a residential trip for Year 5 and held yet another rock festival! As we return for the new term, we are excited for everything the weeks ahead will bring. This is always a wonderful point in the school calendar—children come back with renewed energy, a readiness to learn, and plenty of curiosity about what's coming next..

Attendance

We would like to thank all parents for prioritising attendance at school. Our attendance at the end of our second term was 95.4% which is above the National benchmark of 94.4% for all schools which is a fantastic achievement, and one we'd like to build on to meet our target of 97%. For any requests for authorised absence please use our Exceptional Circumstances Form available on the school website and from the reception area in school.



Our School Parliament enjoyed a productive afternoon working alongside the Friends of Valley Gardens. Children participated enthusiastically in planting activities and litter picking, demonstrating maturity, teamwork and a strong sense of responsibility. Their commitment to improving the local environment was exemplary and reflects our values of care and community involvement.



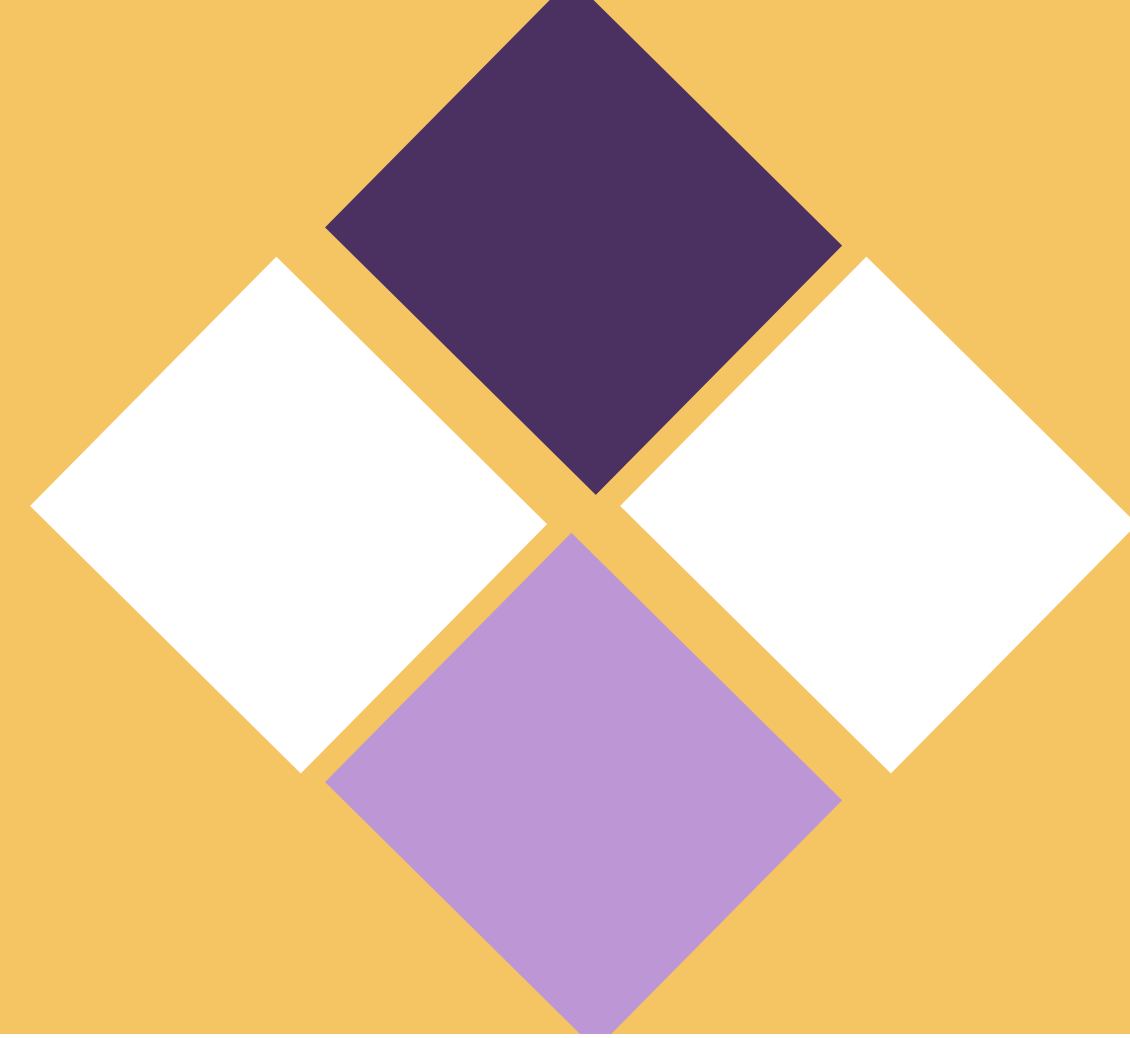
Our Year 6 pupils achieved outstanding success at the Wakefield Tag Rugby competition, competing against schools from across the district. They demonstrated exceptional teamwork throughout.



