



Wensley Fold CE Primary Academy

"Make Each Day Count"

Manor Road
Blackburn
BB2 6LX

Head Teacher - Mrs A Whittingham

T: 01254 667449
E: bursar@wensleyfold.blackburn.sch.uk
W: www.wensleyfold.co.uk

WENSLEY WEEKLY
Thursday 5 February 2026
Issue Number 19
www.wensleyfold.co.uk

User Name: parent Password: parent

Dear Parent

HALF TERM HOLIDAY

School will close next Friday 13 February at 3.15pm for the half term break and re-open on Monday 23 February 2026. Clubs will run as normal on Friday.

ATTENDANCE

Wensley Fold is committed to making each day count for all children. In line with the Government's expectations of 96% + attendance we want to share 'Attendance Mountain' with you (below). All of the research shows that building good habits for attending school start from the very beginning and these habits mean that children achieve well and go on to get higher grades throughout school. We recognise that sometimes children have illnesses, from time to time, which is part of their natural development. We thank all parents for working closely with school to communicate when their child is ill or to ask questions about them coming into school. The attached guidance 'What to do- Childhood Illness' contains some very helpful advice which will support families in making decisions when a child is ill. Our attendance is in the top 25% of schools nationally so we are all doing a great job!

Each Friday, we will send out updates for any children whose attendance falls below 95% for the academic year to date so you can stay informed of your child's attendance as the year progresses. Thank you for all of your support in sending children into school each day on time, communicating with us and helping the children to 'Make Each Day Count'.

MID TERM EFFORT AWARDS

We will be holding our midterm effort awards assembly in various subjects, next Thursday 12 February at 8.50am. Parents of children nominated will receive an invitation to the assembly tomorrow via email. If you are invited, please do not inform your child. Thank you.

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. **As Ramadhan is due to start during half-term, all letters for the first week must be sent into school by next Friday 13 February at the latest. Emails can be sent in by Friday 20 February.**

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.

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.

BREAKFAST CLUB

As previously notified, after the February half term, w/b 23/2/26 parents will have to **PRE-BOOK** breakfast club on ParentPay, this is so we can organise staffing, particularly for the early session. We will give a bit of leeway for the first two weeks as it is a change from the way you registered previously. Furthermore if you have booked the 8am session you will not be allowed in until 8am on the dot.

If you book the 7.30 session you can access the dining hall anytime from then but will be charged £4.50 per day. You can book anytime up to the same day. Any questions please call the school.

7.30am - 8.45am with breakfast £4.50 per day

8.00am – 8.45am with breakfast £3 per day

After half term ALL parents will need to prebook & pay in advance up to the night before on ParentPay in order to access Breakfast Club

YEAR 6 SATS BOOKS

We are ordering Maths & English SATs revision books for Y6 children, these are priced at the discount price of £9.65 for a limited time as they would normally be £11.80 for the bundle. Parents will need to log on to Parent Pay to order by Friday 27 February.

Any orders placed by next Wednesday 11 February will be delivered before half-term.

Any other orders will be delivered week commencing 2 March. Thank you.

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.

DENTAL SURVEY – 5 YEARS OLD

On behalf of the Office for Health Improvement, Blackburn with Darwen Council have commissioned the dental epidemiology team from the University of Lancashire to carry out a dental survey on Wednesday 15 April. The team will be looking at teeth of children who are aged 5 years old on the day of the visit.

This is an opt-in survey and children selected by the dental team have been notified by email. Please complete the consent form and return to the school office, if you would like your child to participate.

YEAR 6 HEIGHTS AND WEIGHTS

Our school nurse team will be visiting Year 6 classes next Monday 9 February to measure the children's' heights and weights as part of a government initiative.

YEAR 3/4 SPORTSHALL ATHLETICS

A sports hall athletics competition is taking place next Wednesday 11 February at Pleckgate High School BB1 8QA, after school. Children selected for the team have received further details.

