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Wensley Fold CE Primary Academy

"Make Each Day Count"

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WENSLEY WEEKLY

Thursday 13 February 2025

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www.wensleyfold.co.uk

User Name: parent Password: parent

Dear Parent

WEEKLY VALUE

In our final week of looking at the value of courage, we talked about all the things that people are often afraid of such as heights, spiders and flying. We talked about how we should not be afraid as our God is always with us. We watched the story of 'Daniel in the Lion's Den'.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I8tXENptCS0>

HALF TERM HOLIDAY

School will close tomorrow (Friday) at 3.15pm for the half term break and re-open on Monday 24 February 2025. Clubs will run as normal on Friday.

FASTING – RAMADHAN

As the holy month of Ramadan approaches for many of our families we have thought about how we, as a school, are able to offer to support children choosing to fast on school days.

Children in Years 5 and 6 will be able to fast in school if they choose.

The children will remain in their classroom and spend the time quietly. They may use this time to reflect and can bring some books from home if they wish.

Once the Years 5 and 6 children not fasting have finished lunch and are back on the playground then the children who are fasting will join them again for the rest of the lunch break outside.

Some families would prefer their children to fast on specific days. Please could you confirm via letter or email by the **Friday before each new week** to confirm which days your child will be fasting and then we can sort staffing out for supervision for the week ahead.

If we have not had confirmation from the parent by the Friday before then the children will not be able to fast. It is important that we have numbers in advance so that we can arrange staffing accordingly.

If you are choosing to pick your child up to take them home at lunchtime then please let us know via email or letter by the Friday before.

Thank you for your support in helping us to ensure this runs smoothly.

If you have any questions about any of this then please do not hesitate to contact us.

PARENTS EVENING

As the majority of our parents will be taking part in Ramadan when our Parents' Evening was due to take place in March, we have taken the decision to postpone until Thursday 3 April (after Ramadan and Eid).

YEAR 2 FOREST SCHOOLS

After the half-term holiday, the 'Deers' and 'Foxes' in Year 2C will take part in Forest Schools on Wednesday and the 'Deers' and 'Foxes' in Year 2W will take part in Forest Schools on Thursday.

As this is outdoor teaching, children will need an old jumper, old jogging bottoms, warm socks to change into (these will be sent home at the end of the day), wellingtons (which will stay in school) & a waterproof coat with hood and gloves. Thank you.

YEAR 6 SATS BOOKS

Year 6 SATS books will be available to order on ParentPay from tomorrow (Friday). Thank you.

YEAR 6B HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

Year 6B will be visiting the Houses of Parliament on Wednesday 26 February - Parents must drop their child off at Preston Railway station for 6.35am and pick up at 7.40pm. Children should wear their school uniform. Please see letter sent home today. Thank you.

YEAR 1 EUREKA

As part of their topic on Science, Year 1 will be visiting Eureka Children's Museum in Halifax on Thursday 27 February, where they will have fun learning about the human body and how the organs & senses work. Children should wear their school uniform. A packed lunch will be provided by school; however children may bring a packed lunch from home if they wish in a named carrier bag, but please indicate clearly on the consent page on ParentPay. The cost of this trip will be £19.50. Please pay on ParentPay by Friday 21 February. Thank you.

YEAR 5 WESTHOLME

All children in Year 5 will be going to Westholme school tomorrow (Friday), where they will attend an online safety assembly and take part in various activities.

PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP

Come along to our Parent and Toddler group every Thursday at 8.45am-9.45am in the school hall. A chance to meet other parents and have a fun time with your little ones.

We have the following activities next half-term:

06 Mar	-	World Book Day
13 Mar	-	Forest School
20 Mar	-	Physical activities
27 Mar	-	Let's Get Creative
03 Apr	-	Eid Party

RECEPTION & NURSERY FUND

Reception and Nursery fund is now due for the Spring Term. If you have not already paid for the year, please pay £5 at the school office. Thank you.

MILK

Milk money is now due for the Autumn Term for all infant children; however all Reception children will receive free milk up to the term in which they have their 5th birthday. Please can parents online on ParentPay. Thank you.

100 BOOKS READING CHALLENGE

If you would like to sign up for the 100 books reading challenge, registration forms are available from Mr Desai in the school library after school. Please note the library is open to specific year groups on certain days from 3.15pm - 3.30pm



Monday	-	Reception classes and/or siblings
Tuesday	-	Years 1 and 2
Wednesday	-	CLOSED
Thursday	-	Years 3 and 4
Friday	-	Years 5 and 6

HALF TERM ACTIVITIES

If you have signed your child up to any of the activities please check the confirmation email for all the details. Please note reminders are not always sent next week again for each activity. The confirmation email gives you all the information you need to know.

BLACKBURN TOWN CENTRE HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Please see the link (<https://bit.ly/FebMarketFlyer25>) for a copy of all the different free activities which are taking place in the town centre over the holidays. This includes places like Blackburn Library, Blackburn Market and Blackburn Museum. Please remember if your child is a member of Blackburn Children's University and they attend any of these to pick up a slip so they can collect a stamp in their passport. Please note at Blackburn Museum you can also get their passport stamped there instead. If for any reason there are no slips available please drop Sara Burton a message on 07805929965.

FEBRUARY HALF TERM CHALLENGES

A copy of these challenges from Blackburn Children's University have been sent out. If your child completes any over the holidays please ensure you send the evidence to Sara Burton via s.burton@wensleyfold.blackburn.sch.uk or 07805929965. You must still remember to send your child's CU passport in to school so it can be updated after the holidays, please post in the BLUE CU box at the school office. If you prefer you can send the evidence of the challenges into school together with your child's CU passport so it can be checked and updated after the holidays.

