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Wensley Fold CE Primary Academy

"Make Each Day Count"

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WENSLEY WEEKLY
Thursday 9 July 2026
Issue Number 37

www.wensleyfold.co.uk

User Name: parent Password: parent

Dear Parent

END OF TERM

School will close for the summer holiday next Friday 17 July at 1.30pm and reopen on Wednesday 2 September at 8.45am.

Nursery will close at 11.30am on Friday 17 July and reopen on Wednesday 2 September at 8.30am.

THEMED WEEK UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who has already paid their £2.50 towards their child's themed week. If you have not yet paid, please can any monies due be paid on ParentPay as soon as possible. For the £2.50 the children are making a T shirt with a World Cup theme, tasting foods from their country and an ice lolly.

There has been a real buzz of excitement throughout the school this week, with themed songs, mascots, trophies, clothing and games being played. We really are enjoying our World Cup Theme!

Tomorrow is the last day of themed week and we are planning a celebration where the children will perform and parade their creations from this week.

Parents are invited to come to school tomorrow from 11:30-12:30 to join in with the celebrations which will take place on the field.

Please note-the T shirt pens have specific instructions that in order to preserve the designs, the T shirt must be washed at **30°C or below**.

REPORTS TO PARENTS

Please note reports will be sent home tomorrow (Friday 10 July).

ACHIEVEMENT ASSEMBLY

We will be holding our end of year achievement assembly next Tuesday 14 July at 9.00am. Parents of children nominated will receive an invitation to the assembly tomorrow via email. Thank you.

WENSLEY FOLD BIG PICNIC

As a celebration of another successful year in school we have decided to end the school year with a huge picnic on the school field next Wednesday 15 July, 11.45am-1.30pm (weather permitting!).

Please see end of the newsletter for further information.

Tickets are available to buy from the school office.

KS1 HOUSE POINT WINNERS - ASH

As a reward for the most house points this term, all children in Years 1 and 2 who are in the house group **ASH** can come to school dressed in **red** next Wednesday 15 July. (No football shirts please). Thank you.

KS2 HOUSE POINT WINNERS - OAK

As a reward for the most house points this term, all children in Years 3 - 6 who are in the house group **OAK** can come to school in dressed in **yellow** next Wednesday 15 July. (No football shirts please). Thank you.

YEAR 6 LEAVERS ASSEMBLY

Next Thursday 16 July we will be saying goodbye to our Year 6 pupils at their leaver's assembly which will be held in the Space building at 9.15am. All children in Year 6 will receive 2 tickets on Monday, children under 3 will not need a ticket but must sit on their parent's knee – please note admittance will be by ticket only and latecomers will not be allowed. Due to data protection regulations videoing is strictly prohibited.

YEAR 6 LEAVERS PROM

To celebrate the end of their time at Wensley Fold, Year 6 will be having a Leavers Prom on Thursday 16 July, from 4.30pm-6.30pm. This will take place in the space hall in school and food (pizza, chips and drinks) will be provided. Children will leave school and return for 4.30pm in their party clothes for a dance, food and making memories. Thank you

SCHOOL DINNERS FEEDBACK

As we start to plan new school lunch menus for the new school year in September we would like some feedback on what your child likes on the current menus, what they do not like and what they would like to see on future menus.

We follow the School Food Agency guidelines on the content of school meals to ensure they are healthy and must plan these very carefully.

If you would like to share your views, please collect a feedback form from the school office and return to the labelled box in the office by next Friday 10 July.

One feedback form will be randomly selected from the labelled box to win a prize. Thank you for your help with this

MEDICATION

Please can parents arrange to collect all medication from the office before the end of next week. Any medication not collected will be disposed of by school. During the holidays, if your child has asthma, you will need to make an appointment with the surgery to renew the asthma care plan. If your child has allergies, you will need to provide evidence of these allergies. If medication is required, or if your child has a care plan of any type, you will need to ensure the paperwork is checked and updated before returning it to school in September. Medication and up to date paperwork are required in order to comply with safe administration procedures and if we do not receive these we will assume they are no longer relevant. Thank you for your support in ensuring all medication is administered at home wherever possible.

LIBRARY CLOSURE

Please note that the Library is now closed for the end of term auditing process. Please return all the library books including the TOP 100's by the end of the day – Monday 13 July.

In the meantime, your child can continue to take part in the Top 100 challenge during the holidays by borrowing the books from the Blackburn Central Library. Please pick up a leaflet from reception for more information.

Thank you to all the parents and children for supporting our library.

LOST PROPERTY/BELONGINGS

Please can all lost property be claimed and any belongings taken home by the end of term. Thank you.

NEW SCHOOL EMAIL ADDRESS

Please note our school email address has now changed to

office@wensleyfold.blackburn.sch.uk

Please use this email address going forward for any correspondence to school.

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.

ACHIEVEMENT ASSEMBLY – TUESDAY 07 JULY

KS1 Person of the Match	-	Razia Ahmed (RS)
KS1 I ate well today	-	Yusuf Mulla (RS)
KS2 I ate well today	-	Moeen Sajjad (5B)
WF Super Smart Slip	-	Israt Patel (2C)
Class of the week	-	4K

RECEPTION & NURSERY FUND

Please can all outstanding monies be paid at the school office as soon as possible. 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.

CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY PASSPORTS

Please note if you have handed your child's passport in to be updated this term all passports will be returned before the end of term, so please do look out for them. No responsibility will be held by the school once they have been returned.

