



Wensley Fold CE Primary Academy

"Make Each Day Count"

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WENSLEY WEEKLY
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User Name: parent Password: parent

Dear Parent

WEEKLY VALUE

Our school values are Courage, Compassion, Trust, Respect and Aspiration.
We continue to focus on the value 'Trust'.

THE ASSESSMENT OF CHILDREN'S WRITING

We are excited to be trialling a new robust and more accurate method of assessing pupils' writing based on a research programme funded by the Department for Education.

We will be trialling a shared teacher and AI based method which runs alongside our ongoing in-depth teacher marking.

It is there to further validate the accuracy of our moderation process. No names or links to any child in school can be made when the pieces are uploaded as an anonymised piece of writing.

We look forward to sharing the results with you over the coming year.

CHANGES TO OUR SET HOMEWORK

At Wensley Fold we are always looking at ways in which we can further develop or improve what we do to ensure the very best outcomes for all pupils in school.

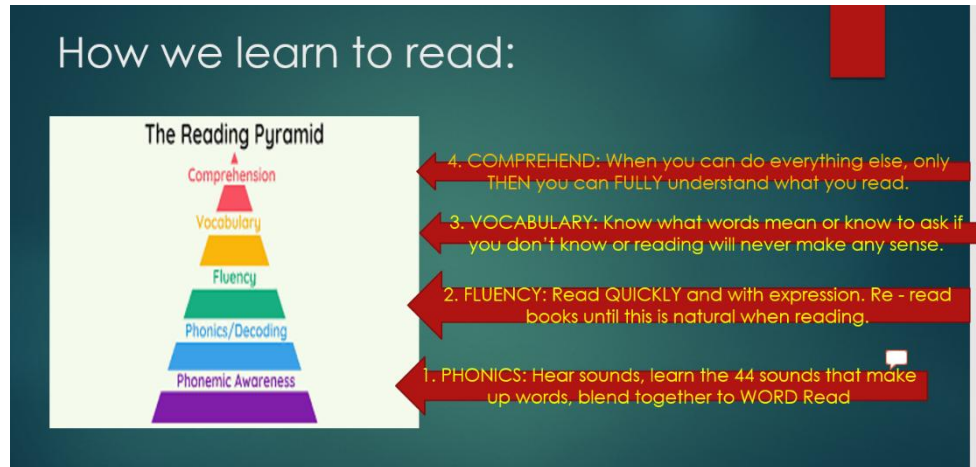
Over the last year we have been using current research to look at ways of improving the effectiveness of the homework we set.

At the 'Meet the Teacher' meetings last week we explained how the homework we set will change this year and the reasons for us having made these decisions.

Research shows that homework that is linked to current class work, has a clear purpose for children and is linked to feedback from the teacher is the most effective. With this in mind we have made the following changes:

1. READING

As reading is at the heart of the entire curriculum we would like to free up more homework time to spend on **quality reading** with an emphasis not only on the ability to read the words but equally on fluency, understanding the vocabulary and comprehension of what is read.



We are asking parents to spend at least 3 sessions of quality time each week sitting with your child and hearing them read, with a focus on these 4 areas.

Equally important is **reading to** your child. The books in our Top 100 challenge are brilliant for this or books from the town library.

2. SPELLING

We will continue to send out weekly spellings to learn which are linked to work which is the focus of learning in school. These spelling sheets should be completed and returned weekly.

Children are tested on a mix of these words every half term to help the teacher assess which have been learned and are secure versus those which have been forgotten and need more work.

Children also have a sheet of the set words in their book bag to be learnt in that year group which get progressively harder. Children should work on 1 set of the words at a time until they are known before moving onto the next set.

Teachers will feedback to the children after each test which spelling set they now need to work on.

3. A HOMEWORK CHALLENGE LINKED TO CLASS LEARNING

Each class teacher will set a task for your child linked to learning in class. There will be a time frame given for this e.g. Please learn number bonds to 10 by October half term (the

number bonds will be sent out on a sheet) or Please practise reading this passage with fluency and expression by next Friday'(passage sent home on a sheet). This may be a task for all pupils in the class or may be personalised to a child based on what the child is working on in their learning. It may be linked to any area of the curriculum.

