

Silsden Primary School

Weekly News – w/c 9th February 2026



February 2026

- 10th Topic showcase
- Y5 trip to Bradford Industrial Museum
- 13th Break up for Half Term
- Interim reports out
- PTFA Break the Rules Day
- 23rd Return to school
- 26th Parents evening
- Scholastic Book Fair
- Y1 and Y5 Planetarium in school

March 2026

- 3rd Parents Evening
- Scholastic Book Fair
- 5th Y5 Stargazing
- 16th TRex visit - Reception
- 18th Fluoride Varnish Sign-up
- 20th Red Nose Day
- 24th and 25th School disco
- 24th Fluoride Varnish Application
- 24th Topic showcase
- 27th Break up for Easter

Whole School Messages

Year 2 Residential to the Deep! Year 2 children spent the night at the Deep in Hull this week. They had an amazing experience sleeping under the aquarium and seeing all the different animals that are there. They also learnt a lot about being resilient and confident with many of them spending their first nights away from home! I was so impressed with the children coming into school so confidently on Wednesday morning. Amazing children! We have had some brilliant feedback from the Deep about the children and their behaviour and manners. They have been a credit to you and our school. We are so proud of them and I'm sure you are as well I would like to thank all the staff, especially the organiser Miss Johnson, who went and slept overnight so that this trip could happen. It is a massive undertaking to do alongside the normal day job of full-time teaching. As you can imagine there wasn't lots of sleep and the staff we all back in school working on Thursday. Without their support the experience wouldn't have been possible. I hope that parents have had lots of excited children coming home and telling them all about it. Please pass on your thanks to the staff as well.

Reminder for Break the Rules & Doughnut Day - Hello, please find attached information on the PTFA's latest fundraiser taking place in school on Friday 13th February -

<https://www.silsdenprimary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Bend-the-rules-and-doughnuts-day-2026.pdf> Your donation can be made through the School Shop on Arbor, or cash can be brought in on the day. There will be doughnuts available for taking part, however if you DO NOT want your child to have a doughnut please complete the form to opt out .

<https://forms.office.com/e/Ne7dJpqC4g>

PARENTS EVENINGS - Please find a letter regarding our upcoming Parents Evenings being held next half term - <https://www.silsdenprimary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Parents-Evening-Letter-February-26.pdf>

There will be no individual or group guitar lessons, that are delivered by BMDC Music Service, in school on Monday 9th February

SPRING 2 AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS - There are still places available on KS2 Dance Club, which will take place on Wednesdays next half term. Here is the link you will need to book -

<https://silsdenprimary.magicbooking.co.uk/>

Topic Showcase is being held after school on Tuesday 10th February between 3:30pm – 5:30pm. We hope to see you there!

Whole School Messages



School attendance has continued to be significantly low over the last two weeks. Our whole school attendance figures had declined by nearly 1% for the year since we have returned from the Christmas Holidays.

We have sent out some communication today to parents whose children's attendance is close to becoming a concern for school. There are some parents who feel that what we are doing as a school in terms of monitoring attendance is unnecessary, lacks empathy and is just about making the school look good.

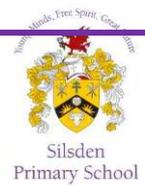
We know that attendance at school at all ages - Including Nursery and Reception, is extremely important for the progress and development of children. We also know that children who have poor attendance at Primary School have even poorer attendance at Secondary, having a greater impact on their outcomes and possibilities of future employment at the end of Secondary school. This is why attendance is a priority for us at school and should be for parents as well.

However, I have included below the OFSTED inspection toolkit that inspectors use when they visit and judge our attendance in school. This sets out what we will be held accountable for when our school is inspected. As you will see we are expected by the Government and OFSTED to challenge attendance rigorously for all children at all levels and there is no leeway given for mitigating circumstances.

In gathering evidence about attendance, inspectors consider the extent to which:

- ***Leaders place a high priority on improving attendance and punctuality, at whole-school level and for different groups, including for those who are occasionally, persistently and severely absent***
- ***Pupils attend well, including disadvantaged pupils, those with SEND, those who are known (or previously known) to children's social care, and those who may face other barriers to their learning and/or well-being, such as young carers; if this is not the case, attendance is improving towards national averages and the school's pre-pandemic levels***
- ***Leaders and staff pay close attention to the needs of the groups of pupils listed above, so that they attend regularly and come to school on time***
- ***Leaders and staff pay close attention to the needs of pupils who are absent because of mental or physical ill-health, so that they attend regularly and come to school on time***
- ***Leaders do not stop striving for whole-school improvement once attendance reaches national averages v leaders and staff communicate their expectations about attendance clearly, strongly and consistently to pupils so that they are well understood***
- ***Leaders and staff understand the importance of paying close attention to pupils' attendance, take opportunities to promote good attendance and act on absence or declines in attendance promptly v staff complete attendance and admissions registers accurately, and the day-to-day processes to follow up on absences are established and effective***
- ***Leaders work with parents, local authorities and other agencies, including the virtual school head, to communicate expectations about attendance and improve it; this includes any multiagency work for disadvantaged pupils, those with SEND, those who are known (or previously known) to children's social care, and those who may face other barriers to their learning and/or well-being If a child's attendance is below 95% they are considered a concern and are classed as occasionally absent. Below 90% they are classed as persistently absent and below 50% severely absent.***

Please can parents do all they can in encouraging and supporting their children to have good attendance at school.



