

Weekly Newsletter

Date: 23rd January 2026

Newsletter Number: 16



HEADTEACHER MESSAGE

It has been yet another busy and exciting week here at Griffin Park Primary School. I have been delighted to see lots of wonderful work as I do my learning walks each day. Year 2 have been working very hard to produce some non-chronological reports on owls. I can't wait to read them when they are finished.

Year 5 led a wonderful assembly on Thursday. The topic was the Ancient Greeks and, even as a fan of the Greeks, I learned lots of interesting new facts. They put a lot of effort into the assembly and I am sure that all who were present would agree that it was a superb performance. The children have clearly worked very hard and done themselves proud. Thank you to Mrs Boardman and Mrs Smith for the time and effort you put into creating a lovely assembly.

This week we had a new signing in system installed. Inventory is a similar system to the one we had before but we hope it will be more reliable and allow us to track the number of people in the building more closely to ensure that everyone is kept safe. As before, if your child is late for school or you are early/late picking them up, we will need you to sign them in/out on the system and provide evidence of any appointments. Please ask for help at the window if needed.

WORLD BOOK DAY

We're excited to celebrate the magic of reading this World Book Day! On Thursday 5th March, children are warmly invited to come to school dressed as their favourite book character or inspired by their favourite story. Costumes can be as simple or as creative as they wish! For those who prefer a cosy twist, children are also welcome to come in their comfiest pyjamas as we celebrate the joy of bedtime stories. We can't wait to see the imagination, colour and creativity that World Book Day always brings—it promises to be a wonderful celebration of books and the stories we love.

BEHAVIOUR POSTERS

I was thrilled this week to be presented with not just one, but two posters that children have designed to promote our three school rules – Be Safe, Be Ready and Be Respectful. Manha and Kenara from year three took it upon themselves to create these wonderful posters that are now proudly displayed in my office. Thank you to both of you and well done for producing such high quality work.



Be Safe

Be Ready

Be Respectful



KEY DATES

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 /26

YR: Emilia

Y1: Theo-Antony

Y2: Liyana

Y3: Alpine

Y4: Roux

Y5: Ella

Y6: Aisha



PARENTS' EVENING

Parent's evening has been timetabled for Thursday 5th February 2026. Bookings will go live on 22nd January and close on 29th January. It will follow the same format as last time: in the hall and meetings from 3:30pm. Children who have an IEP will be contacted for a separate meeting with the class teacher. If you have any questions or are struggling to book on, please contact the school office.

Could Your Child Be Eligible for Free School Meals?

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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.

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.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Term Dates for the academic Year 2026-2027 are going live on the website soon. Due to a clash with PGL and a planned INSET day, we have had to rearrange the dates. If you had seen the previously published dates, please double check them against the new dates on the school website.

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