

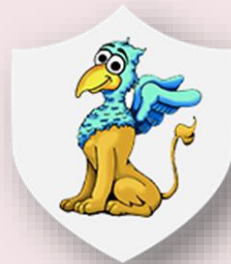


# Griffin Park Primary School

## Weekly Newsletter

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Newsletter Number: 23



### HEADTEACHER MESSAGE

I would like to start this week's newsletter by wishing Eid Mubarak to all our Muslim brothers and sisters. May your day be filled with happiness and good fortune.

It has been another busy week at Griffin Park. On Tuesday, a group of children went to represent the school at the Let's Go Sing concert at the Ice Arena. They attended rehearsals in the afternoon and stayed through to the performance in the evening. Myself, Mrs Aspinall and Mrs Scott supervised throughout the day and we were all very impressed with the choir's behaviour and performances. They represented Griffin Park admirably.



Last night, we had a wonderful time at the Easter Bingo. Thank you to all those who donated eggs for prizes and thanks to everyone who came along to support the event. We raised a whopping **£433.68** for school fund! Thanks also go to all the staff who stayed behind to host the event and work hard to make Griffin Park such a special place to come and learn.

### SEWING CLUB

Year 5 sewing club worked very hard to finish their bags in time for Mothers' Day. The children had to choose their fabrics for the design, cut and pin the pattern pieces to the fabric and then cut them out before placing them on their bag. The children learnt how to use the sewing machine and made an excellent job of sewing in a straight line. They then placed their designs onto the bag and they were fixed on using fusible interfacing. I wonder what their next project will be? *Mrs Cameron-Clarke*



### SCHOOL FUND APPEAL

We kindly invite families to support our school fund if they are able. Donations, no matter how small, make a meaningful difference to our children's school experiences, particularly in our EYFS and nursery. We also greatly appreciate any contributions of useful items, for example cooking ingredients to make playdough that helps support learning and school activities. Thank you for your continued support and generosity. Any donations can be made through the school office.

### BREAKFAST CLUB

From Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, we would like pupils attending breakfast club to come through the back school entrance. There they will be let in by a member of the breakfast club staff. Please note any children who are booked onto breakfast club but do not attend will be charged for that session. **You are now able to book/ change bookings up until 7am on the day of the session.**

### KEY DATES

**23/03/2026** – Y6 PSHE – RSE Workshop

**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 27/3/26**

YR: Jakub

Y1: Leveia

Y2: Sienna

Y3: Khadija

Y4: Azan

Y5: Isaac

Y6: Polina



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## SPARE CLOTHING

Foundation stage are running out of spare knickers, if you have any knickers that your child has come home in, please wash and return to school. Also, if you have any that your children have grown out please could you send them in.

## SCHOOL DINNERS

Please can all dinner money owing be paid by Wednesday 26th march so all accounts are up to date. Pay via parent pay where you can check the amount owing. If you have any queries or problems regarding this, please come to the school office. Thanks.

## COOL MILK

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As you may be aware Griffin Park Primary School has a milk scheme, now being administered by Cool Milk. Midmorning milk provides a much-needed nutritional boost and keeps children hydrated between breakfast and lunch. Children receive free milk until the age of 5. After that, they Can continue to reap the benefits of fresh mid-morning milk at a subsidised\* cost.

If you'd like to opt in and have not already done so, simply register your child at [www.coolmilk.com/parents](http://www.coolmilk.com/parents) . Your child(ren) will continue to receive free milk whilst under the age of 5 and Cool Milk will get in touch with further information by email shortly before their 5th birthday.

For children who are already over 5, it's not too late – our scheme is flexible! As well as being able to register and make payment straight away, you can join and cancel the scheme at any time. We offer yearly, termly and half termly payment periods and a recurring payment option to give you one less thing to remember.

If you already have an online Cool Milk account for a sibling, you can manage your account, make payment and add extra children by logging in at [www.coolmilk.com/parents](http://www.coolmilk.com/parents)

**Deadline to register – Tuesday 7th April at 5pm.**

Should you have any questions or need any help, send us a message at [www.coolmilk.com/contract](http://www.coolmilk.com/contract) or give us a call on the number listed below – we're here to help!

Kind regards

Griffin Park Primary School, on behalf of Cool Milk

0800 321 3248

**Please do not make any further milk payments via ParentPay as the arrangement is now directly between parents and Cool Milk – via their website.**

## YEAR 3/4 PERFORMANCES

It is a bumper week next week for years 3 and 4. On Tuesday, we invite families to join us to watch their production of **Sleeping Beauty... The Ugly Truth**. Performances are at **10:00am** and **1:30pm**.

Then, on Wednesday, parents/carers of Y 3/4 children are invited to come and watch a gymnastics performance from **10:45am**. We look forward to seeing you there.



*Sleeping Beauty...  
The Ugly Truth*

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## Weekly Attendance Results – Target 96%

<b>Rec.</b>	<b>Y1</b>	<b>Y2</b>	<b>Y3</b>	<b>Y4</b>	<b>Y5</b>	<b>Y6</b>
<b>96.2</b>	<b>95.2</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>98.7</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>92.3</b>

	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 96%	Unacceptable Absence is causing a serious concern. Absence is affecting attainment and progress in school. Permitting absence without an appropriate reason is being



**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/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**

**LIVE AND KICKING**

**HOLIDAY CLUB**  
FULL DAY SESSIONS  
7:30AM - 6PM  
HALF DAY SESSIONS  
9AM - 3PM

Out of School and Holiday Club  
Join us at our Breakfast, After School and Holiday Club! We combine educational support, fun activities and childcare excellence. We are dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of children and families, and we look forward to welcoming your child to our vibrant community.

✓ BREA KFAST CLUB  
✓ AFTER SCHOOL CLUB  
✓ HOLIDAY CLUB

**01254 202075 / 07737647639**  
**liveandkicking20@hotmail.com**

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!