



Trinity

NEWS

FRIDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2026

Mrs Wright's Weekly Update

Year 6 London Visit

I hope you saw the fabulous photos on Instagram yesterday of some of our Year 6 children visiting the Houses of Parliament. They represented our school brilliantly and asked lots of challenging questions. Immense thanks go to the staff who gave their time and energy to making this an unforgettable experience for the children.

School Crossing Patrol

School Crossing Patrol -Stop means Stop campaign

Lancashire County council would like to draw your attention to the expectations around children using the Crossing with Mrs Simm and also reminders to us all as drivers of what to do when there is a school crossing patrol. We are keenly aware of ongoing traffic issues around our Unity Place site and are meeting with County Councillor Riggott and representatives from Lancashire County Council to try to identify solutions.

Ofsted Framework

At the end of this newsletter is a letter from Iain Parks , Director of Education , Blackburn Diocese Board of Education about the new Ofsted framework.

Our school is likely to be inspected in the next couple of years under the new framework and it is interesting to note the changes in expectation and the fact that expected standard replaces what was previously known as good.

World Book Day - 5th March

Thursday 5th March is World Book Day

I was busy at half term making my costume and look forward to seeing where all the children have taken their inspiration from for their costumes next Thursday. (Thanks in advance I do know as a parent it can be tricky coming up with ideas. The most important part is the talking about books and stories together !)

Year groups across school will be sharing stories together next week and lots of our amazing staff have recorded stories to be shared in class in the coming weeks as part of the Year of Reading !

Will you be having extra bedtime stories as a treat this week to celebrate ?

PFA Discos

I do hope everyone enjoys the PFA discos held at Unity Place next week. Thanks, as always, to our brilliant PFA for organising the discos and for raising funds to benefit our children.



What's on?



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Event	Info
Monday 2 nd March	School Disco Y1 & 2 Unity Place Hall	6:00pm - 7:00pm
	School Disco Y5 & 6 Unity Place Hall	7:15pm - 8:15pm
Wednesday 4 th March	School Disco Reception Unity Place Hall	6:00pm - 7:00pm
	School Disco Y3 & 4 Unity Place Hall	7:15pm - 8:15pm
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day	Dress up as a book character
Monday 9 th March	Science Week	All week
	Year 5 Food Hygiene Day	
Thursday 12 th March	Year 6 RE Workshop	
Monday 16 th March	NSPCC Speak Out Stay Safe sessions	Year 5 & 6
Tuesday 17 th March	NSPCC Speak Out Stay Safe sessions	Year 2
	4C Ukulele Concert	UP 9:30 - Parents welcome



What's on?



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Event	Info
Monday 23 rd March	Year 1 Seasons Day	
	Sing Out Concert - Year 3	2pm & 6pm - Parents welcome
Tuesday 24 th March	Y1 Parents Easter Celebration	2:45pm to 3:15pm - Parents welcome
Thursday 25 th March	Y5 Easter Worship	9:15am - Parents welcome
Friday 27 th March	Whole School Easter Worship	9:30 am - Pupils only - Brookwood Way
	School Closes for Easter break	Early Finish Time UP - 1:45pm BW - 2:00pm
Monday 13 th April	School reopens	Pupils return to school

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6th February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to share some information about the current Ofsted inspection framework, as many parents have found recent inspection outcomes across the country confusing or surprising. My hope is that this explanation will help you understand what sits behind the judgements schools receive, both now and whenever your child's school is inspected in future. Whilst all schools welcome scrutiny and accountability the updated Inspection Framework is still in its infancy and the transition from one accountability model to another can take adjustment for all concerned.

A Shift in Expectations

Ofsted has made a number of changes to how schools are inspected. One of the biggest shifts is that the grade "Expected" is now much harder to achieve than the previous grade of "Good."
If a school receives "Expected", this is something to celebrate—it means the school is meeting a very high bar.

This rise in challenge is partly due to a move away from a "best fit" approach (where inspectors looked at the overall picture) to a "secure fit" model, which means that schools are expected to meet all parts of the criteria in full. As a result, direct comparison between a previous "Good" and a current "Expected" is not always appropriate; they are based on different criteria, different expectations, and a higher standard of evidence.

"Needs Attention" – An Important Clarification

You may also see elements of a report described as "Needs Attention."

Ofsted is clear in its public guidance that:

- "Needs Attention" is not a fail,
- and it is entirely normal for schools to have areas that require further development.

This wording simply reflects where practice is still embedding or where additional focus is needed. Many schools—no matter how strong—will have such areas, particularly during a period in which the inspection framework has changed so significantly.

(Parents can view Ofsted's own explanation here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kbl0FvY976g>)

New Criteria and Embedded Practice

Another significant change is that schools are being judged on new areas of practice that were not part of the inspection expectations last year. These new elements are expected to be fully embedded, even though they are still very new. Naturally, this will take time for all schools to implement well.

A Stronger Emphasis on Data

Although Ofsted previously spoke positively about taking school context into account, this is no longer as clear.

Outcomes now place a much stronger emphasis on achievement data, including:

- Overall attainment, not just progress
- Attendance, which has become a major focus

As a result, schools doing excellent day-to-day work with children may nevertheless receive outcomes that feel harsh if their data does not align closely with national expectations—sometimes despite all their best efforts and the particular needs of their pupils.

