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Wensley Fold CE Primary Academy

"Make Each Day Count"

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WENSLEY WEEKLY
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www.wensleyfold.co.uk

User Name: parent Password: parent

Dear Parent

WELCOME BACK

We hope everyone has enjoyed the summer holidays and the gorgeous weather we have had!! We extend a big welcome to all our new children and families. We look forward to another happy and successful year here at Wensley Fold. This term we welcome Mrs Morrissey as Year 4M teacher, Mrs Ali as Year 3A teacher and Mrs Blezard as Year 1B teacher (who is covering Mrs Hibbert's maternity leave). We also welcome Mrs Bhai, teaching assistant, who some of you may know from nursery and Miss Sheth our new apprentice. We look forward to working with them all.

Kind regards
Amanda Whittingham
Headteacher

WEEKLY VALUE

At the start of the new year we have been looking at one of our new values of 'Aspiration' - Having hope for the future'.

We have talked about how a new year is a new beginning where we think about what we want to achieve and improve with the support of all around us.

We will be sharing our new school values with all parents at our 'Meet the Teacher Meetings' in the coming weeks.

PE KIT

All children can come to school dressed in their PE/sport uniform on PE days and club days if they are taking part in a sports club and Fridays if they are taking part in a sporting enrichment activity.

Children should wear plain black joggers or shorts, plain white t-shirt, school jumper for children in KS1 and school hoody for children in KS2, plain black or white trainers or pumps. Please see timetable below for your child's PE day from next week.

Monday	1B, 2W, 3A	Reception will start coming in PE kit on their third week in school w/c 15/9/25
Tuesday	RS, 5B, 5S	
Wednesday	6HW, 6G	
Thursday	1A, 2C, 3B,	
Friday	RQ, 4K, 4M	

MR ALI – YEAR 1A

A huge congratulations to Mr Ali Year 1A teacher who got married over the summer. We all wish him a lifetime of happiness.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Last term we asked for your views on extending the times of our breakfast club. We had only 4 responses to the request so it seems, at this time, there is not sufficient interest or need for the current times to change.

Thank you for responses to the request.

APPOINTMENTS IN SCHOOL TIME

Over the last school year we have seen a large increase in the number of children taking time out of school to attend appointments. Whilst some of these appointments such as hospital appointments are unavoidable, could we very kindly request that you try to book things like dentist and doctor's appointments in the school holidays or after school where possible.

This means we are able to maximise learning time for all children and ensure that we 'Make Each Day Count'.

Thank you for our support with this. It is much appreciated.

ABSENCE

As I am sure you are aware, every school across the country is tasked with improving school attendance for all children as figures for attending school have not yet reached pre- covid levels. Whilst our attendance at Wensley Fold continues to improve, we still have children identified as 'of concern' which is below 96% attendance and children who are identified as 'persistently absent' which is any attendance figure of below 90% (20 days off across the school year). Research shows absence from school has a long- term detrimental effect on success and progress. Absence/ Persistent absence may arise from an unauthorised extended holiday, a longer period of illness or a number of small periods of time off school. As a school we are monitored by the Department for Education on how we work to support families with poorer attendance and the DFE monitors if figures are improving. Last year it was also identified that in our school there was a pattern of Monday being the day when we had most children off. Therefore, we have been asked to monitor this particularly carefully to ensure there is an improvement in this figure. If we

recognise a pattern of absence on a Monday in a child's attendance record we will contact the family to support in improving this specific problem.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring attendance at Wensley Fold is the very best it can be. If children are in school we can continue to ensure that they receive the very best education, achieve to the very best of their ability and make each day count.

Mrs Whittingham

WOW - WALK TO SCHOOL CHALLENGE

We are continuing with the walk to school travel tracker. As we are starting again in our new academic year, please can we ask that children who have previously been awarded a badge leave them at home for their collection as they strive to earn a new one! Thank you.

