



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

SPRING BULBS

As our spring bulbs are starting to grow please can you keep children off the grassed areas especially the bankings along the drive so everybody can enjoy the first signs of spring! Thank you.

LITTER

There has been a big increase in the amount of litter around our grounds, please make sure all rubbish is placed in the litter bins to keep our beautiful grounds litter free. Thank you!

CHEWING GUM

Please can we kindly remind parents and children that chewing gum is not allowed in school. Thank you.

FASTING – RAMADHAN

As mentioned in previous newsletters, children in Years 5 and 6 will be able to fast in school during Ramadhan, if they choose.

If your child would like to fast week commencing 09 March or for the remainder of Ramadan, please confirm via emailing y.emam@wensleyfold.blackburn.sch.uk **by 3pm tomorrow (Friday).**

Please note it is important that we have final numbers by 3pm on the Friday before the week ahead because we are employing additional members of staff to come in to supervise the children. Thank you.

RAMADHAN FOOD APPEAL

In the month of Ramadhan, a time of reflection, giving, and community, we invite our school family to join us in making a real difference to the lives of families struggling in Blackburn with Darwen. Ramadan is a time for charity and generosity, and we hope our

school will take this opportunity to encourage students to embrace the spirit of giving by supporting Blackburn Foodbank's Ramadan Appeal. Every donation, no matter how small, will help ensure that no family in our community goes hungry during Ramadan and beyond.

There are 5 items in particular that are in need: tinned tomatoes, tinned fruit, tinned chickpeas, tinned fish and dried red lentils.

Money can also be donated by scanning the QR code on the poster emailed out to parents on Tuesday.

WOW WALK TO SCHOOL CHALLENGE

Well done to everyone to all the children who are taking part in the Walk to School Challenge. We are 3rd in Blackburn with Darwen. Please keep up the hard work – we are aiming to be number 1!

Blackburn with Darwen Leaderboard

1. **Darwen, St Barnabas CofE Primary Academy**
2. **St Matthew's Church of England Primary School**
3. **Wensley Fold CofE Primary Academy**
4. **St Luke and St Philips CofE Primary School**
5. **Audley Junior School**
6. **Cedars Primary School**
7. **St James' CofE Primary School Blackburn**
8. **Livesey Saint Francis' CofE School**
9. **Avondale Primary School**
10. **Daisyfield Primary School**

SPRING 2026 **#WOWTopTen**

BOOK FAIR

As mentioned in the newsletter week, we are fortunate to have the book fair for a week. Please see opening times:

Wednesday 11th March	3.15pm – 4.15pm
Thursday 12th March	8.15am – 8.40am 3.15pm – 4.15pm
Friday 13th March	8.15am – 8.40am 3.15pm – 4.15pm
Monday 16 th March	8.15am – 8.40am 3.15pm – 4.15pm
Tuesday 17 th March	8.15am – 8.40am 3.15pm – 4.15pm
Wednesday 18 th March	8.15am – 8.40am

WORLD BOOK DAY

All children have received their World Book Day voucher today.
The token can be used at our book fair in the school hall next week after school.

WORLD BOOK DAY COMPETITIONS

Please see competitions below. The closing date for all competitions is Friday 13 March.

SCIENCE WEEK

Children will be enjoying different 'curiosity based' experiments in their science lessons next week to celebrate Science Week.

YEAR 6 FOREST SCHOOL CLOTHES

All children in Year 6 will need their forest school clothes in school next Monday 9 March.

HIGH SCHOOL APPEALS

Please can we inform parents of Year 6 children that we can no longer support appeals for high schools due to the large numbers of parents asking for them, furthermore past evidence has shown that primary school support has not made any difference to the outcome of appeals. We thank you for your understanding with this matter.

NURSERY MOTHERS DAY CELEBRATION

On Thursday 12 March we will be hosting our Mother's Day event in Pre-School. We would like to invite our mummies to come and spend some time with us playing, crafting and generally sharing time with us. Sessions will be 10:30am - 11:20am for morning children and 2:00pm - 3:00pm for afternoon and all day children. Please let Mrs Thomas know if you would like to attend. More information will follow on Class Dojo.

RECEPTION MOTHERS DAY EVENT

Reception classes are holding a Mother's Day event on Friday 13 March, 9.00am-10.00am.

Due to health & safety reasons only **ONE** member of the family can attend - this could be either Mum, Grandma or Auntie.

Please book your place on ParentPay by next Thursday 12 March. Thank you.

RECEPTION HEIGHTS AND WEIGHTS

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

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 tomorrow (Friday).

YEAR 1 DT

As part of their DT, Year 1 children will be going out locally to investigate houses/homes.

Please can children bring in empty cereal boxes into school over the next two weeks.
Thank you.

YEAR 3 DT

As part of their DT, Year 1 children will be making moving monsters. Please can children bring in empty strong cereal/shoe boxes into school over the next two weeks. 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 next 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.

