



Wensley Fold CE Primary Academy

"Make Each Day Count"

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WENSLEY WEEKLY
Thursday 12 February 2026
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www.wensleyfold.co.uk

User Name: parent Password: parent

Dear Parent

HALF TERM HOLIDAY

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

YOU HAVE ASKED..... AND WE HAVE LISTENED

As you know we made changes to the homework we set from school in September 2025. Since then, we have had quite a large number of parents tell us that they preferred the homework set through the maths.co.uk and SPAG online programmes linked to work done in school.

It is important that we always listen and act upon feedback from parents.

Therefore, we have decided to bring back the online maths and grammar weekly homework challenges we set every Friday.

The children must complete these in the time given in order to get golden time the following Friday afternoon.

This will be sent out alongside the normal expectations of 3 reads each week and completion of/ learning of the weekly class spellings.

This will begin from the first Friday back after the half term holiday. Log in's for the online programmes will be in the child's reading record.

If you would like any additional information about this please ask the class teacher.

Weekly Set Homework Reminder

Reception	3 reads	Half termly challenge		
Year 1	3 Reads	Weekly Spellings	Weekly Maths.co.uk	
Year 2	3 Reads	Weekly Spellings	Weekly Maths.co.uk	Weekly SPAG Challenge

Year 3	3 Reads	Weekly Spellings	Weekly Maths.co.uk	Weekly SPAG Challenge
Year 4	3 Reads	Weekly Spellings	Weekly Maths.co.uk	Weekly SPAG Challenge
Year 5	3 Reads	Weekly Spellings	Weekly Maths.co.uk	Weekly SPAG Challenge
Year 6	3 Reads	Weekly Spellings	Weekly Maths.co.uk	Weekly SPAG Challenge

Thank you for your support in ensuring all homework is completed in the given time.
Mrs Whittingham

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 Year 5 and 6 children who are 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 organise staffing 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 tomorrow (Friday) 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, this is due to staffing requirements.

If you book the 7.30 session you can access the dining hall anytime from then but will be charged £4.50 per day. Any questions please call 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 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 2 PANCAKES

All children in Year 2 will be making pancakes tomorrow (Friday). Please let the class teacher know if your child cannot take part. Thank you.

HEALTHY EATING COMPETITION

The school council are running a healthy eating competition – the winner will have brunch with the school council. Entry forms are available to pick up from the school office or from Mrs Cooney. Closing date is Friday 27 February 2026.

WOW BADGE DESIGN COMPETITION 2026

Please note the closing date for the competition is Tuesday 24 February. Entry forms are available to pick up from the school office.

YEAR 6 SATS BOOKS

We are ordering Maths & English SATs revision books for Y6 children, these are priced at the discount price of £9.95 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 will be delivered week commencing 2 March. Thank you.

RECEPTION SMITHILLS FARM TRIP

As part of their topic on Growth, Reception children will be visiting Smithills Farm to look at the baby animals born in Spring on Wednesday 11 March. 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 the trip is 19.95. Please log on to ParentPay by Friday 6 March. Thank you.

YEAR 1 EUREKA

As part of their topic on Science this term, Year 1 will be visiting Eureka Children's Museum in Halifax on Thursday 7 May, where they will have fun learning about the human body

and how the organs & senses work. Children should wear their school uniform and will not be back in school until 3.45pm. 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 £25. Please pay on ParentPay by Friday 1 May. Thank you.

YEAR 2 TOWNELEY HALL

As part of their topic on House & Homes and also their topic on Animal Habitats Year 2 will be visiting Towneley Hall on Monday 20 April. 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 the trip is £14. Please log on to ParentPay for further details and complete the consent and payment by Friday 10 April. Thank you

YEAR 6 ACTIVITIES WEEK AND HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

Year 6 Activities Week will be taking place week beginning Monday 22nd June. Following the success of last year, this year the week will involve a range of fun trips, activities, a school sleepover and pizza night.

Activities during the week will include visiting The Anderton Centre for the day to take part in a range of outdoor adventurous activities plus a day trip to Gulliver's Theme Park. Other activities during the week include ten-pin bowling, ice-skating and a visit to the cinema.

We will also be having a Year 6 Leavers Pizza and Prom Night later in the year.

The cost for the week and the Year 6 leavers party is £150.

We have also been very fortunate to have secured a tour for each of our Y6 classes to visit the Houses of Parliament. This tour includes an opportunity to meet our MP for Blackburn, Mr Adnan Hussain. This will take place on 2 separate weeks in the last week of June or the first week in July.

This is an exciting opportunity for the children to travel to London by train, take the underground, visit the Houses of Parliament, take a trip around some of the sights including Buckingham Palace, followed by a boat trip down the Thames!

The cost of this trip is £40 which has been subsidised by the Houses of Parliament.

The total cost of for all of the above opportunities is **£190**.

Payment for this has been set up together on Parent Pay and you are able to pay this in full or in small instalments to allow you to spread the cost out.

WORLD BOOK DAY

This year World Book Day is on Thursday 5 March. All children can come to school dressed as a book character, on the day.

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.

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.

FEBRUARY HALF TERM HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

If you have signed your child up to any of the half term holiday activities please ensure you check the email confirmation for further details on when and where the activity is taking place. No further reminders will be sent. If you have any questions please contact Sara Burton on 07805929965 (please leave a message if there is no answer).