SCHOOL LUNCHES

Please can you book your school lunches if you have not already done so. All new parents have received their ParentPay log in to enable them to book lunches. Please can we remind you that if you don't order they will receive a jacket potato. Thank you.

KS2 SCHOOL HOODY

Can we apologise to KS2 parents who have not been able to buy a hoody from Whittakers, this was due to a mix up. They will be available to buy in 3 weeks' time, just in time for the cold weather! Thank you.

YEAR 4 SWIMMING

Year 4 will be having swimming lessons at Blackburn Leisure Centre, starting from next Thursday 11 September. They will need their swimming kit including a cap and a swimming towel.

FOREST SCHOOL

All children will be taking part in Forest Schools with Miss Dornan. This term it will be Years 1 & 4. As this is outdoor teaching, children will need an old jumper & old jogging bottoms 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. Please see the timetable below for the Autumn Term.

Day	Class
Monday	1A
Tuesday	4M
Wednesday	4M
Thursday	1B

15 children from each class will take part in the first half-term, the remaining children will take part in the second half-term. Children will be notified.

LABELLING OF CLOTHES

We cannot stress how crucial it is to ensure that **ALL** clothes and belongings are clearly labelled. This is particularly important when it comes to PE kit and detachable hoods. It can be very distressing for children if they mislay items of their school uniform. A lot of belongings including glasses were donated to a local charity shop as they were not labelled or claimed. Overall it will cost you a great deal more in replacing the items, so please, please **LABEL THEM!!** Thank you.

HAIR

Children with longer than shoulder length hair must tie their hair back fully at all times so that all of the hair is tied up. This is to prevent the spread of head lice and for health & safety. Plain blue or black hairbands only are permitted. Extreme haircuts and colours are not permitted

FOOTWEAR

The school wants all children to grow into healthy adults. We believe that it is dangerous for children to wear shoes that have platform soles or high heels, so we do not allow children to wear such shoes in our school. Neither do we allow children to wear trainers to school; this footwear is appropriate for sport or playtime, but is not in keeping with the smart appearance of a school uniform. We ask that all children wear shoes as stated in the uniform list. We request that shoes are plain black with no flashing lights or any other attachments eg on the laces as this can provide a distraction.

UP TO DATE CONTACT NUMBERS & PARENTMAIL

Please can parents make sure that the school office has all up to date contact numbers, particularly mobile numbers, changes to email addresses and any change of postal address has been notified. If you have downloaded the Parent Mail app then you will **need to update your numbers/email addresses yourselves**, failure to do this will mean you will not receive any texts or emails from school Thank you.

MEDICATION AND MEDICAL UPDATES

Please ensure you bring any medication for this academic year in for your child. Medication from last year was collected or disposed of and therefore new medication in school is needed. Please bring the labelled, prescribed medication in to the office to complete the appropriate forms.

Our data tells us that there may be children with asthma where school have not been made aware. Asthma can be life threatening if not managed correctly and therefore it is

important to be diagnosed and medicated correctly. Please ensure you let us know if your child has asthma.

Please see below a link for a child-friendly video about asthma:

<https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?q=asthma+bi+bad+wolf+video&&mid=4FCABFE34D1313C3DAF34FCABFE34D1313C3DAF3&FORM=VAMGZC>

See our website for the English and Urdu versions of Asthma friendly schools information.

MEET THE TEACHER

All parents will have the opportunity to meet their child's new teacher on the following days next week:

Monday 8 September at 2.45pm for children in Years 5 and 6

Tuesday 9 September at 2.45pm for children in Years 3 & 4

Wednesday 10 September at 2.45pm for children in Years 1 & 2

Thursday 11 September at 2.45pm for children in Reception

All parents of children who attend the nursery will have the opportunity to meet the teacher tomorrow (please see email sent yesterday). Thank you.

NURSERY – YEAR 6 FLU IMMUNISATION

The vaccination team will be coming into school on Friday 21 November to administer flu vaccinations to all children in Nursery – Year 6.

Please complete the consent form sent home with your child today (even if you do not wish your child to have the immunisation), and return to school by Friday 17 October. Thank you.

