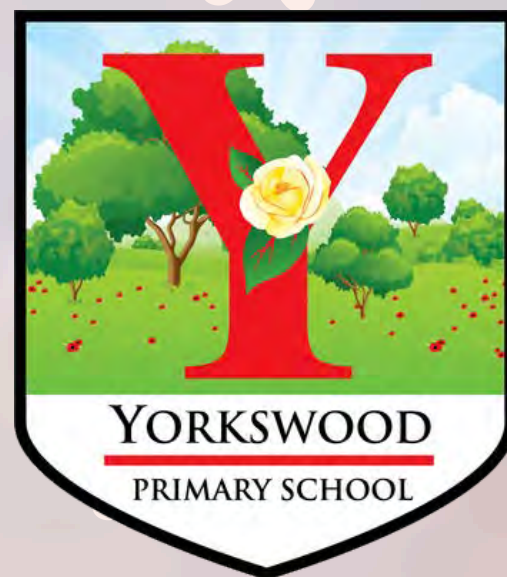


**Yorkswood
Primary
School
Newsletter
Spring 1 2026**





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Headteacher's Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers,

In this edition of our newsletter, I want to take a moment to pause and talk about 'The Why.' Why do we do what we do here at Yorkswood? Why do we push for high standards? Why is attendance so critical?

For me, this is personal. I grew up in an area very similar to Kingshurst. I know, first-hand, the difference it makes to have a school you can be proud of. I know the doors that open when you attend every day and commit to learning. My upbringing taught me that education is the key to choice and opportunity.

Our motivation—our 'why'—is your children. Our sole focus is to ensure they are provided with the absolute best opportunities for future success. I believe this success comes from three non-negotiables: having the best teachers, the best school environment, and the best provision for every single child.

Headteacher's Welcome

However, we cannot do this alone. Our collaborative goal must be to want the best for the children. This is exactly why it is so important to ensure your child is in school every day.

We have the provision ready and the teachers prepared, but we need the children here to unlock that potential. From the minute a child steps into our school—in some cases as babies in Brambles—they become part of the Yorkswood family.

We are privileged to be fundamental in their journey through childhood. Our job is to nurture them from those early steps right through to Year 6, ensuring that when they leave us, they leave as caring, ambitious young people, ready to thrive in their next steps of education and beyond.

Thank you for sharing this vision with us and for ensuring your child attends every day to be part of it.