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Thank you

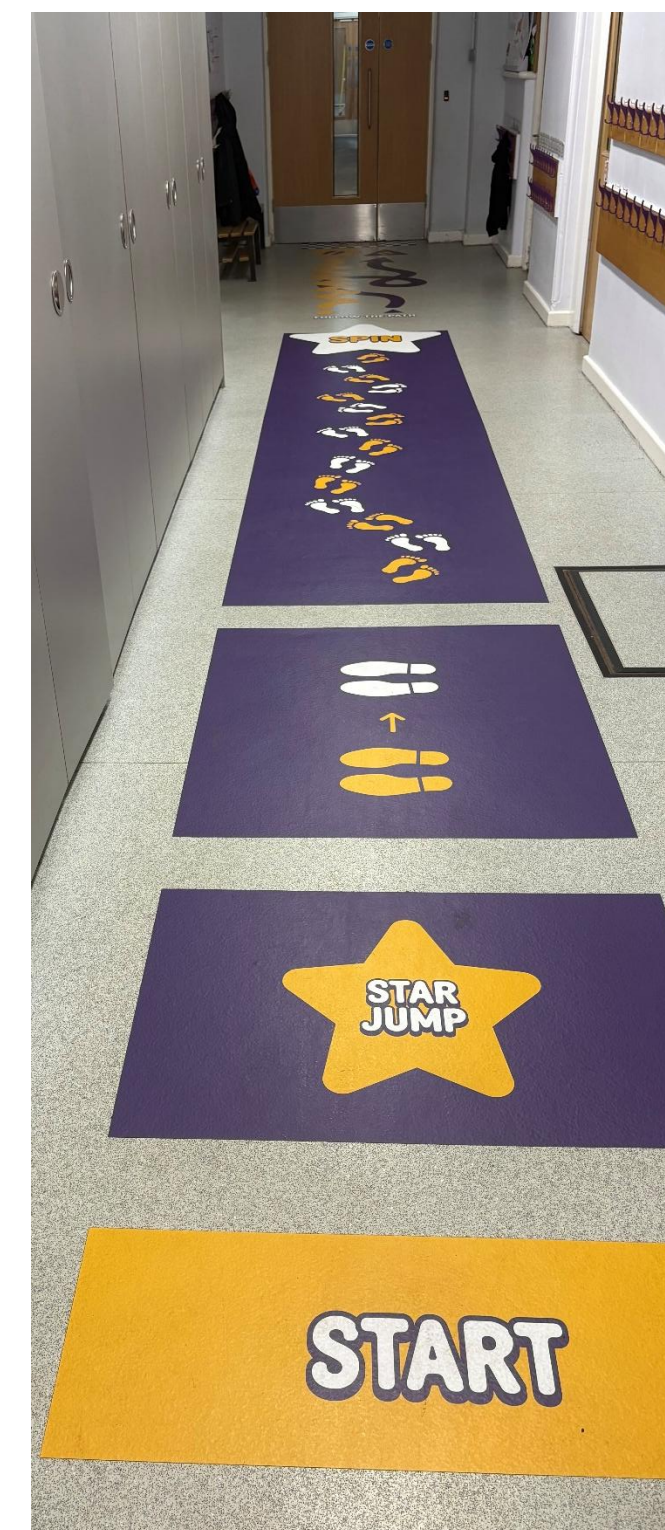
Thank you so much for your incredible generosity this year. Your support has made a real difference to the experiences we are able to offer our children.

Because of your contributions, we have been able to **subsidise school trips**, purchase **new playground equipment** invest in creating a **low-arousal space** to support pupils who benefit from a calm, sensory-friendly environment, and in developing **sensory circuits** to support regulation and readiness for learning. In addition, we are underway with the **redesign of our library space and resources**, helping us create inviting, high-quality areas that inspire curiosity and joy in learning.

We simply could not do this without your support.

Parent Evenings

Thank you to all parents and carers who attended Parents' Evening. These conversations are an important part of our partnership. helping us to highlight the many ways pupils have flourished this year—whether through their learning, their confidence, their friendships, or their contributions to school life.



Library

Our library is at the heart of school life, and we're investing in expanding our books and redesigning the space to inspire a love of reading. Children's author, Suzy Senior will be visiting the school to open the library and meet with the children on Tuesday 19th May. If you'd like to support us further, our Amazon Wish List is now live.