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 this half-term:

11 Sept	-	Let us make friends
18 Sept	-	Let us get creative
25 Sept	-	Forest School
02 Oct	-	Messy Play
09 Oct	-	Role Play

PRIMARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS 2026

If your child's 5th birthday is between 1 September 2026 and 31 August 2027 you need to make arrangements **NOW** for admission in September 2026. You must now apply using the online application at www.blackburn.gov.uk/admissions. The closing date for the applications is 15 January 2026.

SECONDARY ADMISSIONS 2026

Parent of children in Year 6 must now apply for their child's secondary school for September 2026 using the online application at www.blackburn.gov.uk/admissions The closing date for the applications is **31 October 2025.**

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	–	Year 1 classes and/or siblings
Wednesday	-	Year 2 classes and/or siblings
Thursday	–	Year 3 classes and/or siblings
Friday	–	Years 4,5 & 6 classes and/or siblings

SCHOOL CLUBS

Please note there will be 2 signs up for clubs next week:

- Monday 8th September for Golden Ticket children (names below)
- Tuesday 9th September for everyone else - please note if a club does not appear this may mean it is full from the previous morning.

Please note clubs have to be added individually so they will gradually become available during the 15 minutes (7.30am – 7.45am) each morning so please keep checking.

Places are offered on a first come first serve basis on ParentPay and clubs will be available until Wednesday 10th September (if there are still spaces).

Information on all the clubs which are available have been emailed out and also put on the School App. Please note that some clubs are invite only. Please read all the information that has been sent. If you have any questions please contact Sara Burton on s.burton@wensleyfold.blackburn.sch.uk or 07805929965 (please leave a message if no answer).

Please note a few points below:

- Clubs cost £7 per club, per term, except cooking club which will be £10.
- All children who have qualified for a GOLDEN TICKET are printed below. Please note to qualify for a Golden Ticket your child must not have missed any golden time throughout the previous term as well having **100%** punctuality and at least **98%** attendance. Please note in line with government targets we have changed the attendance to 98% as this now classed as good attendance.

- If you feel like your child should have qualified for a golden ticket, but their name has not been printed below you must inform the school office by 3pm this Friday 5 September. The school cannot deal with any of these queries after this time.
- Some clubs are invite only. Those invited to any of these clubs will be sent a separate email and further details on signing up.
- Due to staffing restraints we do not have as many clubs available. Therefore, each child is able to attend a maximum of **TWO** clubs, unless there are still spaces after 3pm on Wednesday 10 September.
- If your child has been personally chosen / selected to attend a club please check the email sent for this as to whether this club would be counted in their TWO club allocation.
- Choir club for Years 3 - 6 is not included in the 2 club allocation. You can sign up for choir club now on ParentPay.
- For the Years 5 and 6 Boys' Football club there will be trials which will have taken place at lunchtime today. Emails with further details will be sent by tomorrow to those who have attended the trials.
- If your child is their classes School Council Representative they will attend this club once a month during the school day.
- If your child has been nominated as their class Eco Warrior you will receive a separate email to sign them up to the after-school club for this.
- Please see the attached letter for further details. Please do ensure you read this so you are aware of how the school clubs work.

GOLDEN TICKETS

Those children who have qualified for a GOLDEN TICKET this term are below. If you have any queries about this please speak to the office no later than **3pm THIS Friday 5 September (tomorrow)**. *The school cannot deal with any of these queries after this time.* To qualify for a **Golden Ticket** your child must not have missed any golden time throughout the previous term as well having **100% punctuality** and at least **98% attendance**.