Greater Scrutiny of Headteachers and Leaders

This inspection framework was introduced with the intention of supporting the wellbeing of school leaders and reducing pressure. Sadly, many leaders are experiencing the opposite.

Inspections now involve greater scrutiny, with more inspectors on site and higher expectations across all areas. As a result, the demands placed on headteachers and senior staff have increased significantly.

As someone who visits schools across the diocese regularly, I see first-hand the dedication and compassion with which our headteachers and staff serve your children. They work tirelessly—often in challenging circumstances—and continue to lead with integrity and care.

I want to thank you for the support, understanding, and kindness you already show to our school leaders, particularly during inspection weeks. Your encouragement makes a real difference, and it is deeply appreciated by those who work so hard for the good of your children and the life of the school.

What Matters Most

I would wish to end by reiterating that our schools, and all those professionals within them, understand the need for external scrutiny and the role Ofsted plays in ensuring that the children within their care are given the very best opportunities.

Even with these national changes, our commitment remains the same:

- We want every child, regardless of background, to reach their full potential.
- High expectations matter because our children deserve the very best.
- Everything our schools do is rooted in helping pupils flourish academically, personally, and spiritually.

Key Points to Remember

- **“Expected” is harder to achieve than “Good”**—and is something to be proud of.
- **“Needs Attention” is not a fail**, and it is normal for schools to have areas identified for further work.
- **New criteria are being inspected immediately**, even though they take time to embed.
- **Achievement and attendance data now have a major influence** on the outcome of an inspection.
- **Leaders face greater scrutiny**, so please support them during inspection weeks.
- Above all, schools remain focused on **our children**, helping them grow into capable, compassionate and confident young people.

Thank you, as always, for your partnership, your encouragement, and the trust you place in our schools every day.

With every blessing,



Mr Iain Parks
Director of Education
Blackburn Board of Education

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School Crossing Patrol Signals



Figure A - Sign upside down - Not ready to cross pedestrians



Figure B - Sign sideways - Barrier to prevent pedestrians crossing. Not ready to cross pedestrians



Figure C - Sign held up high - ready to cross pedestrians. Vehicles must stop unless unsafe to do so.



Figure D - Sign held up high - All drivers must stop

Please support your local School Crossing Patrol Service
Find out more online - www.roadsafetygb.org.uk

With thanks to Lynn Hepworth and Middlesbrough Road Safety Team for the original development of this leaflet.

Stop
means
STOP

School
Crossing
Patrol
Service



Road Safety GB

Information for Parents and Drivers

Parents

Even where a School Crossing Patrol is provided, parents remain responsible for making sure their children get to school safely, just as they do when a zebra crossing or pelican crossing is provided.

When children arrive at the Crossing Point:

- The Patrol will tell them to wait on the pavement and use the Stop sign as a barrier to prevent them from edging forward, until they are called across (see fig B overleaf).
- The Patrol will use the Stop sign to instruct traffic to stop (see fig C). The Patrol may need to wait for a safe gap in the traffic.

DO NOT FOLLOW THE PATROL INTO THE ROAD!

- When the traffic has stopped the Patrol will call you to cross over (see fig D). Please walk in front of the Patrol so he or she can see you.
- The Patrol will remain in the centre of the road until all the children and adults have completed crossing the road.

Drivers

When approaching a school you should reduce your speed and be prepared to stop, also be patient and considerate. School Crossing Patrols need to see and be seen! It can be difficult to see children on the pavement, especially if there are parked cars by the school. Children may run into the road without thinking about traffic.

If you are a driver, remember:

- By law you **MUST** stop when signalled to do so by a Patrol displaying a Stop sign.
- School Crossing Patrols can stop traffic to cross any pedestrian, adult or child.
- Do not move forward and remain patient.
- Do not park close to where a Patrol is working and **NEVER** on the zigzag markings.
- Look out for signs or flashing amber lights which warn of a School Crossing Patrol ahead.

- Park with courtesy and consideration to others, observing all parking regulations in accordance with the Highway Code and in such a way that our children are able to enter and leave the school safely.

It is an offence under the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984 if you do not stop when signalled to do so by a School Crossing Patrol.

If you do not stop the possible penalties include:

- A fine of up to £1,000
- 3 Penalty Points
- Disqualification

Please slow down when approaching a patrol

Remember that a child struck at 20mph will most likely survive but at 40mph they will almost certainly die.

buckshaw
soul  children

Invite you to

Spring

Free
Event

INTO SOUL

Learn a new
SONG

Make new
FRIENDS

Enjoy fun &
GAMES

Explore God's
LOVE

Sunday 19th April 2026 2-4.30pm

@ Buckshaw Community Centre, Unity place

For young people in school years 3-11

For more information contact rachel.harris@bvchurch.co.uk





Not on the app? Let us know and download now to stay in the loop!

The Parentapps Connect mobile app enables you to keep up with messages and updates from school, plus much more. Scan the code below to download the app and contact the school office as **you will need an invitation to register.**

Search for 'Parentapps Connect' or scan the below

