



Great Wood News

September 2026



This month's value is **KINDNESS**

Happy New Academic Year! Welcome to new families and those returning. It is super to have the children back. For new reception parents, we have a short meeting at 9am in the mini-hall this Friday (repeated on Monday); new families in other years are welcome to join.

It is just a delight to have the children back in school and hear them singing our 'Back to School' song in assembly this morning. My main messages were Be Safe, Be Kind; it's normal to feel insecure when things are new; and everyone is different with different strengths - but the one thing we all control is our effort. Parents and teachers just want to know you are giving your best effort – in your work, as a friend and in being the best you can be.



This newsletter shares key points and updated information for the year, however, more detail is available in the Parent Handbook on our website. There are year group curriculum overviews and much curriculum information on the website too. The website also includes our three most recent Facebook posts. For those who like to plan ahead, we have laid out the events that we currently have planned over the year so that you can get them on your home diaries – and make arrangements to attend where appropriate.

It was the last day of term when the school received the results of the Year 6 SATs. We are proud of the progress and achievements of the pupils. The [Provisional GW Performance Results 2026](#) are on the website – they are provisional as we requested reviews where we believed there were marking errors.

[Uniform Information](#) is on our website and a reminder was put on Facebook last week. However, as there were children not in uniform this morning it's being mentioned so parents can sort it instead of the child being put in a difficult spot – Shoes have to be all black with not visible log and suitable for running. Make sure your child's shoes are not too big (some couldn't run this morning) or have a white sole or logo. Do not send children into school with big hair bows, sparkly ear-rings, hairbands etc or tram-lines in their hair – if it is noticeable, it is not uniform. Finally, a conversation from the playground this morning was – Adult – “Where's your coat?” “I didn't bring one.” To which her friend said, “What? Don't you know we live in England.” Out of the mouths of babes. PE kits go home at the end of term and back in school from the first day of term – they double up as an emergency change of clothes. Children with earrings must be able to take them out for PE.



Start and End of Day Reminders

The school day starts at 8:50am. Families should aim for children to be at school for 8:45am. Doors are opened at 8:45am for reception and Years 1 and 2. The junior playground is supervised from 8:45am and the whistles to go in are blown at 8:49am. Gates and doors are closed at 8:50am and children arriving later have to be signed in at the main entrance. Timber Trail and Climbing Towers are off limits before school. Infant children are handed over at 3:15pm and junior children are dismissed at 3:20pm. Children should be reminded by parents that they should not leave the premises at the end of the day, even if another parent offers to take them and if no one comes to pick- up- instruct them to go to the school office. Parents who would like their children to walk home alone are asked to inform the school office in writing. The timber trail and towers are available to the community to use after school as long as the children are being supervised. Children on the junior playground are told that they can't go beyond the trees to maintain separation from children playing as part of Sunset Club who *can* play on

the field.

Staff for 2026/27 Great Wood has a strong and stable team working to support the children.

Class	Teachers	Teaching Assistants
Acorn	Miss Young Mrs Longhorn (W)	Ms Haywood (Mrs Potter)
Chestnut	Mrs McPartlin Mrs Longhorn (F)	Mrs Barnes
1V	Mr Vincent	Mrs Longhorn/Mrs Summers (Mrs Timmins)
1L	Mrs Lee	Mrs Mace
2C	Miss Camp	Mrs Bagguley (Mrs Wilkinson)
2LM	Mr Morland (M,F) Mrs Lockett (T,W,Th)	Mrs Hook (Mrs Saxon)
3CH	Mrs Clark (M, Tpm) Mr Hudson	Mrs Brierly
3HA	Mrs Hoggarth (M,T) Mrs Abby (W,Th,F)	Mrs Hollings
4P	Miss Potter	Mrs Owen (Miss Lister) (Mrs Harwood)
4HF	Mrs Hamilton Mrs Flaherty	Mrs Sharples
5R	Mr G Ross	Mrs McKinley (Mrs Herbert)
5L	Mr Lockett	Mrs McGowan (Miss Young)
6P	Mrs Parkin	Mrs Beamer
6L	Mr Lamb	Mrs Long (Miss Scott)

