



# Griffin Park Primary School

## Weekly Newsletter

Date: 6<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Newsletter Number: 21



### HEADTEACHER MESSAGE

What a wonderful week it has been here at Griffin Park. On Monday, Mrs Otter and I welcomed climate ambassador Olu Johnson into school. Olu works for Blackburn With Darwen council and part of his role involves helping schools develop ways of working that are environmentally friendly. Olu will be working with us to develop a climate action plan and he is back in school this coming Thursday to do some work with our newly formed school council.



#### School Council

Last week we held the first school council meeting of the year. School councillors have been elected for each year group from Y1-Y6 and their job is to be the voice of their class when making decisions about the school. We will be meeting fortnightly and have a long list of jobs we need to do. Well done to the following children who have been elected as representatives for their year groups: Y1 Maleeha & Adrians; Y2 Asma & Jenson; Y3 Bobby & Lena; Y4 Khadija & Amelia; Y5 Lee & Imaan; Y6 Umaymah, Haleema, Lola & Jessica.

#### Parent/Carer Questionnaire

Last week, I sent out a link of a parent survey. We have currently had 50 responses – which is quite good but it could be much higher. We would love to know what you think of Griffin Park school. It will help us understand what is going well and what we could do better. Please follow the link below to complete the survey, it only takes a few minutes. Let's see if we can get the figure up to 100 completed surveys by the closing date of Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

[Griffin Park Parent/Carer Questionnaire – Fill in form](#)

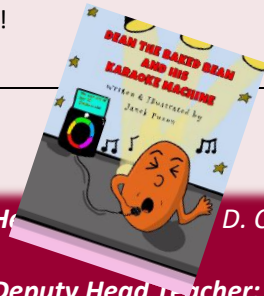
### WORLD BOOK DAY

Yesterday we celebrated World Book Day. It was lots of fun and lovely to see lots of children dressed up as their favourite characters or in their pyjamas to mark the occasion. Throughout the day children did exciting book related activities in their classes and we ended the day with a prize assembly for some of the fantastic work they had done.



Janek Puzon is a local author who visited us for World Book Day. He read his latest book 'Dean the Baked Bean and his Karaoke Machine' to Years 1, 2 and 3 then answered some questions. We found out that, not only does Janek write his own books, but he also does the illustrations! Thank you very much to Janek for visiting school and reading to us. If you would like to buy one of his books, they are available on his Amazon shop – please use the QR code or click the book to access it!

Mr Johnson



### KEY DATES

**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

**24/03/2026** – Y3/4 Production Am & PM \*Note change of date

25/03/26 – Y3/4 Gymnastics performance 10:45am

**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 13/3/26**

YR: Teddy

Y1: Jessica

Y2: Bonnie

Y3: Hunter

Y4: Wasay

Y5: Elsa

Y6: Laurel



Griffin Park Primary School  
St Philip's Street  
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Headteacher: Mrs D. Ch...

Deputy Head Teacher: Mrs R. Schofield

Assistant Head Teacher: Mrs S. Aspinall

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## Weekly Attendance Results – Target 96%

Rec.	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
99.3%	91.4%	97.3%	95%	98.3%	94%	93%



East Lancashire Hospitals  
NHS Trust

### Vision Screening in Lancashire

Vision screening is an integral part of the universal delivery of the national Healthy Child Programme.

Every child in the Reception class will receive an invitation to have their vision tested in school.

A detailed letter will be sent home with your child closer to the screening date.

Safe | Personal | Effective



East Lancashire Hospitals  
NHS Trust

### Vision Screening in Lancashire

Vision screening will be taking place for the reception class children on

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April

An Opt-out consent form will be sent home with your child closer to the screening date. If you do not receive one and wish to Opt-out, please contact the school.

Safe | Personal | Effective

## Is my child too ill for school?

It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school, nursery or playgroup when they're unwell.

There are government guidelines for schools and nurseries about [health protection and managing specific infectious diseases at GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/health-protection-and-managing-specific-infectious-diseases). These say when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't.

If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day. Let them know that your child won't be in and give them the reason.

If your child is well enough to go to school but has an infection that could be passed on, such as a cold sore or head lice, let their teacher know.



For advice on specific medical conditions that may affect your child, please click the link below.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>



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## OPERATION ENCOMPASS

We would like to remind families that our school is part of *Operation Encompass*, a national initiative that supports children who may have been affected by domestic incidents. This means that, when appropriate, the police share relevant information with our designated safeguarding leads so we can provide timely care and support in school. Our involvement helps ensure that every child feels safe, understood, and supported. More information can be found on the following website

<https://www.operationencompass.org/>

## 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
- 4.

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

# CELEBRATE!