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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

FREE SCHOOL MEALS ELIGIBILITY

Free School Meals (FSM) is changing from September 2026.

Under the updated criteria, only families in receipt of **Universal Credit** will be eligible. For further information and how to apply, please see email sent to parents last week.

Please note that pupils who are currently eligible for FSM, or who have been eligible previously, will **no longer be protected** under transitional arrangements. All families will be required to submit a **new application**, as transitional protections will cease at the end of the **2025/26 academic year**.

Universal Free School meals will continue for all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

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 1 – A BIG THANK YOU

Year 1 have been working exceptionally hard these past few weeks in preparation for the Phonics Screening Check. We are able to tell you that every single child was amazing. From fantastic effort, to calm and sensible behaviour, they were a real credit to themselves and we are immensely proud of each and every child.

We also want to extend a heartfelt thank you to parents and carers who have been so supportive of how we have approached phonics and reading this year. It really is a team effort and as staff; we are very grateful for all you have done.

SUMMER SINGING EVENT AT BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL

Our school choir is thrilled to be attending the 'Raise the Roof' event, proudly hosted by the Bolton and Blackburn with Darwen Music Service!

Join us for a spectacular evening of music as we perform alongside other local school choirs on Tuesday 30th June at Blackburn Cathedral.

Tickets can be purchased by visiting boltonmusicservice.com/events

If your child is in the school choir, please complete the consent form on ParentPay by Friday 26 June. Thank you.

RECEPTION & YEARS 1-5 BLACKBURN LIBRARY

Reception classes and Years 1-5 will be visiting Blackburn library next week to meet a variety of book authors and illustrators to encourage them to read and write. Authors will read the short stories or poems and pupils will be able to interact with the illustrators.

Year 2	-	Wednesday 17 June (pm)
Year 3	-	Thursday 18 June (am)
Year 1	-	Thursday 18 June (pm)
Reception	-	Friday 19 June (am)
Years 4 & 5	-	Friday 19 June (am)

NURSERY FATHERS DAY EVENT

Nursery will be hosting a stay and play session to celebrate Father's Day next Wednesday 17 June:

AM session	10.30am-11.30am
PM session/ALL DAY	2.00pm – 3.00pm

Please can dads/carers notify the class teacher if you can attend. Thank you.

RECEPTION FATHERS DAY CELEBRATIONS

Reception children would like to invite their dads, grandads or uncles in for a Father's day Celebration next Friday 19 June, from 9.00am-10.00amT. Please notify the office if you would like a place on this session and note only **ONE** member of the family can attend due to health & safety reasons. Thank you.

RECEPTION READING WORKSHOP

The Reception team would like to invite parents in for a Reading Workshop on Tuesday 23 June, 9.00am-10.00am. We would love to celebrate their progress in Reading this year and enjoy some story based activities. Please notify the school office if you would like to attend. Thank you.

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 next 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 tomorrow (Friday). 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 tomorrow (Friday). 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 you.

PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP

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.

BLACKBURN CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY HOURS

Please note that we have now calculated all the Children's University hours ready for Graduation on Saturday 11th July 2026. If you have handed in your child's passport for this, please note all passports have been returned. Please do look out for this as no responsibility will be held by the school now they have been returned.

Letters will be going out early next week to all children who are members of Blackburn Children's University about the hours we have recorded, indicating more about the certificates and graduation, so please keep an eye out for this. If you have any questions when the letters come out please do not hesitate to contact Sara Burton on either s.burton@wensleyfold.blackburn.sch.uk or 07805929965 (please leave a message if there is no answer).

SWIMMING LESSONS

If you have signed your child up to the swimming lessons please remember they continue this weekend. Please check your confirmation for all the details. Any questions please contact Sara Burton on 07805929965 (please leave a message if there is no answer).

TESCO STRONGER STARTS – BLACKBURN CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY VOTE

Please remember to pick up a token and vote if you visit a Tesco store! 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). 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.

JUNIOR BOOK BONGO AT BLACKBURN LIBRARY

Ask at the library for details and to pick up your record sheet. Children can use their library card to borrow and read **four** books from the library and there are four different

types of books the library would like you to read for this. For each book children must write the title, author and one thing that sticks out in their mind. Bring any completed forms back to your nearest Blackburn with Darwen Library. Once complete the library will print off a certificate. To collect **4 hours** for **Children's University** please bring the certificate together with your CU passport into school to be stamped. On completion you will also be put into a draw to win a prize! Draws will take place regularly until **30th June 2026 via the library.**

SUMMER HOLIDAY TRIPS AND ACTIVITIES

Plans are well underway for the summer holiday trips and activities. Please keep an eye out over the next few weeks for more information.