- Miss Dixon, our Deputy Headteacher is also our SENCO (Special Educational Needs Coordinator) and can be contacted about pupils across the school for information about meeting the needs of children with disabilities or additional learning needs (senco@greatwood.lancs.sch.uk)
- Mrs Dewhirst is our Learning Mentor and can be contacted regarding other barriers to learning: e.g. changes in family circumstances. (learningmentor@greatwood.lancs.sch.uk)
- Mr Hudson, Mrs McGowan and Y4 teachers teach music
- Mr Hope teaches French
- Mrs Clark teaches R.E
- Mr Morland covers leadership time in school and teaches computing as well as 2LM
- Mr Catterall teaches PE in addition to class teachers.
- Mrs Harvey is the bursar and runs the school office while Mrs Logue is absent Mrs Jordan is supporting Mrs Harvey covering reception.
- Mr Wood is our site supervisor
- Mrs Kearney manages the kitchen and leads the preparation of school meals.

Deputy Head, Miss Dixon and Headteacher Mr Ross are available outside school in the mornings and welcome comments and questions.

Governors support the development of our school and strategic planning. Governors who are also current parents are: Jo Bisgrove-Peel (Martha Y4), Doug Martin (Theodore Y5, Felix Y2), Richard Blaikie (Thomas Y2) and Jo Riley (Frances Y1 and Pearl in Y4). We have a current governor vacancy; however, they can't be current staff or current parents. If you can think of anyone in the community who may be suitable, please direct them to the school or make a suggestion to Mr Ross to contact them. Information about the work of school governors can be found on our website.

We have to give a huge thank you to the organisers and 'staff' at June's Summer Festival. £3,134.05 was raised on the day and support the funding of subsidies for trips and visitors – Resources for a Listening Area in reception was also recently approved. An additional £220.16 was raised through end of day ice-cream sales in the summer term – thanks to the parents who volunteered.



All parents and staff are members of our PTA – Jhuliana Haslam (Athena Y6, Violet Yr2) is our current chair supported by a growing band.

Communication is through the Current Parents of Great Wood Facebook site in addition to through school systems – contact can be made using pta@greatwood.lancs.sch.uk. Regarding the parents Facebook site, parent administrators would like to remind users that any negative post about a pupil, parent, staff member or the school, will be deleted and the account's permission withdrawn.

Keeping Informed - Communication is key to the smooth running of a school. It is essential that there is at least one parent registered with Parent Pay. Although there is one 'primary user' more than one user can be set up and siblings can be linked to avoid repetition. Parent Pay is used for booking lunches, club places, paying for trips, giving permission, reminders and notices. There is also this newsletter which is usually a monthly summary and includes an important diary dates section. The newsletter is uploaded onto our website so grandparents and other carers can see it. Separated or estranged parents can be kept informed by adding themselves to a list in the school office to ensure they are included in mailings. The school has a Facebook page where we upload photos etc which can be fun to see and share. There is also a Current Parents of Great Wood Facebook page for community questions (no comments on individual pupils, parents or staff allowed.) If you are unsure of something, please don't hesitate to ask.



Sunrise and Sunset Clubs. Miss Mulligan manages the before and after school clubs with the support of Mrs Holman, Miss Douglas and Miss Mulvana. Email sunrisesunset@greatwood.lancs.sch.uk Bookings are made on Parent Pay with at least 72 hours notice so we can ensure adequate staffing. The entrance for Sunrise and Sunset Club is at the rear of the school marked on the photo. All school gates will be open and as usual the car park is only to be used by staff and visitors.

School Meals - Reception, Year One and Two benefit from Universal Free School Meals. Parents of juniors are reminded to pre-pay for meals following a regular pattern each menu cycle – see link on the website. The meals are all prepared on site and are healthy meals. There is no distinction for those who receive Free School Meals (FSM) and parents are encouraged to apply if they think they may be eligible. There is an application form on our website. School receives additional funds for each pupil in receipt of FSM.

School are £2.75 per day. Sunrise Club is £5.15 and Sunset Club £9.25.

Extra-Curricular Clubs. Club information will go live next Monday via Parent Pay after 4pm with clubs beginning w/c 14th September. There are no clubs for reception children until the spring term. Information will be sent out by both pupil post and Parent Pay on Friday. Some clubs have fees – Children eligible for free school meals (not the Universal free meals) pay £5 for a five-week block or £10 for ten weeks and if a family struggles to find this they are encouraged to contact Mr Ross.