GOVERNORS

There will be meetings of the Governing Body next week as follows

Quality of Education – Wednesday 11 February at 5pm

Finance, Audit and Risk – Thursday 12 February at 5pm

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 will have the following activities next half-term:

26 Feb	-	Dear Zoo
05 Mar	-	Thats not my...

12 Mar	-	The Hungry Caterpillar
19 Mar	-	Eyes, Nose, Belly, Toes
26 Mar	-	On the Farm

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.

ACHIEVEMENT ASSEMBLY AWARDS – TUESDAY 3 FEBRUARY

Class of the week	-	5S
KS1 Person of the Match	-	Zaynah Khonat (RQ)
KS2 Person of the Match	-	Minaal Rasool (5S)
KS1 I ate well today	-	Sareena Fancy (RQ)
KS2 I ate well today	-	Muhammad Ibrahim Mahmood (5S)

FEBRUARY HALF TERM HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

If you have signed your child up to any of the half term holiday activities please look out for an email confirmation which will have a link to an online consent form which must be completed otherwise your child cannot attend. The email will be sent from s.burton@wensleyfold.blackburn.sch.uk and will be sent by 10am tomorrow (Friday). You must complete the consent form via the link on the email by next Tuesday 10th February, as failure to do this will mean your child cannot attend.

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE FESTIVALS BOOK AWARDS 2026

All those who have signed up to these book awards have been sent their first book to review. Please ensure you return books within the timeframe and hand directly to the school office. We will swap books as quickly as we can, but please note this may take 2 or 3 days once a book is returned.

LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

For further information on all the events at Blackburn with Darwen Libraries please see this link: <https://bit.ly/FebHalfTermLibrary26>. Please remember if your child attends any of these library activities and they are a member of Blackburn Children's University to pick up a slip and hand it in after the holidays with your child's Children's University passport.

Booster Cushion Theatre presents: Hansel, Gretel and You...Who? Blackburn Central Library, Saturday 14th February, 1.30 - 2.30 pm

A hilarious retelling of this classic tale, perfect for all the family at February half-term. Hansel and Gretel have been turned into oven gloves and don't know what to do! They

decide to go on a journey around the world looking for food and some friends. They bump into some woodland animals who just want to play sports all the time, luckily they know the best way out of the forest is with an audience wide relay race. But while taking part, the siblings get trapped by the Witch. Luckily, the Gingerbread Man has a great idea to save them, he'll just need some help...This is a fast funny show with lots of opportunities to help, perfect for families.

Tickets available from the library, price £1 children, £3 adults.

Make a pop-up card

All the family can get together to make pop-up cards in our libraries during half-term. Tickets are free of charge, available from the relevant library up to 2 weeks before each event:

Blackburn Central Library, Mon 16th Feb, 2 - 3 pm

Mill Hill Library, Tue 17th Feb, 2.30 - 3.30 pm

Scratch Code Club

Scratch Code Club for 8 - 11 year old children will return at Blackburn Library during half-term. The club will run a little differently this time, so there will be a series of four, daily sessions starting on 17th February, 2.30 - 4 pm and finishing on 20th February. The club is aimed at complete beginners, starting with a very basic exercise on Scratch and gradually building on skills learned day by day. To gain maximum benefit from the programme we encourage children to sign up to the full four days of the course rather than dipping in and out. Places are limited, so to be sure of gaining a place, please contact andrew.orr@blackburn.gov.uk or phone (01254) 587941 as soon as possible. If we receive enough demand, another series of sessions will take place later in the year, so if you miss out on a place this time please keep an eye out for further opportunities.

CYBERFEST 2.0 IS BACK!

