



Griffin Park Primary School

Weekly Newsletter

Date: 30th January 2026
Newsletter Number: 17



HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

I am pleased to be able to tell you about lots of exciting things that have been happening at Griffin Park Primary School this. On Monday, interviews were held for a vacant HLTA position. Mrs Boardman was the successful candidate and will now be taking up additional responsibilities as a higher level teaching assistant. This does mean that we have now sadly said goodbye to Miss Acton and Miss Nelson who have been helping to cover classes and support groups throughout the school. Thanks go to both of them and we wish them well for the future.

We have also welcomed a new member of staff – Miss Allen has joined us as a teaching assistant and will be working predominantly in year six to support the children with their learning. I am sure that you will all get to know her as time goes on and she finds her feet as part of the Griffin Park family.

On Tuesday, we welcomed Sarah from St Luke's Church into school to work with year three. Read more on that below from Mr Johnson. On Thursday, Megan Mclean came into school to deliver some PSHE sessions to Year 4 - 6 and a parent information session to the parents of children in those classes. More on that below from our PSHE lead Mrs Schofield.

There have been reports of a man hanging around school and looking into the playground. We are aware of this and have spoken to the man in question. We will be keeping a close eye out and will take appropriate action should he be seen again. Please reassure your children that the staff at Griffin Park are always vigilant to ensure their safety whilst at school.

On Thursday, year two led a wonderful assembly on their recent topic of birds. I learnt some fascinating facts about birds and was amazed to hear that the children had planned and written the assembly by themselves. Well done year two and thank you to the staff who helped them put it together – it was brilliant!

SARAH'S VISIT TO YEAR THREE

On Tuesday, Year 3 welcomed Sarah, the Children's Officer at St Luke's Church, and her daughter Grace, the Youth Leader. Their visit supported our RE unit on Prophets, helping the children to explore how people of faith listen to God and share kindness and positive messages. Grace told the story of Pentecost and the children asked some thoughtful questions they had prepared about prophets and prophecies. It was a pleasure to host visitors from St Luke's Church, and we look forward to welcoming them again soon. Mr Johnson – Year 3 Teacher

PSHE DAY

Yesterday we welcomed Megan McClean in from 'Empowerme through RSE' to talk all things PSHE. Children in Years 4, 5 and 6 took part in a fun and informative lesson all about puberty and how our body changes. We were impressed with the behaviour and maturity of them all and lots said they learnt many new things! Thank you also to the parents/carers who came to the talk at the end of the day.

KEY DATES

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 6/02/26

YR: Spencer

Y1: Abdullah

Y2: Haider

Y3: Hussain

Y4: Abdullah

Y5: Kaison

Y6: Zahra



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Head Teacher: Mr. D. Chapman

Deputy Head Teacher: Mrs R. Schofield

Assistant Head Teacher: Mrs S. Aspinall

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www.griffinparkprimary.co.uk

CHARITY SKYDIVE

One of our parents, Mr Bradley Grieve, has kindly offered to help raise money for school by doing a charity skydive. Brad is gearing up for an incredible challenge this April—skydiving from 11,000 feet to raise funds for Griffin Park Primary School. This school has been a cornerstone for many families, including his own, and it's clear how much it means to the community. The staff's dedication to the students goes beyond academics; they truly care about the well-being of every child.

Brad's goal is to raise money that will directly benefit the school, whether it's through educational supplies, school trips, or learning resources. He's always been someone who pushes himself to help others, and this fundraiser is no exception. While he doesn't want anyone to feel pressured to donate if it's not feasible, every contribution, no matter the size, will make a difference. For those who do donate, Brad plans to share footage of his dive as a thank you to everyone who supports this cause. Let's come together to support this amazing school and the children who benefit from it. Thank you for considering a donation or simply spreading the word.

Please click the following link to make a donation: <https://gofund.me/caddcc8b9>



Could Your Child Be Eligible for 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.

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.

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We were delighted to receive the following message from the Secretary of State for Education highlighting the great work done by all staff to ensure that all children in school have positive outcomes. Well done everyone who was involved in getting great results for disadvantaged children in last years end of key stage two SATs tests.



A message from Bridget Phillipson



Dear David,

Congratulations to you and your team on the excellent outcomes the disadvantaged pupils at Griffin Park Primary School achieved at the end of the 2024/25 academic year. Your school's performance places it among the very best nationally, and this is a significant achievement.

This success reflects the dedication of your staff and the hard work of your pupils. It shows what can be achieved when ambition and commitment come together. Thank you for everything you do to give children the best possible opportunities to succeed.

Your school's achievements demonstrate what is possible, and I hope you will continue to share your experience and best practice with others. Even the strongest schools can go further. We encourage you to lead the way as a system leader - sharing effective practice, championing networks, supporting collaboration, and helping raise standards across the sector.

There are real opportunities available for you to support improvement for a wider group of pupils including through:

- engaging actively with [your region's RISE networks](#) and partnering with nearby schools and trusts;
- contributing to regional roundtables and professional communities to spread the approaches that are working in your context; and
- sustaining excellence by continuing to focus on disadvantaged pupils

Please pass on my thanks and congratulations to your staff and pupils. I look forward to working with you as we strive together to raise standards for all.

Your sincerely,

Bridget Phillipson
Secretary of State for Education



Department
for Education



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CELEBRATE!

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