1A	1H	2C	2W
Aizah Noor Ali	Haniya Ashiq	Leo George	Sumaiya Ahmed
Fatima-Zahra Ali	Eesa Dudhia	Aysha Gorji	Haniya Basharat
Zahraa Mirza	Isaac Gaskell	Anisah Hanif	Husnain Fiaz
	Anaya Khan	Maariya Ismail	Iyah-Nur Hussain
	Maryam Mahmood	Hafsah Mazafar	Muhammad-Armaan Iqbal
	Sara Patel	Fatimah Namaji	Yasser Ismail
		Muhammad Patel	Amnah Khan

		Zoya Subani	Yusairah Mansoor
		Halimah Suleman	Umar Hassan Mohammed
			Khadija Sadiq
			Ayaan Waris
3B	3S	4K	4S
Hidayah Ahmed	Humairah Ahmed	Ayesha Asghar	Talal Afzal
Zunairah Ali	Muhib Ashiq	Inaaya Asghar	Ibrahim Ahmed
Unaisah Bux	Aisha Basharat	Isabelle Bracewell	Fatimah Banglawala
Aaryan Hussain	Khadija Choksi	Madinah Chandia	Hussain Inam
Hasnain Hussain	Sana Gorji	Safa Noor Hussain	Saihaan Mohsin
Eesa Ijaz	Noah Hide	Adam Khansia	Zainab Shahid
Abu Bakr Iqbal		Aminah Mahmood	
Hamza Khan		Ahmedraza Patel	
Aashir Khurshid		Fatima Sadiq	
Mariam Shuayb		Abuzahr Younis	
Hamzah Sultan			
Zahra Waseem			
5H	5M		
Maryam Adalat	Aneeqa Ahmed		
Hashir Adnan	Eesha-Noor Arshad		
Yahya Ahmed	Fiza Batool		
Safaa Dudhia	Aditya Jetha		
Keyaan Hanif	Arham Khurshid		
Elliot Hide	Hanzalah Mansoor		
Haniya Inam	Aamna Mazafar		
Safa Noor Iqbal	Khadijah Patel		
Hibba Khaliq	Rayhan Qasim		
Mehreen Shazad	Abdurraheem Safdar		
Aisha Sultan	Abdullah Sharif		
Jacob West			

SUMMER HOLIDAY CHALLENGES AND ACTIVITIES

If your child has completed any of the CU Challenges or any activities at the library (including the summer reading challenge) 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, 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.

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

There is still time to complete the summer reading challenge at the library if you have not already done so. The deadline for the challenge is 30th September.

CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY MEMBERSHIP

If your child is NOT already a member of Blackburn Children's University and you would like to sign them up, you can do so now on ParentPay. Membership is £4 and is open to all children in Years 1 – 6. Please see the email sent out with more information on. Please only sign them up if you have not done so previously. The deadline for signing up is Wednesday 24 September. All CU passports will be issued to new members **after this date**.

LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

Please see below details for a couple of events that are coming up in October. Please note the locations for these:

Suitcase Stories - The Seven Ravens

A Raven visits a young girl. Why are the birds gathering? And what is the secret that Ada learns about her past? Inspired by the Brothers Grimm fairy tale, this tells the story of Ada who is visited by a Raven and thrust into a dream world of quests, feathers and a Glass Mountain.

Join us on a tiny world adventure over an extraordinary, felted landscape as Ada unlocks the secret the Raven is trying to tell her.

The Seven Ravens is a tiny show for age 6+. The entire story takes place within a suitcase.

- Mill Hill Library, Wednesday 29th October, 10.30 am
- Tickets free, but please book in advance due to limited space. Voluntary donations to the Rekindle project will be welcome at this performance
- Online booking at <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/spot-on-rural-touring/t-krvppeg>
- Further details in next month's newsletter

Knotted Hawk presents The Quest for Planet P

Follow Ozmo & Orbi, two brave little aliens, as they set off on an amazing journey to find the perfect planet!

When cracks start appearing and chaos hits their world, the grown-up aliens can't agree on how to fix things. So, it's up to Ozmo & Orbi to lead the way and find a new, perfect planet to live on. Along the way, they discover that the solution might be closer to home than they think.

A heartfelt, dynamic and inspiring story about fighting for the planet we love and showing how even the smallest voices can make a BIG impact.