When children have completed the challenge the teachers will feedback to the children on next steps or set the next challenge.

We hope you can see the value in the changes we have made to the homework we set.

Please note- We will still be using the online programmes we have previously used (such as the SPAG programme) in our classroom learning as an assessment or revision tool.

APPOINTMENTS IN SCHOOL TIME

A kind reminder to try to book dentist and doctor's appointments in the school holidays or after school where possible. Thank you.

CAR PARKING

Please can parents not park on the zig zags or dangerously at the corner of Crosshill Road & Manor Road. It is for the safety of your children that we try to enforce this. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

CLASS OF THE WEEK

Class	Sessions attended	Sessions missed
Rec Q	99.7	1
Rec S	99.7	1
1B	99.7	1
1A	98.7	4
2C	99.0	3
2W	99.0	3
3B	98.3	5
3A	99.3	2
4M	99.0	3
4K	99.0	3
5S	99.3	2
5B	98.7	4
6G	99.3	2
6HW	98.0	6

Well done to Class – 1B

SCHOOL END OF DAY PICK UP ARRANGEMENTS

As mentioned in the newsletter last week, please email your permission into school by Tuesday 30 September. Thank you.

YEAR 5 GROWING UP TALK

On Monday 22 September, as part of the Science curriculum and an important part of growing up & changing study, Year 5 will be taught how animal & human bodies change. Mr Baron will teach Year 5 boys and Mrs Sidat will teach Year 5 girls.

MACMILLAN CANCER RESEARCH FUNDRAISING COFFEE MORNING – FRIDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 10.15 – 11.30

As a school community many of our lives have been touched by cancer in some way. We are hosting a coffee morning, along with many other places across the country, to raise money for cancer research.

We would like to take this opportunity to invite you in to school to our Macmillan Coffee Morning **next Friday 26 September, anytime from 10.15am – 11.30am.**

You can come and enjoy a hot or cold drink and a cake or biscuit alone, with family or with a friend!

If you would like your child to join you, we will collect them from the class for you.

Children can also bring a donation in for themselves and enjoy a cake or biscuit at break time.

We are asking for a minimum donation of £1 for a drink and a cake. All proceeds will go to cancer research.

Please consider making a donation of wrapped cakes or biscuits to support this wonderful cause. We would very much appreciate your help in making this morning a success.

All donations can be brought in and handed in at the office, to Mrs Khan, our family support worker or to the class teacher via your child, by next Thursday 25 September.

Thank you once again for your support. We look forward to seeing you in school.

YEAR 4 SWIMMING

Year 4 have enjoyed their first swimming lessons at the local pool. Please note that due to class registration guidance and safeguarding, each child must be marked in on the school register first before leaving the building with the class teacher.

Class 4M leave school at 8.50am to get to their lesson on time and all children in this class must be here and registered before setting off. Any child who arrives in school after this time will unfortunately, not be able to go swimming that week. Thank you for your support with this.

RECEPTION READING WORKSHOPS

Mrs Quilliam and Mrs Smith are running three reading workshops for the Reception families.

Wednesday 24 th September	2.00pm-3.00pm
Monday 29 th September	2.00pm-3.00pm
Thursday 2 nd October	9.00am-10.00am

Each family can sign up for free for one workshop via ParentPay. Places at each workshop will be limited to 20 on a first come first served basis. These workshops are essential for all parents with a reception child. They will include information about Home Reading and an opportunity to take part in practical activities with the children. Book bags will be given out at the end of the session to the parents who have attended.

RECEPTION WELLIES AND PUDDLE SUITS

Please send your child to school with their wellies and puddle suits as soon as possible. Please ensure their name is in both items. 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 and return the consent form to school by Friday 17 October, even if you do not wish your child to have the immunisation. Thank you.

ACHIEVEMENT ASSEMBLY AWARDS – TUESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER

KS1 Person of the Match	-	Juwairiyah Jahangir (1A)
KS2 Person of the Match	-	Ibrahim Khalid (4M)
KS1 I ate well today	-	Rafay Ali (1B)
KS2 I ate well today	-	Humayd Mulla (6G)

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:

25 Sept	-	Forest School
02 Oct	-	Messy Play
09 Oct	-	Role Play

OPEN MORNINGS FOR NEW PARENTS – RECEPTION 2026

We will be holding two open mornings for prospective new parents to have a look around the school; these will be on Wednesday 24 September at 9.15am and Wednesday 1 October at 1.30pm. Please book in at the school office. Thank you.