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.

ACHIEVEMENT ASSEMBLY AWARDS – TUESDAY 3 MARCH

Class of the week	-	4M
KS1 Person of the Match	-	Faizan Ahmed (2C)
KS2 Person of the Match	-	Maliha Aslam (4M)
KS1 I ate well today	-	Ayaan Shah (1B)
KS2 I ate well today	-	Sumaiya Ahmed (3B)
WF Super Smart Uniform	-	Aminah Hussain (4K)

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:

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.

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

SCHOOL CLUB PERFORMANCES

Please note that as it is getting towards the end of term the Drama and Street Dance Clubs will be doing a performance for parents / carers so you can come and see what your child has been doing. The dates and times for the performances are:

- Friday 13th March – Street Dance Performance - to arrive at 3.40pm, ready for the performance at **3.45pm. Please note this performance is NEXT Friday.**
- Wednesday 18th March – Drama Club Performance - to arrive at 3.25pm, ready for the performance at **3.30pm**

BLACKBURN CU FEBRUARY HALF TERM HOLIDAY CHALLENGES

If your child has completed any of the half term challenges 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. 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. Please post all CU passports in the blue CU box at the school office. **Please note the deadline for sending in evidence and passports is this Tuesday 10th March.**

CU SCIENCE ACTIVITY – YEAR 3 – 6

If you have signed your child up to this activity please ensure you look out for a confirmation email which has been sent via the school email system. This confirmation has a link to the consent for which MUST be completed by this Sunday 8th March. Failure to complete this consent form will mean your child cannot attend. Please contact Sara Burton on 07805929965 (please leave a message if there is no answer) if you have any questions or have not received the confirmation.

EASTER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Further details of the Easter holiday activities and family trips will be sent out next week. Please look out for further details sent via the school email system and the School App.

WOMEN'S ONLY FITNESS CLASSES

Please note the women's only fitness class will be starting back up again after the Easter holidays. Further details will be sent out next week so please keep a look out.

FAMILY FUN DAY AT BLACKBURN CENTRAL LIBRARY – SATURDAY 7TH MARCH

World Book Day is the theme for Blackburn Library's next **Super Saturday family fun day THIS Saturday 7th March**. Drop in between **11am and 12.30pm**, or **1.30pm and 3pm** for activities, games and lots of book themed fun. If you've worn a costume to school on World Book Day, why not wear it to the library on 7th March too? Remember if your child is a member of Blackburn Children's University to pick up a slip and hand it into school together with your child's CU passport next week so they can collect a stamp.

EASTER CRAFTS AT BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN LIBRARIES

The libraries will be putting on a Easter craft where children can decorate a bug hotel. Remember if your child is a member of Blackburn Children's University and they attend please pick up a slip and hand it into school together with your child's CU passport after the holidays so they can collect a stamp. Tickets for these sessions will be available from the relevant library 2 weeks before the activity. The dates are:

- Wednesday 1st April, 2.30pm at Cherry Tree Library
- Tuesday 7th April, 2.30pm at Mill Hill Library
- Wednesday 8th April, 2.30pm at Blackburn Library

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. All books must be returned directly to the school office.

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 CREATIVE WAYS TO ENCOURAGE READING

Reading regularly has a life-long impact, yet recent data from the National Literacy Trust shows a decline in reading for pleasure among 8- to 18-year-olds, with just 32.7% enjoying it in 2025. Despite growing distractions, there are practical ways adults can spark a love of reading. This guide offers strategies and resources to help inspire young readers.

1 VALUE ALL READING

When we think about reading, it's very easy to picture a young person reading a fictional novel; however, reading is so much more than this. To help them understand, why not show them how to create a 24-hour reading diary? Jot down all reading and then discuss this with them. By doing this, you can demonstrate the many ways we turn to reading.

2 WIDEN THE SELECTION

Once we know reading can be varied, we need to think about the selection of reading material they can access. Visit a shop selling magazines, the library and a bookshop, and consider the range of material that is available within them. Then consider how you might broaden their reading choices, so all young people have access to a wide and varied selection.

3 GIFT A BOOK

One simple way to encourage reading is to make books feel special. Gifting a book adds value and shows it's something to be treasured. Whether it's as a reward or for a celebration like a birthday, let the young person choose a title or pick one you know they will enjoy. You could also include a personal note inside.

4 CONNECT WITH AUTHORS

Meeting authors can certainly spark an interest in their reading material. This might be through a live event in a school/bookshop or by using the wealth of online material that is now available. Encourage young people to look at ways to connect with authors using free resources such as Authority and Just Imagine's Children's Authors Live.

5 BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Access training about reading for pleasure to widen your understanding of this topic and, more importantly, how to develop it. Explore a wide range of free resources that can be found online. The more you know, the better placed you are to inspire a love of reading in others.