Year 6 Specific Messages

Mock SATS assessment week

Year 5 Specific Messages

No news to report this week.

Year 4 Specific Messages

On Thursday 12th February, the children in Year 4 will be visiting St James' Church in Silsden as part of our RE learning linked to Christianity. The visit will take part during the normal school morning session and we will return to school before lunch, but as we'll be walking to the church, please ensure that your child wears a warm, waterproof coat and sturdy shoes. We are looking for volunteers to help. This is from 10am - 12pm. If you can spare a couple of hours to help, please e-mail office@silsden.bradford.sch.uk or let your child's class teacher know. Your help is appreciated.

Outdoor learning is on Friday - please remember outdoor shoes to change into and a warm coat. We have noticed recently that there has been a decline in homework completed and handed in on time. Homework is handed out on Tuesday - this includes some maths questions that relate to the week's learning and spellings that need to be learnt for a test on Monday (the children will know which spelling list they need to learn). This needs to be completed at home and handed in the following Monday. Please can you encourage and support your children to complete it on time. Having said this, we will not be handing out homework over the half term holiday - we will hand it out the first Tuesday after the holiday. In addition to homework, we expect children to read at least 3 times a week. This reading should be recorded in their reading records. Reading books should be brought into school with reading records every day. We have a fantastic new library for key stage 2 with loads of exciting books to choose from.

Year 3 Specific Messages

PE DAYS - HOLST (Tuesday - Indoor/Wednesday - Outdoor) ELGAR (Tuesday - Indoor/Wednesday - Outdoor) LLOYD-WEBBER (Tuesday - Indoor/Thursday - Outdoor)

OUTDOOR LEARNING - Please bring wellies/walking boots in a carrier bag and a warm, waterproof coat.

WATER BOTTLES - Some children aren't bringing water bottles into school. Whilst we do have some cups available in classrooms, it isn't hygienic for children to be drinking out of cups that other children have used.

COATS - It is still Winter and some children aren't bringing coats or are bringing coats but with no hoods.

Please can we ask that children bring coats with hoods and especially warm waterproof ones.

INCOMPLETED HOMEWORK - We've noticed a vast majority of children who are not bringing homework books in on time or at all and a lot of children who aren't completing homework. It's a 15-minute task and it's to help your child in their education. We'd greatly appreciate you taking the time to complete this with them.

READING RECORDS - Please could children bring their reading records in every Friday for reviewing. Children who've read three times or more will get a house point! JUNIOR DUKES - Don't forget about Junior Dukes! We haven't seen many booklets in since they went out. We really appreciate you taking the time to read these key reminders.

Outdoor learning is on Thursday next week - wellies and warm coats please. We would like all the children to get into the habit of bringing homework books, reading records and reading books to school EVERY day. We want to be able to maximise reading time for them and they can also record what they have in their reading records.



Year 2 Specific Messages

No news to report this week.

Year 1 Specific Messages

No news to report this week.

Reception Specific Messages

On Tuesday afternoon, Reception children will be heading out on a special Expedition around the school grounds to search for polar animals. The adventure will end in our Forest School area, where the children will gather around the fire and enjoy a warm hot chocolate. Please ensure your child comes dressed warmly on this day, with a hat, scarf and gloves, and that wellies are brought in if you haven't already done so. Please ensure that all items of school uniform are clearly labelled so that any misplaced items can be returned to their rightful owner.

Nursery Specific Messages

No news to report this week.

Welfare / Pastoral Messages

Registration form	Attendance this week	Attendance this academic year
1 Brunel	98.8%	94.9%
1 Stephenson	95.2%	96.4%
1 Whittle	95.7%	94.5%
2 Baird	99.0%	95.6%
2 Bell	96.2%	95.8%
2 Berners-Lee	95.7%	95.2%
3 Elgar	96.3%	95.1%
3 Holst	89.6%	95.4%
3 Lloyd-Webber	93.3%	95.0%
4 Anning	97.3%	94.2%
4 Hawking	92.9%	96.3%
4 Turing	93.5%	96.4%
5 Churchill	94.2%	94.6%
5 Pankhurst	95.0%	95.5%
5 Wilberforce	96.8%	93.9%
6 Drake	89.7%	95.7%
6 Nelson	92.3%	95.2%
6 Tull	96.9%	94.7%
Donaldson	95.3%	92.1%
R Jenner	89.5%	93.1%
R Nightingale	97.1%	94.3%
R Seacole	92.4%	94.8%
	Average: 94.7%	Average: 95.0%