 **THIS Saturday 7th February 2026, 📍 Blackburn College – University Centre,**

 **10am – 2pm**

 **FREE food, drinks, and parking!**

Delivered in collaboration with IMO Charity, One Voice Blackburn, Blackburn & Darwen Youth Zone, and IN4.0 Group, CyberFest 2.0 is all about discovering exciting digital skills in a relaxed, enjoyable way! Get involved with a wide range of exciting activities, including:

 Laser Tag

 Cyber Ops Trivia

 Escape Room

 Hacker Heist

 Virtual Shields (VR Game)

 Cyber Mythbusting

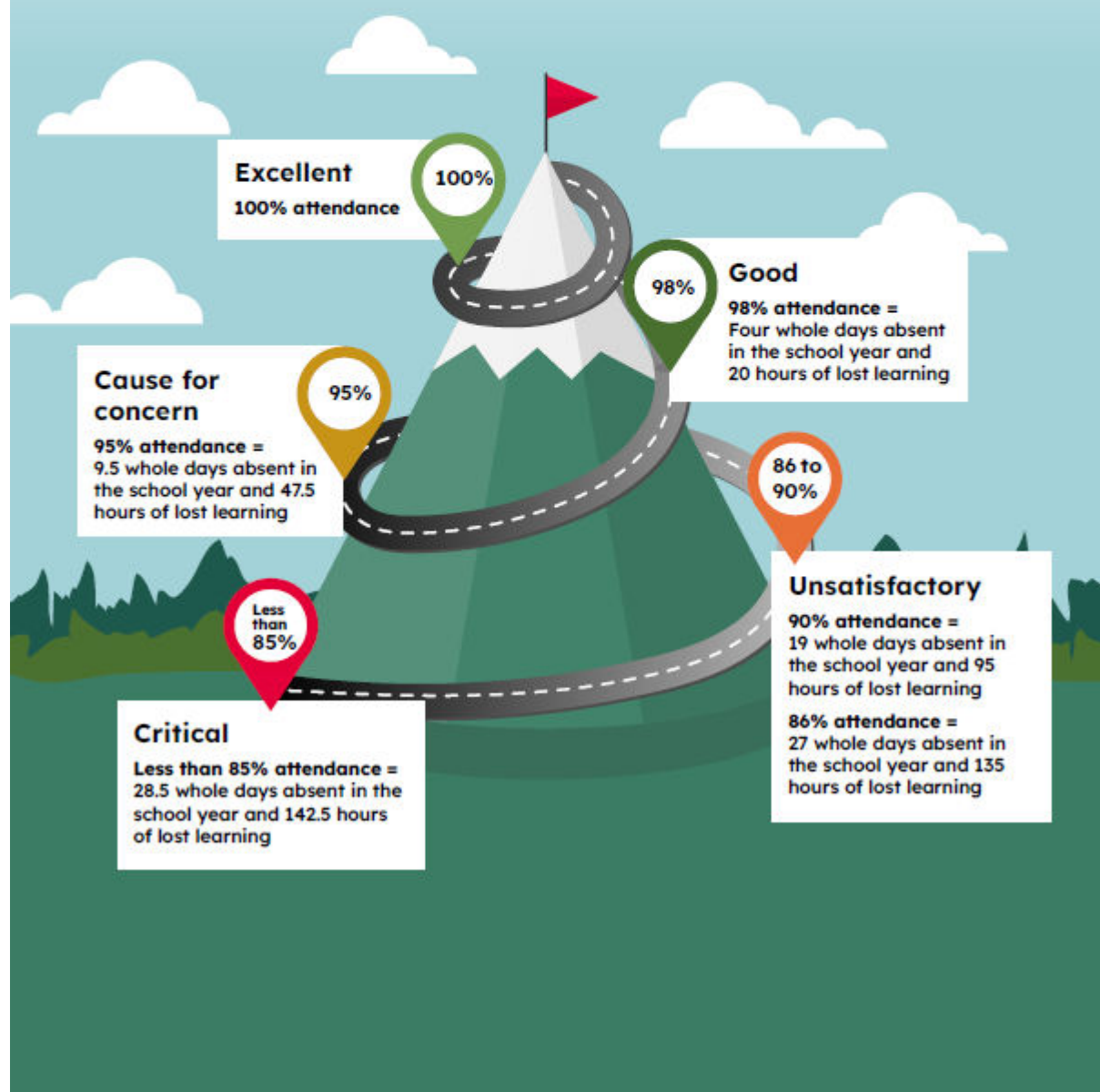
 Bee Bot Programming

+ And much more!