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/244RMS3GLO11I?ref=wl_share



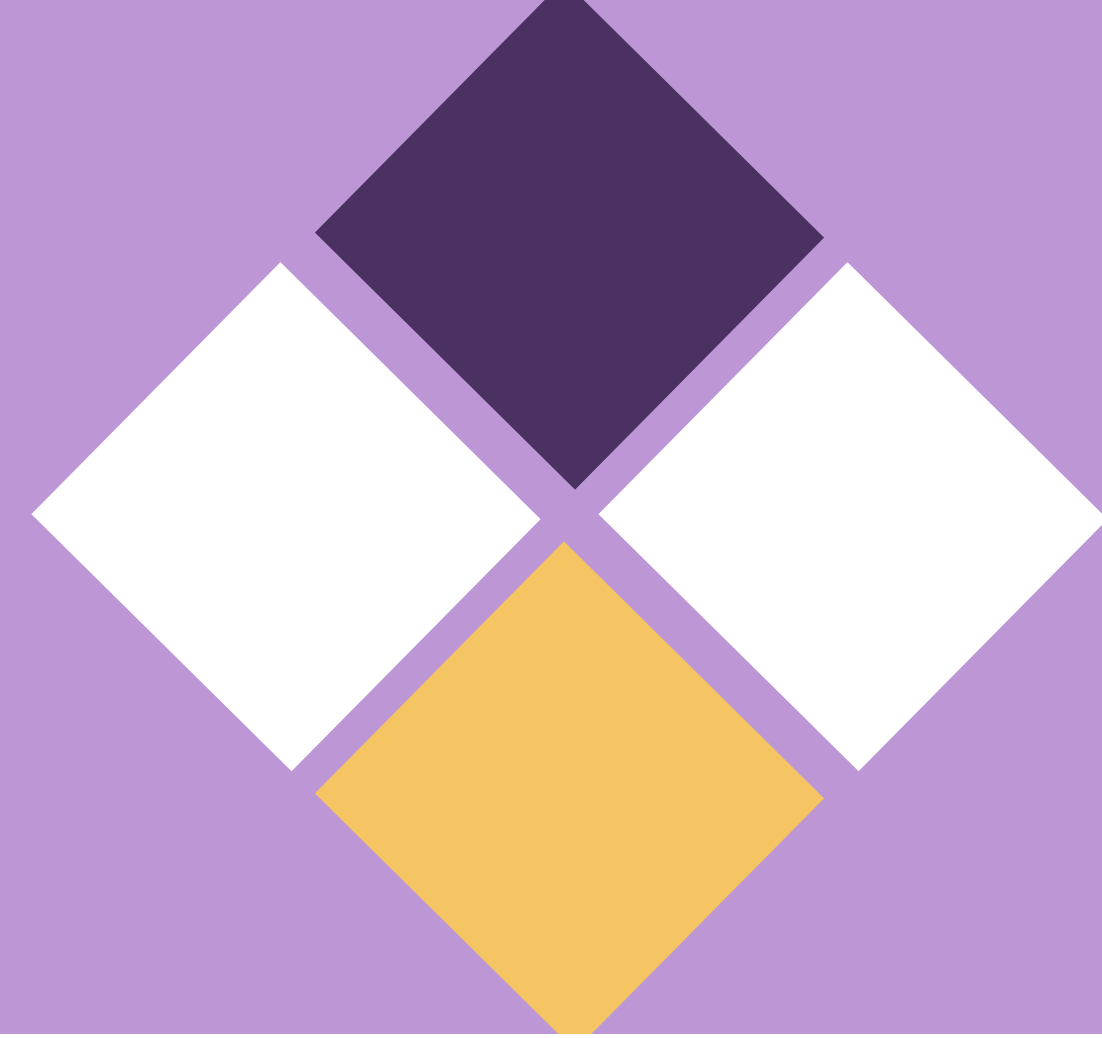
Thank you for your continued generosity in the donations received so far!



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Upcoming dates

- **Thursday 7th May:** Polling Day – School will remain open
- **W/C Monday 11th May:** SATS
- **Wednesday 20th May:** Food Festival event
- **Thursday 18th June – Friday 19th June:** Year 6 Residential
- **Monday 22nd June:** Sports Day
- **Monday 29th June:** Summer Fayre
- **W/C Monday 6th July:** End of Year reports
- **Tuesday 14th July & Wednesday 15th July:** Year 6 performance
- **Thursday 16th July:** Year 6 Leavers Service
- **Friday 17th July:** School closes at 1PM

Safeguarding update

Please be vigilant - if you have any concerns for the safety and wellbeing of any child, please report it to the **Designated Safeguarding Leader, Mrs Donna Foster** and **Liam Booth**, 01977 518959 or contact **Social Care Direct** - 0345 8 503 503. When school is closed, please follow details on how to report a concern on our school website. Please remember – **safeguarding is everyone's responsibility**. Everyone has a duty to keep children safe.

Wakefield
Safeguarding Children
Partnership

Transition

Further information about transition arrangements will be shared with families soon. We are currently finalising plans to ensure every child feels supported, prepared and excited for the next stage of their journey. Thank you for your patience and support.



A huge thank you to author Tony Bradman for an inspiring virtual visit! Our children loved exploring *Viking Boy* and discovering the story behind the book. It sparked incredible excitement, creativity and curiosity across school.

Follow us on X
@CastlefordParkJ