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE FESTIVALS BOOK AWARDS 2026

If you have signed your child up to this please remember to return the book, together with the review as soon as your child has finished it. This ensures we can have books available for other children. Also your child can be sent more books to review too if they want to. We will swap books as quickly as we can, but please note this may take 2 or 3 days once a book is returned.

We still have a few spaces available for this. If you have not already done so and your child would like to sign up please complete this short online form:

<https://bit.ly/CLFBookAwards26>. Please see the letter for further details
(<https://bit.ly/LetterChildrenLitFest26>)

CU RAINFOREST ACTIVITY – YEARS 3 – 6

A letter has been emailed out about an activity on Saturday 28th February for children in Years 3 – 6. Sign up is available now on ParentPay. Places are limited and are offered on a first come first serve basis.

RE:FRESH HALF TERM ACTIVITIES

Please see the poster (<https://bit.ly/ReFreshFeb26>) with details of a variety of activities happening over half term. Some activities require booking, this is indicated on the timetable. Bookings can be made via this link 🙌

<https://refreshbwd.com/events/active-seasons/>.

If your child attends any of these 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.

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, Gretal 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 Gretal 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.

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 FOSTERING A SENSE OF BELONGING

Helping children feel like they belong is vital for their emotional wellbeing, academic success, and overall development. A true sense of belonging reduces anxiety, builds confidence, and supports resilience. These ten tips are designed to help parents and educators create inclusive, caring environments where children feel accepted, safe, and valued.

1 USE EVERYDAY MOMENTS

Belonging is built in the small moments. Use daily routines such as meals, school drop-offs, or quiet times, to check in, offer praise, or listen. These interactions don't need to be lengthy to be meaningful. Consistent gestures of connection and warmth show children they are important, making them feel seen, appreciated, and truly part of the home or classroom community.

2 INVOLVE THEM IN RULE-MAKING

Inviting children to help create rules or routines gives them a sense of shared ownership and responsibility. When their voices are heard, they feel respected and included in the decision-making process. This empowers children, fosters cooperation, and reduces resistance. Whether at home or school, co-created expectations are more likely to be followed because they come from a place of mutual respect.

3 VALIDATE ALL EMOTIONS

Acknowledging a child's emotions, whether positive or challenging, helps them feel accepted as they are. Validating statements like "I can see that made you upset," or "That sounds really exciting," support emotional expression and connection. Children who feel emotionally safe are more likely to seek help, participate openly, and trust the adults around them – all of which contribute to a sense of belonging.

4 HIGHLIGHT HIDDEN STRENGTHS

Go beyond academic success or good behaviour and take time to recognise a child's less visible qualities, such as thoughtfulness, resilience, or humour. Noticing these strengths sends a powerful message that they are valued for who they are, not just for what they do. This boosts self-esteem and helps children feel accepted in a world that often focuses on external achievements.

5 SHOW CURIOSITY ABOUT CULTURE

Ask respectful, open questions about a child's cultural background, family customs, or celebrations. These conversations create opportunities for children to share what matters to them and to feel proud of their identity. Whether at home or in school, valuing cultural experiences helps all children feel that their heritage is respected, and that they belong in a diverse, inclusive environment where every voice counts.

6 BELONGING BUDDIES

Pairing children with a peer they might not typically choose can foster new connections and break down social barriers. Assigning short projects, games, or shared responsibilities gives them a reason to interact. Buddy systems help quieter or less confident children feel included and supported. Over time, these intentional connections can develop into meaningful friendships, strengthening the wider sense of community and inclusion.

7 AVOID LABELS AND COMPARISONS

Avoid labelling children by behaviour or comparing them to others, as this can damage self-esteem and foster exclusion. Statements like "Why can't you be more like..." may unintentionally make a child feel less worthy. Instead, focus on individual progress and strengths. Encouraging children to celebrate their own achievements, however small, helps them develop confidence and feel valued for being themselves.

8 MAKE TIME FOR ONE-TO-ONES

Spending regular one-to-one time with a child shows that they matter on an individual level. These moments can be as simple as reading a book together or chatting during a walk. Focused attention, free from distraction, builds trust and emotional connection. It lets the child know they are important and cared for, which is crucial for developing a strong sense of belonging.

9 REFLECT THEIR INTERESTS

Whether at home or in school, including children's interests in daily life reinforces their importance. Display their artwork, talk about their favourite books, or include their hobbies in family activities or lesson plans. Seeing their identity reflected in their environment tells children they belong. It shows that their passions, preferences, and contributions are valued and that they have a place in the group.

10 EMPHASISE 'WE' OVER 'THEY'

Use inclusive language that reinforces unity and shared identity. Phrases like "Let's figure it out together," or "We all help each other here," promote collective responsibility and connection. Avoiding divisive terms like "those children," or "that class" helps children feel part of a supportive group. Language shapes experience, and inclusive language fosters environments where every child feels safe, welcomed, and included.

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.

See full reference list on our website

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GOOD TIMEKEEPING



What to do the night before:

Get everything you need for school ready



Set your alarm allowing plenty of time

Make your lunch and drink if you bring a packed lunch to school



Turn off devices half an hour before bedtime

Have a good night's sleep - a minimum of eight hours!



Five minutes late per day soon adds up to three days of lost school time

For mental health support for young people
visit: www.youngminds.org.uk