Whether you're into gaming, curious about technology, or just want a fun day out with friends or family, CyberFest 2.0 has something for everyone.

Children's University members who attend this event can collect a 2 hour stamp in their CU passport if they write an information sheet of what they did and learnt from the event. Please send their completed information to Sara Burton either via s.burton@wensleyfold.blackburn.sch.uk or on WhatsApp on 07805929965.

Where does your child sit on the attendance mountain?



What to do

Advice on childhood illnesses



Go to school; if needed, get treatment as required



Some restrictions for school attendance



Don't go to school and see the GP

What it's called?	What it's like	Going to school	Getting treatment	More advice
Asthma flare up	Worsening of usual symptoms	➡	Follow your care plan	Stay off school if feeling too unwell
Chicken pox	Rash begins as small, red, flat spots that develop into itchy fluid-filled blisters	➡	Pharmacy	Back to school five days after on-set of the rash, or when all lesions are crusted over
Common cold	Runny nose, sneezing, sore throat	➡	Pharmacy	Ensure good hand hygiene
Conjunctivitis	Teary, red, itchy, painful eye(s)	➡	Pharmacy	Try not to touch eye to avoid spreading*
Flu	Fever, cough, sneezing, runny nose, headache, body aches and pain, exhaustion, sore throat	➡	Pharmacy	Ensure good hand hygiene*
German measles/ Rubella	Fever, tiredness. Raised, red, rash that starts on the face and spreads downwards	●	GP	Back to school four days after the rash has started, if feeling well enough. Please let the school know, as pregnant members of staff may be affected.
Glandular fever	High temperature, swollen glands, sore throat; usually more painful than any before	➡	GP	*
Hand, foot & mouth disease	Fever, sore throat, headache, small painful blisters inside the mouth on tongue and gums (may appear on hands and feet)	➡	GP	Attend school while monitoring symptoms
Head lice	Itchy scalp (may be worse at night)	➡	Pharmacy	
Impetigo	Clusters of red bumps or blisters surrounded by area of redness	●	GP	Back to school when lesions crust or 48 hours after start of antibiotics
Measles	Fever, cough, runny nose, watery inflamed eyes, rash	●	GP	Back to school four days from on-set of rash, and if feeling well enough
Ringworm	Red ring shaped rash, may be itchy, rash may be dry and scaly or wet and crusty	➡	Pharmacy	
Scabies	Itching rash, commonly between fingers, wrists, elbows, arm	➡	GP	Back to school after first treatment
Scarlet fever	Fever, unwell, red tongue, sandpaper rash	●	GP	Exclusion period during first 24 hours of antibiotics*
Shingles	Pain, itching, or tingling along the affected nerve pathway. Blister-type rash	➡	GP	Only stay off school if rash is weeping and cannot be covered
Sickness bug/ diarrhoea	Stomach cramps, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea	➡	Pharmacy	Contact GP if symptoms persist after 48 hours
Threadworms	Intense itchiness around anus	➡	Pharmacy	Ensure good hand hygiene
Tonsillitis/ Strep throat	Intense sore throat for more than 1 day	➡	Pharmacy	See GP if temperature lasts more than 48 hours or cannot swallow. Only need to stay off school if feeling too unwell
Whooping cough	Violent coughing, with a 'whoop'	●	GP	Exclusion period during first five days of antibiotics
Covid				Visit www.nhs.uk for latest guidance

*Attend school while monitoring symptoms.

This information is a guide and has been checked by health professionals. If you are unsure about your child's wellbeing, we recommend you contact your pharmacy or GP to check.

