



NEWSLETTER: 18th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another busy and positive week at Irlam Primary, with children settling well into their classes and embracing the many opportunities that school life brings. We have been delighted to see so much enthusiasm for learning, friendships developing across the school and children demonstrating our values each day.

This week's newsletter contains some important reminders, celebrations and upcoming events. Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Working together helps us to provide the very best experiences for all of our children and ensures that our school remains a happy, safe and successful place to learn.

(Thank you to Sam Gorvett for sending us this fabulous photo of the rainbow sitting right over our school!! 😊)

Attendance Superstars

A huge well done to our attendance winners from last week:

🏆 3F - 100% Attendance

🏆 1S - 99.7% Attendance

What an incredible achievement! Thank you to our children and families for making attendance such a priority. Every day in school matters, and these figures are absolutely fabulous. Keep up the great work!

Nut-Free School Reminder

A reminder that we are a **nut-free school**. This includes products such as Nutella, hazelnut chocolate bars and any other foods containing nuts. We have children in school with serious nut allergies, and even small amounts of exposure can put their health at risk. We kindly ask all families to check packed lunches and snacks carefully before sending them into school. Thank you for helping us to keep all of our children safe.

Congratulations to Our New Head Boy and Head Girl!



We are delighted to announce that our new Head Boy and Head Girl are **Leo Cheung** and **Erin Hoyle**.

Congratulations to both pupils on this fantastic achievement. We are sure they will be wonderful ambassadors for our school and excellent role models for their peers.

There are still plenty of leadership roles and responsibilities to be allocated across the school, so watch this space for further announcements in the coming weeks!

Playfighting

We have recently noticed an increase in playfighting at breaktimes and before and after school. Whilst children may see this as pretending to be superheroes, wrestlers or characters from films and TV programmes, playfighting is not permitted in school. Unfortunately, what starts as a game can very quickly lead to someone getting hurt, becoming upset, or the situation escalating into a real disagreement. It also does not present a positive image of our school when members of the community are passing by our gates. Please speak to your child about this and remind them of our expectations. Children who continue to playfight will receive sanctions in line with our behaviour policy.



Parents' Evenings

Our Parents' Evenings will take place on:

 **Monday 19 October:** 3.30pm - 7.00pm

Tuesday 20 October: 3.30pm - 5.00pm



You will be notified when the online booking system opens so that you can reserve your appointment slot(s).

Parents' Evening provides an excellent opportunity to discuss how your child has settled into their new class, celebrate their achievements, review the progress they are making and raise any questions or concerns you may have. It is also a chance to look at some of the work your child has produced so far this year. **Nursery parents** will have informal drop-in sessions across these times, allowing families to pop in and chat with staff about how their child is settling in and the progress they have made so far.

Who's Who at Irlam Primary

Some useful reminders of staffing in school, should you need to contact anyone directly. Our email addresses are first name dot surname followed by @thelinkeducationtrust.co.uk ie elaine.darwin@thelinkeducationtrust.co.uk

Headteacher (HT): Elaine Darwin

Deputy Headteacher (DHT): Lindsey Caplan

Assistant Headteacher (AHT): *Lisa Freer*

Inclusion Manager/SENCO: *Amanda Power*

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): *Elaine Darwin*

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL): *Lindsey Caplan; Amanda Power*