It is expected that if a child is signed up for a club, parents are making a commitment to ensure they attend, especially free clubs – children who don't turn up take away places from others. We recommend that parents take note of the drop-off/ pick-up time and location and **transfer the dates onto a family calendar** (although a club may take place on a Wednesday, we may already know of a date when it can't take place.) If a club can't be seen on Parent Pay that means it is full. Please contact the office email to be added to a reserve list.

Allergies and Health Care Plans

With our safety first approach please be aware of our new policy around Asthma and Anaphylaxis in line with the new Benedict's Law [GW-Asthma Allergy Policy.pdf](#)

Parents do a super job informing us about medical conditions or investigations. When it is around allergies, we need medical evidence to support this (to avoid children claiming they are allergic to water or tomatoes but not on pizza) Mrs

Kearney in the school kitchen is also happy to meet with any parent of children with allergies or dietary issues to go through ingredients and make appropriate plans. We want to make sure we have the most up to date information. Parents should provide updated asthma care plans each year and ensure that in date medication is provided. We ask that the care plan and any medication is in a small box (most usually old ice-cream tubs) with an up-to-date photo on the top and their name on all sides. Parents should be collecting this box at the end of each term and checking everything is up to date before returning it on the first day of term.



NHS Nasal Flu Vaccine - For your convenience, a flu vaccination will be offered to ALL children at school on November 2nd. A consent form will be forthcoming. Knowing the date can help families with a vulnerable person decide if they want to get the vaccine from the GP earlier. Regarding vaccinations, please contact your GP or the school nurse if you are unsure if your child(ren) completed their mumps and measles vaccinations – it is essential the whole community is protected, particularly there has been an increase in deaths of children due to these preventable diseases in England with fewer children vaccinated.

Star of the Week Photographs will be taken on Thursday 17th September and are sent home at the end of the year. Parents are able to purchase an electronic copy of the photo for personal use and details about this will follow. The majority of parents in the past have indicated school photograph company packages are no longer considered good value. Class photographs are taken and available for purchase in the summer term. The income from this pays for printing the Star of the Week photos.

School Admissions - The Lancashire online application process for school admissions are now live at www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools Parents of Year 6 have until 23:59 on October 31st to register preferences. Some high school open days haven't taken place yet. Y6 Parents should note that there are two Great Wood Schools in Lancashire, and you should select the correct one (Beaufort Road, LA4 6UB) to avoid confusion.

Parents have until January 15th 2027, to register for reception places. Please let friends and neighbours know that Great Wood will have Open Morning for prospective parent dates on our website (and in diary dates) and that before and after school care is available.

The **Lost and Found** box in the hall has been emptied with named items passed back. The children have been asked to check that everything that they bring into school is clearly named – especially uniform, water bottles, hats. You as parents are being asked to do the same. Please don't complain if we have written on unnamed items with a permanent marker. Unclaimed items are given to the Morecambe Uniform Project or charity shops – but we would rather they were named and claimed. Y6 monitors return named items and parents are able to look in the lost and found box in the hall. End of last years' unclaimed and unnamed items are in Mr Ross's room this week if you are missing something.

Budgeting for School Trips - Everyone values the opportunities for trips and experiences offered at Great Wood. We are always looking for paid for experiences and best value and the school funds some trips and experiences. For example, we fund the Walking Curriculum trips.

Unfortunately, some things come at a cost beyond the school's resources. The PTA gives a donation to reduce the cost to all parents and children eligible for Free School Meals automatically receive a 50% discount. To help parents we give at least a month's notice before deadlines but have to ask early to prevent cancellation of any trips and potential cancellation fees.

All trips are paid for through ParentPay. You may not be aware, but you are able to put money into your parent pay account and it will sit there until you allocate it to a payment. **The suggestion is that you make a monthly payment into parent pay to spread the cost over time.** The approximate recommended monthly payment for ten months of the year would be £5 to cover costs of trips during the year. It is half the amount for children eligible for Free School Meals (not Universal School Meals that are free.)

