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Wensley Fold CE Primary Academy

"Make Each Day Count"

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WENSLEY WEEKLY
Thursday 21 May 2026
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www.wensleyfold.co.uk

User Name: parent Password: parent

Dear Parent

HALF TERM

School will close tomorrow (Friday) at 3.15pm for the half term break and will re-open on Monday 1 June at 8.45am. After school clubs will finish at the normal time of 4pm.

WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK

As part of Walk to School week 2026, any child who walks the whole way to school can wear their own shoes tomorrow - please can sensible footwear be worn. Thank you.

EID

We want to take this opportunity to wish our families Eid Mubarak next week during the half term break. We hope you have a fantastic time celebrating with your families and look forward to the children taking part in our whole school Eid celebration on Friday 5 June.

EID PARTY LUNCH

The school kitchen has very kindly offered to cook an Eid party lunch on Thursday 4 June.

The lunch consists of mini lamb kebabs, mini chicken burgers, onion bhajis, burger buns, waffles & hash browns followed by assorted muffins and a carton drink as a treat. If your child is not normally on school dinners and wishes to have the Eid party lunch, please order on ParentPay as soon as possible. Thank you.

EID CELEBRATIONS

As part of our Eid celebration, **ALL** children can wear non-uniform on Friday 5 June. This will give children the opportunity to wear their Eid clothes and take part in celebrations during the day - No football shirts please. Thank you.

Clothing should be suitable to change quickly for their swimming lesson and please can sensible footwear be worn. Thank you.

FATHER DAVID ASSEMBLY

Father David, our school Vicar, will be coming in to lead our school assembly on Monday 1 June, where he will be talking about the event in the Christian calendar called Pentecost.

It is the date that reminds Christians of the birthday of the Christian Church. It is celebrated around 50 days after Easter Sunday and marks the day the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples.

SUMMER ATTENDANCE CHALLENGE

There are 7 weeks left after the half term for the summer attendance challenge. For every full week your child attends school every week, they will earn an attendance ticket – The ticket will be placed into a prize draw to win an Amazon Fire Tablet. The draw will take place in the last week of term.

YEAR 4 MULTIPLICATION CHECK

We will be administering the statutory multiplication tables check between Monday 1 June and Friday 12 June.

The children have worked really hard this year and are almost ready for their check. Please support us to help your child by practising their times tables at home regularly in the lead up to the test. During the testing weeks, please make sure the children are well rested and have had their breakfast each morning. Thank you for your support. Further details have been sent home today.

UNIFORM

Please can we remind parents to label their child's uniform, in particular school jumpers at this time of year when they are taking them off more often. Thank you.

YEAR 3A POPCORN PARTY

As a reward for super behaviour, Year 3A will be having a popcorn party tomorrow (Friday)

GREAT HARWOOD AGRICULTURAL SHOW

Two of our Year 6 girls will be competing in the pygmy goat show on Monday 25 May. Please come along and support our goat handlers! Thanks to Mr Smith for organising.

RECEPTION BUS TOUR AND CORPORATION PARK

As part of their topic on our local area, Reception children will be visiting Blackburn library and then taking a bus tour of Blackburn on Thursday 18 June, to find out more about our town. They will have the opportunity to visit some of the important and well known areas of Blackburn, including Ewood Park, Blackburn Royal Hospital, Blackburn Cathedral, the town centre and finishing the tour at Corporation Park. The afternoon will

be spent at the Park investigating how Blackburn has changed over time and how the seasons change in the park. The cost of the trip is £3, which has been subsidised by the Reception fund. Please log on to ParentPay to give your consent by Friday 12 June. A packed lunch will be provided by school unless otherwise indicated on the consent form. Please can children come to school in their PE Kits and with appropriate footwear. If it is wet, we will use the Forest school suits and wellies so please make sure your child's still fit. Thank you.

RECEPTION VISIT – ASHLEIGH PRIMARY SCHOOL

To continue with their topic on the local areas, Reception children will be visiting Ashleigh Primary School, Darwen on Wednesday 24 June. They will be continuing links with other schools, learning about similarities and differences between each school. The cost of this trip is £3, which is also heavily subsidised by the Reception fund. Please log on to ParentPay by Friday 12 June. Thank you.

YEAR 1 BLACKPOOL ZOO

As part of their Science topic on animals, Year 1 will be visiting Blackpool Zoo on Thursday 9 July. The cost of this visit is £19, which includes coach travel and the entrance fee. Children should wear their school uniform. Please log on to ParentPay for further details and complete the consent and payment by Friday 3 July. Thank you.