Learning Mentor: *Anne Mackenzie*

Business Manager: *Joanne Higham*

Office Administrator: *Clare Rollings*

Attendance Officer: *Lisa Freer*

Subject Leaders

English & Phonics: *Hannah Sidebotham*

Mathematics: *Jane Halstead*

Science: *Carol Barnes*

Assessment: *Daniel Watson*

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS): *Helen Gee*

Computing: *Jamie Hinton*

History: *Dianne Gettings*

Geography: *Caroline Parsonage*

Art & Design: *Andrea Sutherden*

Design & Technology: *Helen Nation*

Music: *Lisa Freer*

Physical Education (PE): *Jamie Hinton*

Religious Education (RE): *Angela Duncombe*

PSHE / RSHE: *Angharad Lowes/Chloe Smith*

Modern Foreign Languages (MFL): *Rachel Bennett*

Dates for Your Diary

Mon 21 st Sept	Rev Jackson to lead assembly Brass workshops for Y3-Y6 (added recently)
Tues 22 nd Sept	ICA to Y5/6 assembly Year 1 Geography walk round the local area (added recently)
Mon 28 th Sept	Brass workshops for Y3-Y6 (added recently)
Fri 2 nd Oct	Dress to Express! (Children can come in anything they love to wear! Provided it's suitable for primary school!!) £1 donation towards the Xmas Fair.
Fri 9 th Oct	Wear something yellow with your school uniform – to celebrate Mental Health Day. (Socks / hairbands/badges/ bangles/ yellow face stripes)
Mon 12 th Oct	British Values Week in school
Tues 13 th Oct	Individual Photographs
Mon 19 th Oct	Parents' Evening 3.30-7pm Launch Day for Rocksteady Music Crew (added recently)
Tues 20 th Oct	Parents' Evening 3.30-5pm
Wed 21 st Oct	Flu Jabs
Fri 23 rd Oct	Non Uniform Day – Collection of bottles for our Christmas Fair Parent assembly for Year 1 at 9.15am Break up for half term at 3.15pm and return to school on Tuesday 3 rd November at 8.45am.
Tues 3 rd Nov	Anti-Bullying week
Fri 6 th Nov	Collection of sweets for the Christmas Fair – winning class to receive a cinema afternoon in school. (No jars please – due to allergens in school; thank you)

Mon 9 th Nov	Talk Consent to Y6: workshop for primary pupils on 'Challenging sexism and harmful stereotypes.'
Wed 11 th Nov	School Discos for KS1 and KS2 (details nearer the time)
Mon 16 th Nov	Collection throughout the week of toiletries or anything that we can use as a raffle prize for the Fair – in return for a chance to enter our prize draw on Friday! Each donation gets a raffle ticket.
Wed 18 th Nov	Open Evening for all new Nursery starters in September 2027 (5-6.30pm)
Fri 20 th Nov	Children in Need – crazy hair/ spots day! Donations to -CIN
Fri 27 th Nov	Collection of chocolate/s for the Fair – and wear your slippers in school for the day!
Fri 4 th Dec	Collection of sweets/cakes for the Fair – in exchange for non uniform day!
Sat 6 th Dec	CHRISTMAS FAIR 11am-1pm
Wed 9 th Dec	10am Carols at St Johns with the Choir – parents welcome! Evening Carol Concert (6.30-8pm)
Thurs 10 th Dec	Christmas Nativity for Reception parents at 9.15am
Tues 15 th Dec	Breakfast with Santa - 8am – details nearer the time
Wed 16 th Dec	Breakfast with Santa - 8am – details nearer the time am: EYFS party Pm: LKS2 party
Thur 17 th Dec	Xmas Jumper Day / Christmas Bingo am: KS1 party pm: UKS2 party
Fri 18 th Dec	Wear something Christmassy! Break up for Christmas at 3.15pm and return to school on Tuesday 5 th January

Wishing You a Wonderful Weekend

As we end another successful week, I would like to thank our pupils, staff and families for the kindness, positivity and support that make Irlam Primary such a special community.

Our whole-school theme this week has been **Belonging**, and it is worth remembering that everyone plays a part in helping others feel welcomed, valued and included. Sometimes the smallest acts of kindness can make the biggest difference.

Thought for the Weekend

"Belonging isn't about fitting in; it's about being accepted, valued and appreciated for who you are. When we help others feel that they belong, we build stronger communities together."

Take time this weekend to enjoy being with family and friends, reflect on the people and places where you feel you belong, and think about how you can help others feel included too.

Have a lovely weekend everyone!

Mrs Darwin 😊