This is a brand new, interactive dance theatre show by Knotted Hawk for children under 10 & their grownups.

- Roman Road Library, Thursday 30th October, 10 am

- Tickets: £3.00
- Online booking at <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/spot-on-rural-touring/t-krvprlj>

WEST PENINE NETBALL CLUB

Does your child want to try or develop her netball skills? Why not take them down to this taster day with West Pennine Netball club on Saturday 13th September? This is for girls in primary school. Please see the poster for more details:

<https://bit.ly/WPNetballTaster25>

WAKE UP WEDNESDAY

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

RECOGNISING & MANAGING STRESS

According to recent studies, over 60% of young people report feeling regularly overwhelmed – with stress impacting their learning, emotional wellbeing and social connections. If left unaddressed, stress can lead to more serious concerns such as anxiety, depression or disengagement. This guide offers ten practical, evidence-based strategies to help children and young people recognise, manage and recover from stress in healthy ways.

1 SPOT THE SUBTLE SIGNS

Look out for changes in mood, behaviour, or energy levels, such as irritability, withdrawal, clinginess, or frequent headaches. These may indicate that a child is feeling overwhelmed. By tuning into these cues early and offering a calm, non-judgemental space to talk, adults can help children feel heard and supported before issues escalate.

2 KEEP CONVERSATIONS FLOWING

Make time for open, informal check-ins – whether it's during car journeys, over dinner, or in quiet classroom moments. Let children know it's okay to talk about what's bothering them. Regular, low-pressure conversations create a safe space where emotions are validated, not dismissed.

3 MAKE MOVEMENT PART OF THE DAY

Physical activity can dramatically reduce stress hormones while improving mood and focus. Encourage movement through activities children genuinely enjoy – from team sports to dancing around the kitchen. Even light activity like stretching or walking the dog can help us all unwind.

4 SUPPORT HEALTHY SLEEP PATTERNS

Poor sleep makes stress harder to manage. Establish a calming evening routine that avoids screens before bedtime and promotes winding down, such as reading, listening to music, or chatting quietly. Good sleep hygiene helps reset mood, enhances concentration, and boosts emotional resilience.

5 PRACTISE MINDFULNESS

Mindfulness doesn't have to mean long periods of meditation. A few slow breaths before lessons or short family meditation sessions before bed can make a real difference. These simple habits help children ground themselves, reduce emotional reactivity, and build inner calm over time.

6 SET DIGITAL BOUNDARIES

Excessive screen time, especially before bed or on social media, is linked with higher stress levels. Set clear expectations for when and where devices can be used and suggest screen-free alternatives like crafts, nature walks, or board games to promote digital balance and reduce overstimulation.

7 NURTURE SOCIAL CONNECTIONS

Strong relationships act as a buffer against stress. Whether it's a trusted adult, a sibling, or a good friend, ensure children have people around them they can talk to and spend quality time with. Help them build those bonds through shared activities and meaningful interaction.

8 PROGRESS OVER PERFECTION

Set realistic goals and praise effort, not just outcomes. When children feel pressured to be perfect, stress naturally follows. Celebrate small wins and help them reframe setbacks as learning opportunities. This helps build confidence and reduces the fear of failure.

9 TEACH EVERYDAY PROBLEM-SOLVING

Use real-life scenarios to build resilience. Encourage children to identify problems, consider possible solutions, and choose a plan of action. Practising these steps builds a sense of control and reduces the helplessness that often accompanies stress.

10 BE THE MODEL THEY NEED

Children notice how adults respond to challenges. Model healthy coping strategies such as taking breaks, asking for help, or calmly expressing frustration. By showing how you manage stress constructively, you help normalise these behaviours and encourage children to do the same.

Meet Our Expert

Anna Bateman is Director of Halcyon Education Ltd, Director for Wellbeing and Family Services at Leigh Trust, and lead expert for mental health at The National College. Anna specialises in strategic mental health solutions for schools, supporting educators and families to improve resilience, emotional literacy, and overall wellbeing for children across the UK.



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