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE FESTIVALS BOOK AWARDS

Does your child love to read? Would they like to be a judge for the Children's Literature Festivals Book Awards? We are working in partnership with Blackburn with Darwen Library Service and looking for children from Years 1 – 6 to be judges for this award. This would involve them reading as many books as they can over the next 3 months. Once they have read a book they would have to complete a review sheet. They will also be able to collect hours for Children's University! Please see the email sent earlier this week with more details on. If you would like to register your child to take part in the Children's Literature Festivals Book Awards please complete this short online form: <https://bit.ly/ChildrenLitFestival25>. Those who have already registered have been issued with their first book. If you register now your child will be given their first book after half term.

BLACKBURN CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY GRADUATION – SAVE THE DATE

Blackburn Children's University Graduation will be taking place this year on Saturday 12 July 2025. Please save the date!



Attendance Matters - Make Each Day Count!



0 days of school missed	100%	Outstanding	Excellent chance of success and progress in learning and future.
Equates to 2 days in a school year	99%	Excellent	
Equates to 5 days in a school year	97%	Good	Good chance of success and progress in learning and future.
Equates to 10 days off school each year	95%	Slight Concern	Less chance of success. Harder to make progress.
Equates to 20 days off school each year	90%	Concerned- Persistent absence	Detrimental effect on success and progress
Equates to 30 days off school each year	85%	Very concerned	

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

Top Tips for SETTING BOUNDARIES AROUND GAMING

If your child loves video games, then you'll probably be aware that how long they spend gaming – and what they're actually playing – can occasionally become a source of concern or conflict. The UK's trade body for interactive entertainment, Ukie, has recently launched a campaign to promote safer and more responsible gaming among young people – with parents and carers helping by setting sensible and fair boundaries. Our guide has tips on key areas where you could agree some healthy ground rules for your child's gaming activity.

PROMOTE SAFER GAME CHOICES

Deciding which online games are OK – and which should be avoided – is tricky. Some titles allow children to cooperate or compete with strangers, which creates potential risks. Watching your child play online for a while could provide more insight into a particular game, while the parental controls on most consoles allow you to limit who can chat to your child or send them friend requests. Remind your child of the hazards around strangers online when you discuss this boundary with them.

ENCOURAGE REGULAR BREAKS

Help your child understand the need to take regular breaks, playing in shorter bursts rather than marathon sessions. Bear in mind that some games (such as role-playing games) require time investment from the player, while others (online team games, for example) can't be stopped or paused at a moment's notice. A quick break every hour or so is good practice, and you could suggest some things to do in these breaks, such as having a drink of water or getting some fresh air.

AGREE SPENDING LIMITS

There's no doubt that gaming can be expensive, and younger players often don't realise how much paying for digital items and subscriptions can add up to. Many young gamers love to buy new skins or upgrades for their character, so you could settle on a fixed amount that your child is allowed to spend on in-game items each week or month. This sort of boundary will not only help your child to manage their expectations but will also make you more aware of the price of these items.

DISCUSS AGE RATINGS

Children often ignore the age ratings on games – or are unaware they even exist. If you're happy with your child playing a particular game even though it's rated above their age, then establish that as a boundary: emphasise that you've made an exception, and talk about what age ratings mean and why they're important. You could add context to this boundary by browsing games' boxes together while shopping, discussing why some games might have earned certain age ratings.

FACTOR IN FRIENDS

If your child is a keen video gamer, the chances are that they'll have other gamers among their social circle, too. When friends visit, do they instantly dash to their console or computer? You could put boundaries in place before their guests arrive by agreeing on a length of gaming time. Bear in mind, though, that they may try to extend this once they're together. Try coming up with activities or challenges for them during screen breaks – if they join in, they earn a little extra time on their game.

ENJOY GAMING TOGETHER

Setting time aside to play video games together can be an enjoyable bonding exercise. Undeniably, some young gamers may be less enthusiastic about a parent or carer joining in, but it can be a productive way of encouraging them to share their hobby with you. Setting goals or tasks might be useful if they love Minecraft, choose something to build together; if Fortnite's their favourite, ask to try out some of the fun game modes, like Prop Hunt, which don't require high skill levels.

TALK ABOUT EMOTIONS

Help your child to monitor their emotions as they play. Discuss what is (and isn't) an acceptable level of competitiveness to show while gaming. Are they allowed to trash talk other players, for example? Can they notice when they get angry if they lose? Do they think these emotions are healthy? Some games can provoke anger, but others can bring joy, humour and the thrill of overcoming a challenge. Try to steer your child towards games that tend to produce these more positive feelings.

BE PREPARED FOR TROLLS

A frequent problem when gaming online is other players who are deliberately troublesome. Make sure your child knows how to report and block someone who makes their experience a negative one. Between you, decide if or how they should deal with these online trolls. Talk about where your child's boundaries are in terms of what they think is acceptable: what behaviour by other users is merely frustrating, and what crosses the line to become upsetting or abusive.

Meet Our Expert

Daniel Upcombe is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web3. He has also written 18 guidesbooks for children, covering games such as Fortnite, Minecraft, Roblox and Minecraft. His work has been published by the likes of PC Gamer, Games, Pocket Gamer and VG247. He has reviewed more than 90 games and products over the past year.

Source: <https://npat.app/about/privacy-5194>

#WakeUpWednesday

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