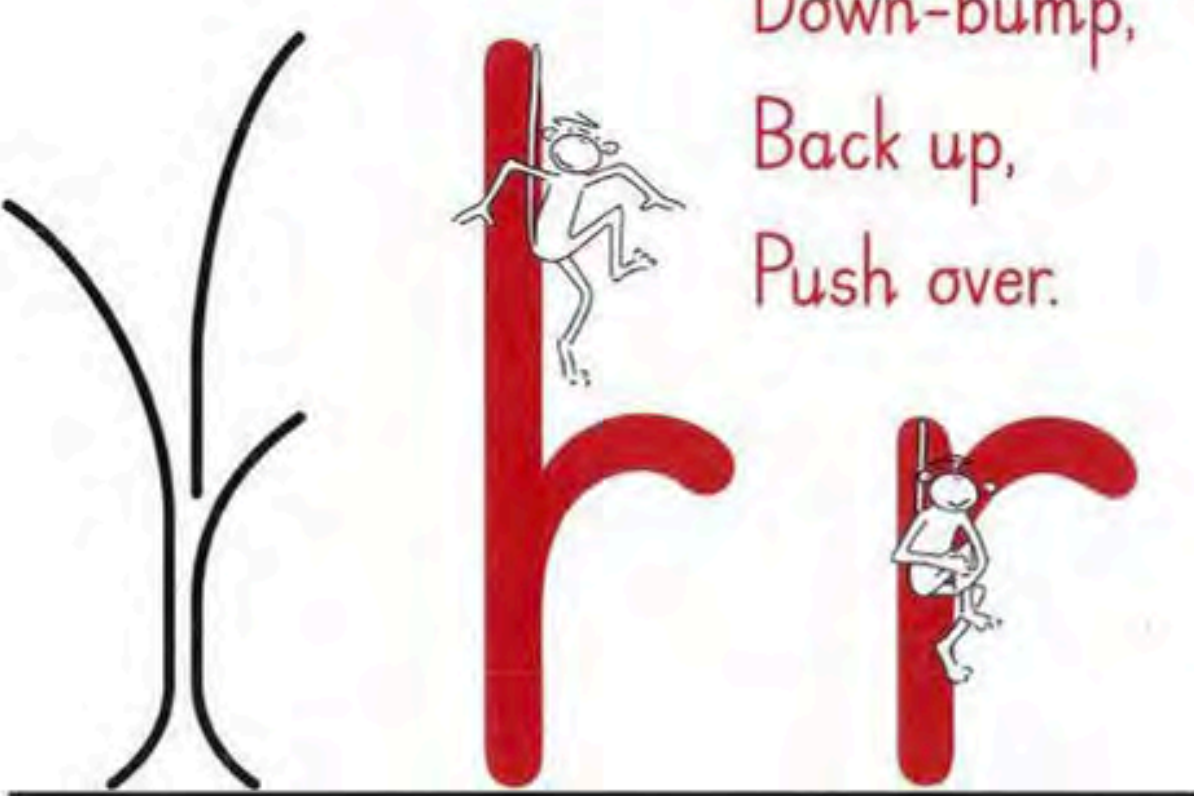
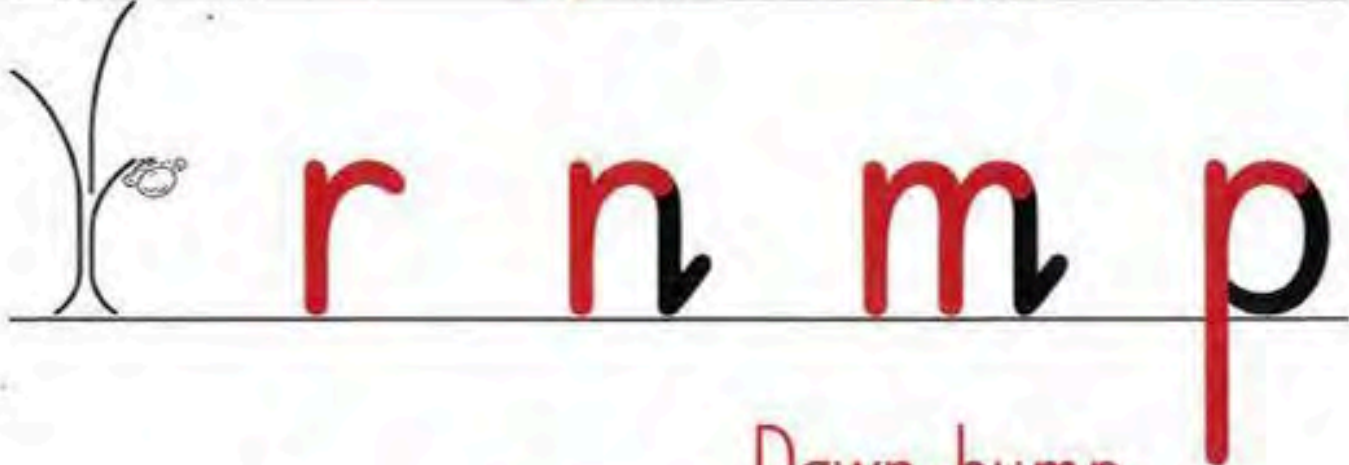
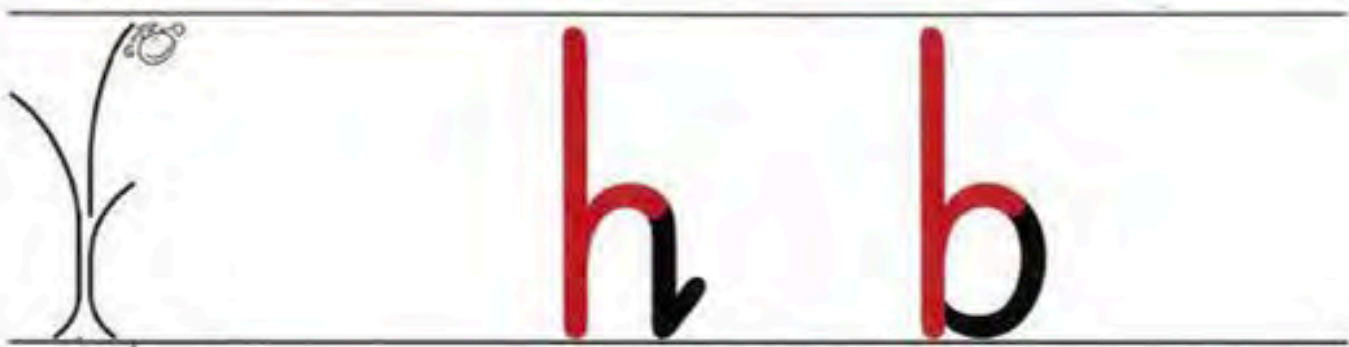
Mr Lawrence

Handwriting Revolution: Kinetic Letters

It's been a busy half-term at Yorkswood! We are thrilled to share Kinetic Letters, our new whole-school handwriting program.