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.

SCHOOL CLUBS

If for any reason your child will not be attending their club you MUST inform the office before the end of the school day.

RECEPTION FUND

If you haven't already done so, please can parents of children in Reception pay £5 for the Autumn term or £15 for the whole year, 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	–	Year 1 classes and/or siblings
Wednesday	-	Closed
Thursday	–	Year 2 classes and/or siblings
Friday	–	Years 3,4,5 & 6 classes and/or siblings

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. The deadline for all challenges will be Tuesday 2nd October.

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 24th 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>

CHURCH EVENT

BEACONS NOT BYSTANDERS

**A Free Family-Friendly Day of
Environmental Awareness and
Action for the Local Community**



Saturday 4th October
St Silas Church,
Preston New Road,
BB2 6PS
10.30am - 3.00pm

Planetary
display by
local schools

Eco Stalls
&
Activities

Key
Speaker

Street Food
or BYO

Question
Time Panel

Children's
Multi-Sensory
Undersea
World

For more information,
contact:
frpaulp@yahoo.com
07866696891

Workshops

newground
together



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.

SNAP STREAK

97

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

With over 900 million active monthly users and billions of 'Snaps' sent each month, Snapchat is a popular messaging app among children and young people. It allows users to share fun, spontaneous pictures and videos with friends and family while using playful filters. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures, videos and messages are only viewable for a short period of time.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Snapchat's use of artificial intelligence (AI) includes features like the 'My AI' chatbot and AI-powered filters, offering interactive experiences that can be fun but also pose risks. These tools may share unfiltered or inaccurate responses, promote unrealistic beauty standards, and collect personal data. Advanced filters and deepfake-style lenses can distort reality, potentially leading to manipulation, impersonation, or inappropriate content.

SCREEN ADDICTION

Snapchat boosts user engagement and daily use with features like streaks (daily Snapchat exchanges between you and a friend). When a streak's been going for a few days, users will see a 🌟 emoji. The number alongside it shows the number of days, but if users miss a day and break the streak, the only way to restore it is to pay. This encourages daily use habits, and frequent notifications can keep users returning to the app even more often.

SEXTORTION

Because Snapchat's disappearing messages feature may foster a sense of safety, users may become targets of sextortion. For example, a predator may pressure someone into sending nude images, then somehow capture those images to threaten and intimidate the victim. This might involve claiming they will share the images with friends or family unless money is paid.

SNAPCHAT+

Snapchat+ is the platform's premium subscription service, offering early access to new and exclusive features. In June 2025, Snapchat introduced a new tier called Lens+, giving subscribers access to hundreds of lenses and AR experiences for playing, creating, and sharing Snaps. These paid features may encourage young users to spend money to access exclusive content, increasing the risk of overspending or feeling pressured to make in-app purchases.

ACCESSIBILITY

Snapchat is now accessible from a web browser, meaning children can use it on a laptop or tablet without downloading the app. This can make activity harder to monitor, reduce the effectiveness of parental controls, and increase the risk of unsupervised communication or exposure to inappropriate content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's disappearing messages feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ACCESS THE SNAPCHAT FAMILY SAFETY HUB

Created with guidance from Common Sense Media, Snapchat has developed a Family Safety Hub that explains how the app works and how to use its in-app protections for teens. It's recommended that you review this guidance before allowing a child to download Snapchat. Remember, the app is only intended for children aged 13 and over.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger connects with a child on Snapchat and makes them feel uncomfortable by pressuring them to send or receive unwanted or inappropriate images, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile to report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user, with a tailored reporting section under the 'Nudity and Sexual Content' category. In this category, there's the option to report somebody for threatening to leak sexually explicit images, or 'nudes'.

USE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Sit down with the children in your care and explore Snapchat's privacy settings as a shared activity. You can help them adjust who can contact them, view their stories, or see their location on Snap Map. It's a good opportunity to explain why some settings are safer than others, reinforcing their understanding of online boundaries. Encourage them to regularly review these settings, especially after app updates or changes in their friendship groups.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat>

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