



Griffin Park Primary School Weekly Newsletter

Date: 9th January 2026
Newsletter Number: 14



HEADTEACHER MESSAGE

Welcome to the first edition of the Griffin Park Newsletter for 2026 and a Happy New Year to you all. I hope you all had a good rest over the Christmas break and managed to enjoy the time with loved ones and friends.

It has been lovely to see the children back in school this week. They all seem refreshed and ready for learning. We had a slippery start to the term with snow and ice covering the paths and playground. Thank you to all of you for working with us to ensure that children were able to arrive and leave school safely. If ever there is poor weather forecast that may affect travel to school, please keep a close eye on your emails and we will communicate any changes to pick up and drop off as soon as we can.

There are lots of exciting things planned for the term ahead. Please have a look at the key dates on the right of this newsletter to see what we have in store. Things will be added to this as the term goes on and it is quite possible that there will be some date changes as new events get booked in so please check the newsletter each week to see what's on.

Next Thursday sees the start of our class assemblies for the term and Year 6 will be kicking us off in style. We also look forward to the infants doing their first class assemblies of the year. They didn't do them last term as they were focussing on the nativity. This term, Year 3 and 4 will be doing a production towards Easter which is something for us all to look forward to.

Best Wishes,
Mr Chapman

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Could Your Child Be Eligible for Free School Meals?

Applying is quick, confidential, and could bring vital benefits not just to your child, but to the school too:

- **Daily nutritious meal** for your child
- **Extra Pupil Premium funding** to boost school clubs, resources, and support
- **invites to the summer school** when in juniors
- **Additional support from the authority** during school holiday

Why You Should Apply

Even if your child is in Reception, Year 1, or Year 2 (where Universal Infant Free School Meals apply), registering makes school eligible for additional funding via Pupil Premium.

KEY DATES

5/01/2026 – School Reopens 8:40 am
15/01/2026 – Y6 Assembly 9am
22/01/2026 – Y5 Assembly 9am
29/01/2026 – Y2 Assembly 9am
29/01/2026 – Y4-6 PSHE Day
5/02/2026 – Year 1 Assembly 9am
12/02/2026 – EYFS Assembly 9am
13/02/2026 – School Closes for half-term break 3:15pm

23/02/2026 – School Reopens
26/02/2026 – Recycling Workshop Y1
5/03/2026 – World Book Day
13/03/2026 – Non-uniform day – Bring an Easter egg
16/03/2026 – Y6 PSHE – RSE Workshop
17/03/2026 – Let's Sing Concert for Choir
20/03/2026 – Y3/4 Production Am & PM
27/03/2026 – Awards assembly 1:15pm
27/03/2026 – School Closes End of term 2pm

STARS OF THE WEEK

Well done to the following children who will receive their certificates on **Friday 16/01/26**

YR: Teddy

Y1: Iris

Y2: Levi

Y3: Aaliyah

Y4: Lily

Y5: Bella

Y6: Olivia



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FREE SCHOOL MEALS (Cont.)

Who Can Apply?

Your child may be eligible if you receive any of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration & Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, with annual gross income under £16,190 and not receiving Working Tax Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on, for up to 4 weeks after it stops
- Universal Credit, with household income under £7,400 per year after tax and excluding benefits

Additionally, children receiving these benefits directly (instead of through a parent) are also eligible.

How to Apply

1. Visit <https://www.blackburn.gov.uk/SynergyWeb/Enquiries/Citizen/FreeSchoolMeals.aspx>
2. Have your National Insurance and benefit details ready
3. Or ask at the school office, and they'll help you apply

If you think there is the slightest possibility that you may be eligible for free school meals, we strongly encourage you to apply, even if you have tried in the past. Once an application for free school meals is accepted, your child will continue to get free school meals throughout their time at primary school, even if your circumstances change.

RECORDING IN ASSEMBLIES

Each week we invite parents and carers in to see their children pick up their star of the week certificates if they have been chosen for that week. We also love to invite parents in when we have class assemblies and on other special occasions. We politely ask that any visitors to school refrain from recording or taking pictures during the assemblies. We have a number of children for whom we do not have permission to record and it is important that we protect the digital privacy of anyone in the hall during these special occasions. We will always try to give people an opportunity to take a picture with their child at the end of the assembly where we can ensure that no-one else is in the picture.

UNIFORM POLICY

Our school uniform policy states that:

'No jewellery should be worn in school. A watch and plain stud earrings are acceptable. However, earrings must be removed on PE Days. If you are considering having your child's ears pierced, please do so at the beginning of the 6-week break so these can be removed for PE lessons.' There has been confusion in some year groups about what is acceptable and staff are increasingly having to ask children to remove necklaces and earrings. For the avoidance of confusion, we have shown the children pictures of the kind of earrings that are allowed according to the uniform policy. The uniform policy will be reviewed by school governors in March. The pictures are included below for your information. Thank you for your support in ensuring that children come to school looking smart every day.

Silver Stud Earrings



Gold Stud Earrings