Year 6 are going to Tower Wood next week for a four-day residential. The cost of this this year was £345. Y5 can start payments for their Y6 September residential trip in January 2027. We are still hopeful about booking visits to the Houses of Parliament for Year 5 classes with 85% refundable travel costs.

Attached to our newsletters is our **Online Safeguarding Newsletter**. Keeping our children safe on-line is one of the biggest new challenges for parents today – Previous newsletters are available on our website. Please remember that Whats App is an app that can be used for over 13s. Staff at school should not be being asked to manage conflict from on-line conversations on devices at home that aren't being managed appropriately.



Walking to school Please remember that as a community we wish for our local roads to be safe enough for our children to walk to school alone when they are ready. Please avoid unsafe or selfish parking and think 20 is plenty when driving near schools. There is no waiting/parking opposite the car park entrance 8am – 4pm indicated with the single yellow line in order that families can see when they cross from Farnlea Ave. Disabled permits may allow parking on a double yellow but not when it is an obstruction or near a corner. Buses use the bus stop and it is illegal to park there - tickets have been issued to cars parked here - be warned. As safety is always our first consideration, we shame (though don't name) unsafe parking caught on camera.

Mobile Phones – If it is essential for a child in the upper juniors to bring a phone or device such as a smart watch to school due to walking home alone and needing to contact parents, a consent form must be completed and when it is brought to school, it has to be dropped off at the school office first thing. Phones can't be used on the playground.

Most of that has been housekeeping – it is shared so everyone is clear- Our focus though is to support the children in their development, build skills and interests whilst enjoying belonging to a community. We plan our days to help each and every child achieve, thrive and belong to the Great Wood community.

Notice for parents of children with Neurodivergent Needs.

Families across Lancashire and South Cumbria are now able to access earlier support for children and young people with neurodevelopmental needs. The service, Neu Way Support, offers personalised advice, guidance and practical help based on need rather than diagnosis for families who are navigating concerns about autism, ADHD and other neurodevelopmental differences. The service has been commissioned by Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB) and will be delivered by Spring North in partnership with local community organisations that are specialists in supporting children, young people and families. Families can self-refer at: <https://springnorth.org.uk/projects/neu-way-support/> or call 0300 365 5030.

P.S. We have been experiencing technical issues with the interface between Parent Pay and school today. If you are affected- please accept apologies. Mrs Harvey is doing her best to get Parent Pay to fix things.

SEND IAS ?

CHOOSING & APPLYING FOR A SCHOOL

Are you looking for the right school for your child or young person? Our in person parent training will give you information and advice around how to find the right school based on needs, and the application and timeline process.

This session is suitable for parents and carers of young people with or without an EHCP, looking for an appropriate school.

DATE AND TIME
15TH SEPTEMBER 2026
09:30AM - 11:30AM
IN PERSON PARENT TRAINING

LOCATION
Poulton Family Hub
Clark Street, Poulton, Lancashire, LA6 9HT

Use this link to book onto the training:
<https://forms.office.com/e/6b4kVWtqg>

Diary Dates for school year 2026-27

September 26	
Wed 2 nd	School Opens for Children
Thur 3 rd	Y6 WWII Experience Day
Fri 4 th 8:55am	New Reception Parents Meeting in mini-hall
Mon 7 th 8:55am	New Reception Parents Meeting in mini hall
8 th – 11 th	Y6 Tower Wood Residential
Fri 11 th	Y5 Swimming Starts PTA Christmas Card Information sent out.
Mon 14 th	First day for ALL Reception Y3 Roman Experience Autumn 1 Clubs Start Governors Meeting
Tues 15 th	Y5 Outside is Beautiful Project
Wed 16 th	Y4 Visit to Liverpool World Museum
Thur 17 th	Star of the Week Photos
Tues 22 nd	Open Morning for prospective families
Mon 28 th	Great Artists Gallery/EYFS Mark Making – after school
Wed 30 th	Acorn Come Dine with Me - for parents.
October 26	
Thur 1 st	Chestnut Come Dine with Me – for parents PTA Christmas Card Design noon deadline
Fri 2 nd	School Closed for pupils- teacher training
Mon 5 th	Open Morning for Prospective Families 5 th -9 th Well-Being & Mental Resilience Week
Thur 8 th	Y2 am Y1 pm History Visitor
Tue 13 th	5R Assembly after registration
Thur 15 th	Parents Evening
Tue 20 th	5C Assembly after registration
Thur 22 nd	Open Morning for Prospective families Halloween Discos after school
26 th -30 th	School Closed
31 st midnight	High School Application Deadline
November 26	
Mon 2 nd	Autumn 2 starts - Nasal Spray Vaccinations
Wed 4 th end of day	PTA Bake Sale - provisional
	Outdoor Classroom Day activities
w/c 9 th	Friendship Week & Anti-Bullying Day
Thur 12 th	Open Morning for Prospective Parents
Tues 17 th	Owls visit reception
Fri 20 th	Children in Need Day – Non Uniform
Tues 24 th	Open Morning for Prospective Parents
Mon 30 th	4:30pm Governors Meeting
December 26	
Wed 2 nd 7:30	7:30 PTA Meeting – Dog and Partridge.
Fri 4 th	PTA Non-Uniform Day – Chocolate Donations
Wed 9 th	9:15 am EYFS Play for Parents

