



Griffin Park Primary School

Weekly Newsletter

Date: 6th February 2026

Newsletter Number: 18



HEADTEACHER MESSAGE

We have arrived at the end of another fantastic half-term here at Griffin Park Primary School and the children are due a well-earned rest for a week. There has been lots going on in school over the past few weeks and this week was no exception.

On Thursday children in Reception class performed their first ever whole class assembly. The theme was 'Love' and it filled the hearts of everyone who was there to see it. They spoke so clearly and loudly that I think people in the houses across the road will have been able to hear them. Well done Reception, you were amazing and thank you to all the staff who worked hard to produce such a fantastic performance.

On Tuesday, I welcomed Gemma Capps into school. Gemma has recently taken up the role of school effectiveness officer for SEND at Blackburn with Darwen council. She was delighted with what she saw when she had a tour of the school and was very impressed with the behaviour of the children and how hard they were working.

This week we have marked children's mental health week in school. It started with an assembly on Monday morning and then Mrs Schofield followed up with another assembly on Wednesday. Some classes took part in a live presentation online attended by 44 000 other schools. The children have also been completing work in classes linked to the theme of Belonging. Please ask your child about the work they have been doing for children's mental health week – I am sure they would love to tell you.

I hope you all have a lovely half-term break and that the weather allows you to do some nice things outdoors – it doesn't look too hopeful today but fingers crossed some nice spring weather is on the way. Thank you all for your continued support of all we do at Griffin Park Primary School.

DINNER MONEY

Please can all Dinner Money be brought up to date before the start of the next half term. Please pay for Dinners upfront as this means that arrears do not accrue which may result in your child having to bring their lunch from home.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is a huge focus for the school and we encourage every pupil to be in every day. To help promote a positive attendance culture, each week we will be publishing the attendance figures for the previous week for each class. Mrs Aspinall leads an assembly each Wednesday where the children find out how well they have done. Well done to Year 2 for getting 100% attendance last week. Well done again to Year 2 for their top attendance figure and it's great to see so many classes with high attendance this week.

Rec.	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
94.1%	97.5%	99.3%	96.7%	96.3%	97%	98.3%

KEY DATES

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 27/02/26**

YR: Abu Bakr

Y1: Ruqayyah

Y2: Awab

Y3: Saifullah

Y4: Hayder

Y5: Cody

Y6: Bilal



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BB2 1UT

Head Teacher: Mr. D. Chapman

Deputy Head Teacher: Mrs R. Schofield

Assistant Head Teacher: Mrs S. Aspinall

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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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