SUMMER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

If you have signed your child up to any of the summer holiday activities please look out for a confirmation email which was sent yesterday from s.burton@wensleyfold.blackburn.sch.uk. This has the link to an online consent form which must be completed by NEXT Tuesday 14th July. Failure to complete this form will mean your child cannot attend.

CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY GRADUATION

If your child is down to attend the Children's University graduation please remember it is taking place THIS Saturday. A reminder letter was sent out earlier this week. Please ensure you check this as it includes the number of tickets you have been allocated. You must bring this letter with you on the day on the graduation – it is your ticket. If you have not received this and you think your child is due to attend please do contact Sara Burton straight away. If you do have any questions 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).

Children who cannot attend graduation or have received a bronze or silver award will be presented with their certificates in an assembly next week.

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE – BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN LIBRARIES

Details will be sent out about the Summer Reading Challenge taking place over the summer at Blackburn with Darwen libraries. If your child is a member of Blackburn Children's University and completes this challenge please remember to bring their certificate and their passport to school in September so it can be stamped with 6 hours for completing. The challenge started this week. Pop down to your nearest library to sign up.

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. Voting ends at the end of July.

ACTIVE PASSPORT

The Health and Wellbeing team have produced an active passport for over the summer holidays. Active Passports are FREE and are available to give you and the family ideas on how to have fun while staying active, whether that's indoors or outdoors, rain or shine. The aim is for you and family to complete as many of the activities as possible. Some of these activities can be done in your own time, and others will be part of their Active Summer activities.

If your child is a member of Blackburn Children's University they can also collect stamps in their CU passports for attending these activities. You will need to hand in your child's CU Passport, together with the completed 'Active Passport' after the holidays. Please note only organised activities through the Active Summer qualify for hours in your child's CU passport.

To request a FREE active passport to be delivered to your address, please contact the Wellbeing Service on:

- 01254 682037
- Wellbeing@Blackburn.gov.uk
- <https://refreshbwd.com/events/active-seasons/>

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 USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

1 CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT

Before integrating technology, consider the types of text that a child engages with. If they need help on occasion, digital reading pens can assist by scanning and reciting words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used in exams if they're part of their routine learning process. Proper training and practice are required, but they can be a great help when tackling printed text.

2 READING ON SCREEN

Many devices now allow users to customise text for better readability. Adjusting font type, size and background colour can significantly enhance comprehension. For many readers, white text on a black background is the easiest to see, whereas other styles – such as dyslexia-friendly fonts – are designed to help those who are struggling. Teaching children how to personalise text settings on their devices empowers them to read more comfortably and with greater confidence.

3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS

Most modern devices include built-in tools designed to support readers. These features can be found in Settings under Accessibility and may include text-to-speech, speech-to-text and screen magnification functions. Enabling these tools can make digital reading more user friendly, especially for children with learning difficulties or visual impairments, who might have an easier time with spoken language than the written word, or who might simply require a closer look at the text.

4 INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES

Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.

5 VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS

Many video games require players to read instructions, character dialogues and mission objectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve storytelling, puzzles or problem-solving often include large amounts of text – encouraging children to read these texts aloud or discuss them can improve their comprehension and vocabulary in a fun, engaging way.

6 SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS

Watching videos with subtitles or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or online videos, they can follow along with the text, gaining a better understanding of how written words sound when spoken aloud. This is particularly beneficial for reluctant readers, as it exposes them to words in a familiar, engaging context. Repeatedly watching content with subtitles reinforces word recognition and comprehension.

7 USING AUDIOBOOKS

Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop listening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the text while listening to a narrator, reinforcing word recognition and fluency. For struggling readers, listening to an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and comprehension.

9 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY

Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built in. When enabled, users can highlight a passage or sentence and press Play to hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.

8 VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING

Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children see the connection between spoken and written language. By using text-to-voice to have their dictated words read back to them, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.

10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13–16 years old, making parental guidance essential. Many social media videos include captions and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's important to use the platform's parental controls (such as time limits and content filters) to create a safe and educational online environment for children. Encouraging responsible social media use can ensure a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy.

Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lawri is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SENCO. She recently launched her own site, Neuroteachers, which offers a library of short, 'how-to' and explanation videos for educators. Catrina also writes and delivers online training and events for multi-academy trusts, businesses, schools and training organisations.



The National College

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The Big Picnic

Wednesday 15th July 2026

11:45 - 1:30

On our school field- weather permitting

Please purchase one ticket per person:

Adults £2

Children under 11 £1

Bring your picnic and enjoy lunch with
your child- all are welcome!

Tickets are available in advance from the office
All proceeds will go to the school's improving the outdoor
environment project.





The Big Picnic

- Please bring a lovely picnic to share with your child on the day.
- All children at Wensley Fold will have the option to order a school picnic on Parentpay.
- Children in Rec/Y1 and Y2 who have an infant free school meal will be given a picnic lunch from school but you can give them a home picnic if you wish.
- On the day you will be able to come to the classroom to collect your child to take them for the picnic. You can exchange your ticket for your child when you collect them from the classroom.
- When you have collected your child from the classroom, the supervision of your child is your responsibility until the end of the picnic where you will need to return them back to class.
- If you are not attending the picnic, the children will have a class picnic outside with their teacher and friends.
- Ice creams and other treats will be available for sale during the picnic.