6 TALK BOOKS

There are times when we need silence to read and focus on our book; however, we know that reading is a social experience, so we must also factor in discussion time. Reading the same book gives two people a connection and the opportunity to voice their thoughts and questions about it. Why not buy two copies of a book and read it together? Start the connection.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

As well as talking about the content of books, we can share what we are reading or have read recently. This can often act as a trigger for someone else to explore it. How often have you watched a film or series because someone else has recommended it? It's the same with books. If you know the young person well, you can tailor your recommendations and share why you think they'll enjoy it.

8 GO DIGITAL

With the rise in online digital material, we can easily focus on the negatives; however, it also brings a wealth of opportunities. Resources can aid and enhance the reading experience for young people. They can read along with audiobooks, translate, and track their reading goals with resources like Polyilino and apps like Goodreads for older children. Augmented reality books also bring books to life and offer a great way for engagement.

9 RECONNECT

There can come a time when a love of reading seems to disappear. It does not mean it's gone forever; it generally means they have lost the connection. How do we get it back? Find the next piece of reading material that sparks their current interests. The National Year of Reading focus of 'Go All In' captures this well as it is their key theme. As children grow and change, so do their interests. A visit to the local library is a great way to support the reconnection.

10 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let them see you reading. If you make time to read, you send a strong message to children: reading matters. Share why you enjoy it. Is it to relax, escape the world, learn something new or to be entertained? When children see reading as a normal and valued part of everyday life, they are more likely to adopt it themselves.

Meet Our Expert

Carl Pattison is a literacy adviser and early reading expert at The National College. Through his programmes, he supports schools to enhance reading and writing. In addition to his independent work, he also works for a large academy trust in the East Midlands as the strategic lead for their English Hub and Literacy Excellence Centre.



The National College

See full reference list on our website



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COMPETITIONS TO ENTER – WIN PRIZES!

Competition 1

DESIGN YOUR VERY OWN World Book Day TOKEN to be entered into the National AND School Competition WIN A BOOK FROM THE BOOK FAIR



Collect a competition form and instructions from the office.

PRIZE: Win a book from the Book Fair – winners announced in the Tuesday Achievement Assembly on 17th March.

***Entries will also be entered into the national competition.**

Competition 2

'Go All In - Read Anything – but Read Every Day'- Photo Competition

Take a photo of you reading anything! At any part in the day! Anywhere!

What is your favourite thing to read? How many different things do you read in a day? Who do you read with? Have you a favourite thing to read at home?

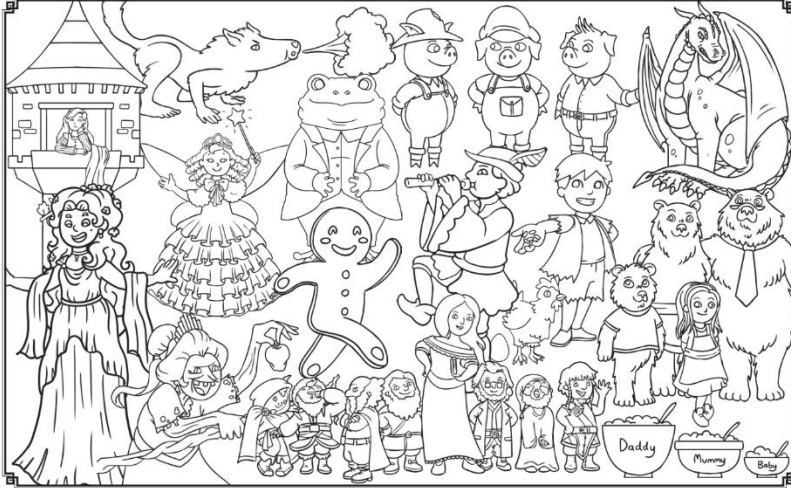
Email the photo into school or bring in the photo and hand in to Ms Emam by Friday 13th March morning.

PRIZE: Win a book from the Book Fair – winners announced in the Tuesday Achievement Assembly on 17th March. Winning photos shared with the school if permission is given.



Competition 3

READING MINDFULNESS COLOURING SHEET



Colour in your favourite from a choice of 3 different colouring sheets linked to reading.

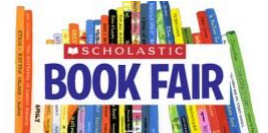
Collect a sheet of your choice from the office.

PRIZE: Win a book from the Book Fair – winners announced in the Tuesday Achievement Assembly on 17th March.



Scholastic Book Fair –In the School HALL

CHOOSE THE BOOKS YOU WANT TO READ



- The Book Fair is coming to school for a week.
- You can choose and buy from a wide range of books suitable for different ages
- You can use your £1 book voucher to get £1 off the cost of a book so don't forget to bring it along.
- **REMEMBER:** You will get a free book voucher from school to use at any book shop. You can use the £1 voucher at our book fair to get £1 off any book with the voucher.
- Cash only please
- It is in the school hall – come in through the back door of the hall on the playground