What is it?

Kinetic Letters isn't just about neatness; it's a physical approach to writing. By focusing on core strength (like writing while lying on their tummies!) and specific movement patterns, we help students make letter formation second nature.



Down-bump,
Back up,
Push over.

✍️ Handwriting Revolution: Kinetic Letters

Why the change?

- **Brain Power:** When children don't have to worry about how to hold a pen, they can focus entirely on what they are writing.
- **Physical Ease:** Better posture means faster writing speeds and less hand fatigue.
- **Confidence:** Clearer handwriting leads to improved spelling and a massive boost in self-esteem.

Try this at home...

Ask your child to demonstrate their "Lizard Position" or tell you about the monkeys that help them start their letters. You'll be amazed at what they've learned!



SEN Update

Thank you to everyone who took the time to attend Parents' Meetings. I hope you found the meetings useful and informative.

I would also like to say how incredibly proud we are of **Tommy**, who was invited for **Afternoon Tea with the Mayor** after being nominated for *SEND Child of the Year*.

What a fantastic achievement – we hope you enjoyed your cake, Tommy!

As always, if you have any SEND questions or concerns that your child's class teacher is unable to help with, please do not hesitate to contact me. Wishing you and your families a happy and restful break.

Best wishes,
Miss L Boland

SEN Update

Upcoming Events at Yorkswood

- Please come along - Friday 20th March 2026 - SEN Coffee Morning - Autism Focus
- Autism Acceptance Month - April 2026 - We will be celebrating in school

Upcoming events in the Local Authority

- Solihull SEND Newsletter
<https://www.solihull.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2026-02/SEND-newsletter-January-26.pdf>

<https://senzzone.co.uk/> -

Our February monthly session and Solihull half-term sessions are now available to book.



SEND Child of the Year nominee



Well done



Attendance Update

Every Day Counts: Working Together for Better Attendance at Yorkswood

At Yorkswood Primary School, we believe that every day of school provides a new opportunity for our pupils to grow, learn, and gain confidence. However, our recent data shows that we have some work to do to ensure our children are meeting national attendance benchmarks.

The Current Picture

Currently, our year-to-date attendance stands at **91.3%**, which is below the national average of **94.6%**. We have also noticed a slight dip this term (90.7%) and a higher-than-average rate of "lates" at 7.9%. Most notably, attendance tends to drop on Mondays and Fridays.




Attendance Update

How We Are Supporting You

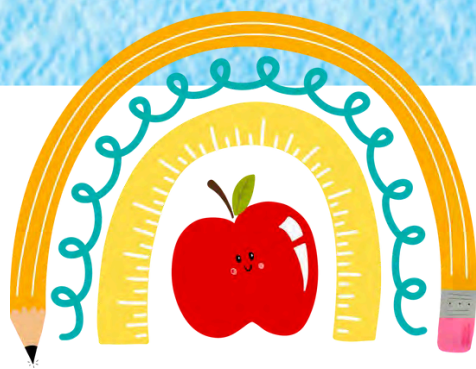
We aren't just looking at numbers; we are looking at the future of our children. To keep everyone informed, we have:

- Sent out a process letter explaining how absences are managed.
- Distributed individual attendance reports during Parents' Evening.
- Focused on celebrating those students hitting the **95%** or above mark!

We Are Here to Help We understand that sometimes getting children into school can be a challenge. If you are struggling, please reach out to us. Even small improvements in punctuality can make a world of difference to a child's progress. Let's work together to get Yorkswood back on track!



**Here
Everyday
Ready
Ontime**



Refreshing Our School Values

We are currently in the process of evolving our school identity.

Staff and pupils have been reviewing our existing "AICE" values (**A**chievement, **I**nclusion, **C**ommitment, and **E**njoyment).

While we are keeping the best elements of these core principles, we are creating a **new set of values** that reflects our current vision for the future of Yorkswood. Stay tuned—these new values will be launched very soon!



Upcoming Events

February 2026

16th - 20th February 2026

HALF TERM

23rd February 2026

Pupils return to school

23rd - 25th February 2026

Year 6 Residential Visit PGL

March 2026

5th March 2026

Year 1 Educational Visit to Twycross
Zoo

10th March 2026

Year 3 Educational Visit to Birmingham
Museum

11th March 2026

Year 6 Educational visit to Black
Country Museum

24th March

Nursery Educational visit to Atwell
Farm

27th March 2026

End of Term

Upcoming Events

April 2026

13th April 2026

INSET DAY

14th April

Pupils return to school

* Any additional new events will be shared on Class Dojo