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.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SPORTS BETTING ONLINE

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Sports betting online involves placing wagers on real-world sporting events through websites, apps, and linked accounts. In the UK, licensed gambling is illegal for under-18s, yet young people may still encounter betting through sports coverage, social media, gaming spaces, friends, or adult accounts. With gambling content increasingly visible online, parents and educators should help children understand the risks, financial impact, pressure, and how to make safer choices.

EASY ONLINE ACCESS

Online sports betting sites and apps are widely available and can be accessed through phones, tablets, computers, and, indirectly, gaming or social platforms. Some young people may attempt to bypass age checks using false details or someone else's account. Digital wallets, prepaid cards, and saved payment details can also make spending harder to notice, increasing the risk of discreet or impulsive betting.

PEER AND INFLUENCER PRESSURE

Social media influencers, online tipsters, and sports content creators can make betting appear fun, profitable, or part of being a committed fan. Young people may feel pressure to copy this behaviour, especially when friends talk about odds, accumulators, or predictions during matches. Gambling advertising rules aim to protect under-18s, but children can still see persuasive betting content in online spaces.

FREE BET OFFERS

Online betting platforms often use free bets, bonus credits, or 'risk-free' promotions to attract users. These offers can make gambling seem safe or low commitment, but they usually include terms and conditions that young people may not understand. A free incentive can lead to real spending, repeated deposits, or the belief that gambling is easier to control than it is.

NORMALISING GAMBLING BEHAVIOUR

Online sports betting can make gambling feel like a routine part of watching sport. Young people may begin to see odds, predictions, and wagers as harmless entertainment rather than as financial risk. This can also blur boundaries with other gambling-like activities, including loot boxes, skins betting, or casino-style games, making later gambling feel more acceptable or familiar.

ADVERTISING AROUND SPORT

Young people can be exposed to betting brands through sports broadcasts, social media, sponsorship, pitch-side advertising, and content linked to major fixtures. Repeated exposure may make gambling seem normal, glamorous, or expected as part of the sport. Without adult guidance, children may connect betting with excitement, loyalty, and success, rather than understanding that gambling is designed to make money from customers.

CHASING WINS AND LOSSES

A winning bet can create excitement and encourage a young person to try again, while a losing bet may lead them to place another wager to win back the money. This is known as chasing losses. Because online bets can be quick, small, and available at any time, children may not recognise how rapidly repeated decisions can become costly and emotionally harmful.

Advice for Parents & Educators

START EARLY CONVERSATIONS

Talk openly with children about how betting works, including odds, losses, advertising, and the fact that gambling companies are commercial businesses. Use examples they may recognise, such as betting adverts during football matches, influencer predictions, or online tipsters. Keep the tone calm and curious, so that children feel able to ask questions, share concerns, and discuss pressure from friends without fearing punishment.

SET SAFER BOUNDARIES

Use device, app store, and bank settings to limit spending, block gambling transactions where possible, and require adult approval for purchases. Check payment histories for unfamiliar withdrawals, digital wallet use, or repeated small transactions. These safeguards work best alongside clear conversations, helping children understand that online payments are still real money, even when they feel quick, hidden, or invisible.

EXPLORE ONLINE EXPOSURE

Ask which apps, websites, games, sports channels, and social media accounts children use around live sport. Betting content may appear through adverts, sponsorship, livestreams, tipster pages, or discussions between friends. Watching a match together can help you point out gambling messaging in real time and explain how it is designed to influence choices, normalise betting, and encourage spending.

NOTICE AND SEEK SUPPORT

Look out for secrecy around devices, sudden interest in odds, requests for money, unexplained spending, mood changes linked to sports results, or late-night phone use. Respond with support first, then gather information and seek specialist advice where needed. Organisations such as GambleAware, Ygam, GAMSTOP, and the Gambling Commission provide information about gambling harms, education, blocking tools, and support routes.

Meet Our Expert

Bubba Gaeddert is a Senior Lecturer and the Head of Events at the University Campus of Esports. He is also the President and Co-Founder of the Videogames and Esports Foundation, a charity that supports safe and inclusive gaming environments. With over 25 years of experience in esports, education, and media, Bubba is a global leader in promoting positive gaming practices for youth and families.



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