



**Respect – Responsibility - Resilience – Kindness – Teamwork**

## Mrs Thirkill's Blog 12.09.25

Good afternoon,

Our Brilliant Beginning this week really was Brilliant. We had the outstanding 'Singing children of Kenya choir.' They really were unbelievable and created such a fabulous energy and positivity in our school. A huge thank you to Bradford College and Mrs Nutting for arranging that for us. We also worked with Toby from the Walsh Academy, and the children love the drama workshops. Our steel band were fantastic, and the children loved experimenting on the pans. Mrs Dawson was brilliant as always with her dance workshops. We all enjoyed making African masks and jewellery. A huge thank you to everybody involved for making it such a fabulous day.



In addition to our Brilliant Beginning, Years 5 and 6 visited Salts Mill this week to launch their learning for this half term on Saltaire and the Victorians. The children were fabulous, and we were complimented on their brilliant attitude. We also had our Hedgehog visitor in this week. Our key stage 1 children loved that. We had some fabulous hedgehog hairstyles, and we donated to the charity.



What a fantastic second week to the term!

We will be opening the library to families on a Monday morning from 8.20 if any children would like to come and choose a book. Our book trolley is available at the end of each day, and adult books are available in our reception area.

Thank you to all of the families who attended our Year 4 residential meeting. We hope that we will be taking all of Year for on the wonderful trip. Any queries, please speak to Miss Lockwood or Mrs Thirkill. We will ensure our PowerPoint is sent home.

A huge improvement to attendance this week, back up to 97.5. With both Year 5 classes on 100%.

Target 96%	Owls	Beech	Aspen	Sycamore	Ash	Hazel	Birch	Willow	Rowan	Oak	Maple
School average 97.5%	97.3	98.3	99.2	98.3	98.2	94.8	95.5	100	100	93.6	97.5

We all know that lost learning, leads to lower academic outcomes. There is an interesting document which shows the high correlation between success at the end of primary school and lifetime earnings.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6867d497fe1a249e937cbcdb/Key\\_Stage\\_2\\_attainment\\_and\\_lifetime\\_earnings\\_research\\_report\\_-\\_July\\_25.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6867d497fe1a249e937cbcdb/Key_Stage_2_attainment_and_lifetime_earnings_research_report_-_July_25.pdf)

Last year we made great improvements with persistent lateness. This week we have seen an increase in lateness with 6.5 hours in total lost learning. Being late to school can have a considerable impact over the whole school year. The table below shows you just how much time can be missed over a year just by being 5 minutes late to school every day:

<b>5 minutes late every day = 3 days of school lost a year</b>
<b>10 minutes late every day = 6.5 days of school lost a year</b>
<b>15 minutes late every day = 10 days of school lost a year</b>
<b>20 minutes late every day = 13 days of school lost a year</b>
<b>30 minutes late every day = 19 days of school lost a year</b>

We understand that the school mornings can be hectic, but when your child is late for school, they are missing vital parts of their education. If your child arrives 30 minutes after the register has been taken, they will have an “unauthorised” late mark – this is the same as an “unauthorised absence”!

I would really like to encourage new members to join our PTA. We have a number of fabulous members now who do so much for our school, and we are incredibly grateful.

We would like to further expand the PTA team, for the benefit of all our children. If you think you could support our very welcoming and generous PTA, email [friendsofhoylecourt@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofhoylecourt@gmail.com) Please come and join us and see how you can support our school.

Each week we would really like it is you could share the blog with your children. If your child knows the word of the week, on Monday morning they will add an extra dojo.

**Word of the week - Brilliant**

Have a fabulous weekend.

Mrs Thirkill