YEAR 2 LYTHAM ST ANNES

As part of their topic on the Geography and History of seaside towns and seaside holidays in the past, Year 2 will be visiting Lytham St Annes on Tuesday 23 June. The cost of this visit is £11.50, which includes coach travel and an ice cream. Children should wear their school sweatshirt with beach appropriate clothes (no tights please) and suitable footwear dependent on the weather on the day. They may bring beach toys, e.g. buckets, spades and balls in a labelled carrier bag. Please log on to ParentPay to complete the consent and payment by Friday 19 June. Thank you.

YEAR 3 LAKES

As part of their English and Geography topics, Year 3 will be visiting the Lake District on Wednesday 1 July. The trip consists of a steam train ride throughout the Lake District, a visit to the Lakeside Aquarium and a boat trip across Lake Windermere so it is a fun filled, busy, educational experience. Please pay on ParentPay by Friday 26 June. Thank

YEAR 6 ACTIVITIES WEEK AND HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

Please can instalments for the Year 6 Activities Week be brought up to date. The final instalment must be paid by Friday 19 June. Thank you.

ACHIEVEMENT ASSEMBLY AWARDS – TUESDAY 19 MAY

Class of the week	-	6HW
KS1 Person of the Match	-	Sakina Amin (2C)

KS2 Person of the Match	-	Ismail Patel (6HW)
KS1 I ate well today	-	Aqsa Dar (1A)
KS2 I ate well today	-	Minaal Rasool (5S)
WF Super Smart Uniform	-	Sumaiya Ali (1B)

PRE-LOVED UNIFORM

If you are interested in purchasing pre-loved uniform, please contact Mrs Khan or Ms Emam to arrange a viewing or to enquire about specific items.

All sales will make a real difference to our school nominated charity, Barnados.

Thank you for your support

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 next term:

04 June	-	Eid Party
11 June	-	Outdoor Play
18 June	-	Forest School
25 June	-	Woodland Bingo
02 July	-	Messy Play

RECEPTION & NURSERY FUND

Reception and Nursery fund is now due for the Spring Term. If you have not already paid for the year, please pay £5 at the school office. Thank you.

MILK

Milk money is now overdue 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 of children in Years 1 and 2 pay £12 online for this academic year. Parents of children in both Reception classes – please check with Ms Emam. Thank you.

SWIMMING LESSONS AND WATER FUN SESSIONS

We have the last few places left for the swimming lessons which will be taking places on some weekends in June. Please see the letter for further details:

<https://bit.ly/SpacesSwim26>. If you have not already signed your child up please register them via this link: <https://bit.ly/SPACESSwim26> if you are interested.

WOMEN'S ONLY FITNESS CLASSES

There is another block of Women's only fitness classes starting after half term. Please see the letter that has been sent out (<https://bit.ly/LetterJune26FitnessWF>). Sign up via this link: <https://bit.ly/WomensFitnessJune26WF>.

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE FESTIVAL BOOK AWARDS

Please note that after half term we will not be issuing any more books. If your child is given a book to read over the half term holiday please ensure this is returned during the first week back. If your child has been taking part please remember to hand their passport in to school after the holidays so it can be stamped for these hours. Any questions please contact Sara Burton on 07805929965 (please leave a message if there is no answer).

BLACKBURN CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY MAY HALF TERM HOLIDAY CHALLENGES

The May half term holidays for Blackburn CU have been shared (<https://bit.ly/BCUMayChallenges26>). If your child does complete any please remember to email your evidence to Sara Burton on s.burton@wensleyfold.blackburn.sch.uk or send to 07805929965. Alternatively, they can be brought into school with your child's CU passport after the holidays.

BLACKBURN CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY GRADUATION – GRADUATION HOURS

Please note Blackburn Children's University will be holding their annual graduation on Saturday 11th July 2026. If your child attends any external clubs or activities please note the deadline for hours will be the first week back after May half term. Please ensure you get these up to date and hand their Children's University passport in to be updated for these. Further details will then be sent on hours and certificates in early June.

LIBRARY HALF TERM ACTIVITY – PAINT, PLANT AND EXPLORE!

Step into a world of natural fun: paint with plants, create your own mini greenhouse, and become a nature detective on our tree themed scavenger hunt! These will be taking place at:

Mill Hill Library – Tuesday 26th May at 3pm

Cherry Tree Library – Wednesday 27th May at 2.30pm

Blackburn Central Library – Thursday 28th May at 2pm

Free tickets are available from each library and must be booked in advance. If your child is a member of Children's University and you attend this event please remember to pick up a slip from the library and bring it into school after the holidays together with their CU passport so it can be stamped.

TESCO STRONGER STARTS – BLACKBURN CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY VOTE

Blackburn Children's University have been successful for the Tesco Stronger Starts Scheme and have been put forward to a customer vote in Tesco stores (Blackburn Superstore, Bank Top, Roe Lee, Livesey and Darwen Express). Voting is now open and will continue until the end of July 2026. The voting is to help fund Blackburn CU holiday activities

including cooking as well as a variety of sport and wellbeing activities so children can have fun and learn new skills. Please look out for this if you visit any stores and pick up a token to cast your vote!

BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN RE:FRESH ACTIVITIES

Active Spring booking link now live!! 🎉🔴

Check out the variety of FREE, fun, inclusive activities for all the family during half term 26th - 30th May: <https://bit.ly/ActiveSpringMay26>

Some activities require booking for more details visit their website:

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

If your child is a member of Blackburn Children's University and they attend any of these activities please message Sara Burton (s.burton@wensleyfold.blackburn.sch.uk or 07805929965) so your child can collect a stamp in their CU passport!

BLACKBURN CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL THEMED ACTIVITY DAY **– YEARS 2 - 6**

A letter has been sent out for this activity. It is currently full, however if any additional spaces do become available these will be added to ParentPay at 7.30am tomorrow morning (Friday 22nd May). If you have signed your child up please do look out for the confirmation email and link to the consent form which will be sent via the school email system by the end of next week. Failure to complete this consent form will mean your child cannot attend.

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. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MINECRAFT

As the best-selling game in history, Minecraft has made a name for itself by empowering audiences of all ages to harness their creativity. Originally an indie hit, it's become a cultural phenomenon with merchandise, spin-off titles, and wider media adaptations. Even if you don't know your Creepers from your Endermen, this guide will explore the risks of Minecraft in 2026 and explain how to support a safe gaming experience for the children in your care.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

PUBLIC SERVER COMMUNICATION

Many players enjoy Minecraft with others, including friends and unknown players online. In-game text chat is commonly used to coordinate building projects and gameplay, and this can extend to adding friends to voice chat. While often harmless, this creates risks around contact with strangers, and in some cases server hosts may expose IP addresses (if hosting independently), which raises privacy and security concerns.

GRIEFING BEHAVIOUR

Some players deliberately damage or destroy other players' creations. This behaviour, known as 'griefing', is a form of bullying that can undo hours of effort and cause frustration or distress to affected players. Although many servers treat griefing as a serious offence, enforcement varies. Children who prefer to build independently may feel safer working on private worlds or controlled servers.

ADDICTIVE GAMEPLAY LOOPS

Minecraft's creative focus can make it easy for players to lose track of time. The cycle of gathering resources and building projects can be highly engaging, which may challenge agreed screen-time limits. If not managed effectively, this can impact children's sleep, schoolwork, and real-world social interaction.

SCARY GAME ELEMENTS

Although often compared to digital construction toys, some gameplay modes include hostile creatures with unsettling sounds and sudden encounters. While there is no graphic violence, younger players may still find zombies, spiders, or dark environments frightening. These experiences can lead to anxiety or reluctance to play, depending on the child's age and sensitivity.

IN-GAME SPENDING

Minecraft requires a one-off purchase after a free trial, usually around £15, but additional spending is possible. Players can buy cosmetic content or subscribe to Minecraft 'Realms' for private servers. Without supervision, children may make unintended purchases. Subscription services and add-ons can also increase overall costs over time if not monitored.

ONLINE INTERACTIONS

Playing with others can introduce broader online safety concerns, including exposure to inappropriate language or behaviour. Some players may attempt to move conversations beyond the game, which can increase risks to children's safety and welfare. Children may not always recognise these situations, meaning guidance and ongoing conversations about safe interactions are essential.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CHOOSE SUITABLE GAME MODES

Creative or Peaceful modes remove hostile creatures and reduce the pressure during gameplay. These options allow children to focus on building and exploration without fear of attack. They are also ideal for shared play between adults and children, creating a calmer environment to learn the game and enjoy collaborative projects.

USE PRIVATE SERVERS

Setting up a private server helps control who can join a child's game. Access can be limited to trusted friends through passwords or invitations. This reduces the likelihood of unwanted interactions and gives adults greater oversight. While some options involve a subscription fee, they offer a safer and more controlled multiplayer experience.

DISCUSS ONLINE STRANGERS

Children should understand that not everyone they meet online is who they claim to be. Clear guidance about not sharing personal information is essential. Encourage children to report any worrying or uncomfortable interactions and reassure them that they can seek help without fear of punishment. Open, ongoing conversations help build their confidence and awareness of these issues.

SET SPENDING BOUNDARIES

Agree on clear rules around purchases before letting children play, and use device settings or platform controls to restrict spending within agreed limits. Explaining that in-game currency uses real-world money can help children make informed decisions. Regularly reviewing purchases together can also prevent unexpected costs and encourage responsible behaviour.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes spent 7 years in games media, before moving into the games industry via PR and marketing. A parent himself to a Minecraft-loving son, he understands why it's so important to stay safe online.



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