



# Griffin Park Primary School

## Weekly Newsletter

Date: 13<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Newsletter Number: 22



### HEADTEACHER MESSAGE

It has been another jam-packed week at Griffin Park Primary School. On Wednesday, the school council met for the second time and voted children in to the chair, vice-chair, secretary and vice-secretary positions. Then on Thursday, we met again and welcomed Olu Johnson back in to school. He did some work with the school council on being environmentally friendly and played a game with them called 'How Bad Are Bananas.' We compared different items and activities to see which ones were closer to being carbon neutral. There were some surprising results. Thank you to Olu for joining us once again and we look forward to working together in the future.

#### Parent/Carer Questionnaire

Thank you to all

those who completed the parent questionnaire. We had 68 responses in total which is a pleasing number. The responses were overwhelmingly positive and it has been lovely to read all the nice things people have said about Griffin Park. Most notably, every single respondent said they would recommend Griffin Park to another parent/carers. Below are a small selection of some of the nice things you said about the school.



We are also very appreciative of the comments that help us improve. Some areas we will be looking at going forward include how we communicate about pupil's progress and what they are learning as well as what we can provide in terms of extra-curricular activities and wider personal development. Unfortunately, providing an after-school club or homework club is not financially viable at this time but we have been contacted by a local company based in Feniscowles who do provide after-school children's clubs. Please see the pages below for more details.

*"Griffin park school is a fantastic school. The teachers and all the other staff are amazing, and truly have the well being of their students at heart. I am very lucky my daughter goes to such a lovely school x"*

*"The staff are always smiling, welcoming and are ready to take on board suggestions."*

*"The school has been amazing with my child."*

*"I have 2 children at Griffin Park. They are both very happy at school, If ever I've had any concerns I've always and still find staff very approachable and have any concerns dealt with very well."*

### THE JUNGLE BOOK

On Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March, M&M productions came to perform *The Jungle Book* for World Book Day. We really enjoyed watching the show. My favourite part was when Mowgli was running away from the people attacking him and when Mowgli found his true parents.

Thank you to Jessica in Year 6 for this review.

### 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 20/3/26**

YR: Abdullah

Y1: Myla

Y2: Scarlett

Y3: Maliha

Y4: Lacey

Y5: Lee

Y6: Odrija



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## Weekly Attendance Results – Target 96%

Rec.	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
97.2%	95.7%	98.3%	99%	98.3%	99.3%	93.3%

	Attendance	Description
Exceptional (1)	Attendance is 100%	Excellent. This will help a child's progress and life in school. This will give them a good start in life and a positive work ethic
Good (2)	Attendance is 96% or higher	
Room For Improvement (3)	Attendance is below 96%	Poor. There is a threat. Absence is affecting attainment and progress in school. Parents/carers will be expected to have a conversation with school staff to discuss attendance and early help will be offered. A plan will be put in place to help with improving your child's attendance.
Cause For Concern (4)	Attendance is below 85%	Unacceptable Absence is causing a serious concern. Absence is affecting attainment and progress in school. Permitting absence without an appropriate reason is being offered by the parent/carer. Steps will be taken by school to manage the attendance issue. This may result in a fine.



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



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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/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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## Live and Kicking Out of School Club

For almost 23 years, a well-established childcare provider has been operating from Immanuel Church Hall in Feniscowles, offering high-quality wraparound care over two floors with access to a large outdoor field (weather permitting). They currently support children from four local schools and are happy to welcome new families who may need the service.

The **Breakfast Club** opens at 7:15am and includes a varied breakfast menu such as pancakes, cereals, toast, potato cakes, waffles, crumpets, fruit, and yoghurts, followed by supervised transport to school. Sessions are priced at **£5.50**.



**LIVE AND KICKING**  
OUT OF SCHOOL & HOLIDAY CLUB

At Immanuel Church Hall  
710 Preston Old Rd, Feniscowles, Blackburn, BB2 5EN

We provide the highest quality of childcare and aim to strive for excellence! We take pride in providing childcare excellence in a safe and nurturing environment. With engaging activities, nutritious meals, and qualified staff!

**BREAKFAST AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUB**  
BREAKFAST CLUB STARTS AT 7:15AM  
AFTER SCHOOL CLUB FINISHES AT 6:00PM

Follow us on facebook: Live and Kicking Out of School Club  
**01254 202075 / 07737647639**  
**liveandkicking20@hotmail.com**



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The **After-School Club** collects children from school and provides a home-cooked meal—examples include sausage, mashed potato, peas and gravy; chicken curry with rice; and jacket potatoes with a range of fillings. Flexible hourly session prices are available at **£4.00, £8.00, and £12.50**, with the club open until 6:00pm.

They also offer **full-day holiday provision**, including a wide range of activities and summer day trips. Families can find out more by visiting their Facebook page or viewing their Ofsted reports.

For additional information, please contact **Fiona Wilson** on **07737 647639/01254 202075**

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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!