Thur 10 th	9:15 am EYFS Play for Parents
Thur 10 th	2:00pm – Year 2 Play for Parents
Fri 11 th	9:15am Year 2 Play for Parents 1pm – Sharing Festive stories – bring in books to share PTA Christmas Fair after School
Tues 15 th	Juniors to Dukes Theatre in the round
Wed 16 th	Christmas Lunch
Thur 17 th	Infants to Grand Theatre – Puss in Boots
Fri 18 th	School closes at normal time
January 27	
Mon 4 th	Return to School
Thur 7 th	Open Morning for prospective families
Jan 15 th	Admissions Deadline date for Reception 27 - including siblings
Mon 18 th – Wed 20 th	Y5 CAT tests - optional
Mon 18 th 3:30pm	Y6 Parents-Leavers' Party Planning Meeting
February 27	
w/c 1st	Online Safety Week
Mon 1st	2:45pm Infant Poems for Parents
Tues 2nd	9:00 Junior Poems for Parents
Mon 8 th	Governors Curriculum Meeting.
Tue 9 th	9:00 3HN Class Assembly
Wed 10 th	9:00 3CH Class Assembly
Thur 11 th	PARENT'S EVENING
15 th – 19 th	School Closed
Mon 22nd	Return to School
March 27	
Thu 4 th	World Book Day
Wed 10 th	Spring Discos requested – not confirmed
w/c 15th	Safety Week – Life Education Visits
Tue 16 th	8:50 – 9:10 Life Education Parent Session
Tues 23 rd	Y6 French visits to MB Academy
Mon 22 nd	Governors' Meeting
Wed 24 th	1:45pm Y4 Play for Parents 6:00pm Y4 Play for Parents
April 27	
March 26 th -9 th	School Closed
Mon 12 th	Return to school
Wed 22 nd	Riding the Rapids for Parents—at Lune Park
May 27	
Mon 3 rd	School Closed
10 th – 13 th	Y6 SATS
Mon 10 th	Governors – Finance & Premises
17 th – 21 st	Finance Week
Tue 18 th	1LE Class Assembly
Thur 20 th	3:30pm Parents in classrooms/look at books
Tue 25 th	1LO Class Assembly Y5 French Visit to MBA
31 st	School Closed
June 27	
1 st -4 th	School Closed

Weeks starting 7th	Y4 Multiplication Tables Check Fortnight
w/c 7 th	Y1 Phonics Check Week (Y2 retakes too)
Early June	Y2 Assessment Period
Tues 15 th 9:15	Infant Sports Day
Wed 16 th 9:15	Junior Sports Day
Sat June 19 th	PTA Summer Festival – new starters visit
Tues 22 nd	Infant Sports Day Rain Plan
Wed 23 rd	Junior Sports Day Rain Plan
Thur 24 th	Governors Meeting (inc Staff)
28 th June – 2nd July	RSE (Relationships Sex Education) Week
July 27	
Wed 7 th	2pm Y6 Play for Parents
Thur 8 th	6pm Play for Parents
Fri 9 th	Y6 Leavers Party
Fri 16 th	Leavers' Assembly 2:00pm Last Day of School Year End at Normal time