Working in partnership with

Should my child go to school/nursery today?

Hertfordshire and West Essex Healthier Together for further information

<https://www.hwehealthiertogether.nhs.uk/parents/carers>



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 SUPPORTING SAFE USE OF AI

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is increasingly woven into young people's digital lives. It can offer some educational benefits and day-to-day assistance; however, it also raises concerns about misinformation, privacy, fairness, and safety. This guide provides parents and educators with practical strategies to support young people to navigate AI tools responsibly, and to use them safely and with discernment.

1 DEMYSTIFY WHAT AI REALLY IS

Children encounter AI in most online places, including games, streaming platforms, and school tools. Explain that AI uses patterns from past data to make decisions, but it doesn't think or feel like humans. Use age-appropriate examples, like how recommendations on YouTube or Netflix work, to build understanding and prevent false beliefs about AI being all-knowing or alive.

2 TALK ABOUT RISKS OF MISINFORMATION

AI can create convincing false information, including deepfake videos, photos, and fake 'facts'. Encourage children to think critically about what they see and read. Teach them to double-check information using reliable sources, to look at images and videos carefully, and to ask an adult if something doesn't seem right.

3 DISCUSS DATA AND PRIVACY

Explain that AI systems learn by analysing lots of data, sometimes including personal information. Help young people to be mindful of what they share online and why protecting personal data matters. Model good habits like reading app permissions together or reviewing what's collected by voice assistants like Alexa or Siri.

4 ENCOURAGE CREATIVE USE OF AI

Support children, when using AI tools, to explore ideas, make art, or build projects. This fosters confidence, imagination, and independent thinking. When children use AI creatively, rather than just passively consuming it, they are more likely to stay engaged and make thoughtful choices.

5 USE AGE-APPROPRIATE AI TOOLS

Not all AI platforms are suitable for children. Choose tools designed for education or creativity, with clear safety policies. Review terms of use and privacy settings, and help children use them in age-appropriate ways. For example, some chatbot tools mimic conversation but should only be used with guidance and boundaries in place.

6 USE AI TOGETHER

Exploring AI tools together can help adults understand how they work and spot potential issues. Try co-writing a story with an AI writing assistant or experimenting with an AI art tool. This encourages curiosity, helps you stay informed about the latest AI tools, and allows you to reinforce safe and respectful use while modelling critical thinking.

7 SET BOUNDARIES FOR AI USE

Establish when, where, and how AI tools can be used, just as you would with any digital technology. For example, you might agree not to use AI tools to complete school assignments without permission, or to avoid unsupervised use of voice assistants. Consistent boundaries help manage overuse and misuse.

8 WATCH FOR OVERRELIANCE

Some AI tools, like homework help apps, may be tempting shortcuts. Encourage children to use AI to support their thinking, not replace it. Celebrate effort and process over perfect answers. Reinforce that mistakes are part of learning and that relying too heavily on AI can limit real understanding.

9 TEACH DIGITAL ETHICS AND LITERACY

Help children explore how AI works, where it might be biased, and why ethical thinking matters. Building digital literacy alongside ethical awareness ensures children engage with AI critically, not just conveniently. Help young people to understand that not all people use AI for legitimate purposes; some use it for malicious reasons. Encourage questions about fairness, representation, and who benefits from certain tools; talk about algorithms, echo chambers, and the impact of automation on daily life.

10 STAY CURIOUS AND INVOLVED

AI is developing rapidly, and staying informed helps you support the young people in your care. Follow trusted sources for updates and keep the conversation going. If a child brings up a new AI trend or tool, take the opportunity to learn about it together. Showing interest builds trust and strengthens digital resilience.

Meet Our Expert

Home to the world's largest CPD library for educators, The National College has transformed the way education establishments go about developing their workforces and managing compliance. Our three memberships help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of improvement.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

X @wake_up_weds

f /www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 04.02.2025