Great Wood News
October 2026

This month's value is Forgiveness

Thank you to everyone for your support to ensure a smooth start to the school year. From Y6, who bonded over activities at Tower Wood, to Reception, who are ready to show routines to parents at this week's Come Dine with Me, the children have been making progress and enjoying their learning. As they are seen making super effort or spotted demonstrating one of our GW values, team points are awarded and we have a new bunch of young leaders who put the winner's team colours on the Team Points Cup in assembly at the end of each week.

These leaders are selected by their peers in upper juniors. Another of their roles is to lead the School Council – and they are looking forward to testing out a new schoolwide canvassing system to involve children throughout the school. In addition to arranging flapjack sales, they are coordinating a half termly Morecambe Foodbank Collection; see information further on – our collection point is at the school entrance.

	Phoenix	Gryphon	Unicorn	Dragon
Boy House Captain	Elliot	Ronan	Freddie	Isaac
Girl House Captain	Athena	Eliza	Florence	Anaiya
Boy Vice House Captain	Henry	Edward	Reuben	Oliver
Girl Vice House Captain	Scarlett	Luna	Millie	Maisie-Rae

We had a bumper crop in the orchard this year, harvested by the infants – and then after much peeling, chopping and rubbing of butter into flour 159 apple crumbles were enjoyed later at home. The weather has enabled visits to Great Wood, orienteering activities and lessons outside. We will be harvesting squash soon, but not as large as the pumpkin reception decorated in the style of repeated dot artist Yayoi Kusama. Every class has learned about a world-renowned artist and their art-work in the style of these artists is displayed around school – parents are welcome to pop in after school today to have a look – and to see reception children's first writing.

In addition to clubs starting, we have had our first inter-school competition; our Year 5/6 Girls' football team attended the LHSSN County Qualifying Competition. In the group stage, we did not concede a single goal and went unbeaten with one win and four draws. Moving into the knockout stage, we narrowly lost in the semi-final and achieved fourth place within twelve schools. They played some wonderful football and supported each other brilliantly, both on and off the pitch.

To support learning in history Years 3 and 6 have had visits by Mr Warrell. He is like the Mr Benn of history, putting on a different costume and immersing the children in a different period of history. Year 3 learned what life was like as a soldier in ancient Rome and practised a defence strategy with shields amongst other activities. Mr Warrell uses hats, caps, helmets and berets so children take on the roles of participants as he retells the story and struggles of the second world war. He'll be visiting infant classes soon. Ancient Egyptian Mummies need to be seen to be believed and so Year Four visited the World Museum in Liverpool.

Resilience and Mental Well Being Week Next week, children will be learning about building and maintaining healthy minds. There is a document to help parents support children to Build Resilience on our website which can support discussion at home about what they're learning in school. **Resilience – Great Wood School** For parents who are thinking about the impact of screen time on wellbeing the NSPCC have some useful starters for discussions at home and tips which could be helpful. **Supporting children's wellbeing online | NSPCC** . In the parent section of our website, SCARF – Great Wood School has lots of activities for children in different age groups around the Coram SCARF values of Safety, Caring, Achievement, Resilience, Friendship which can help your child to be their best – both at school and at home

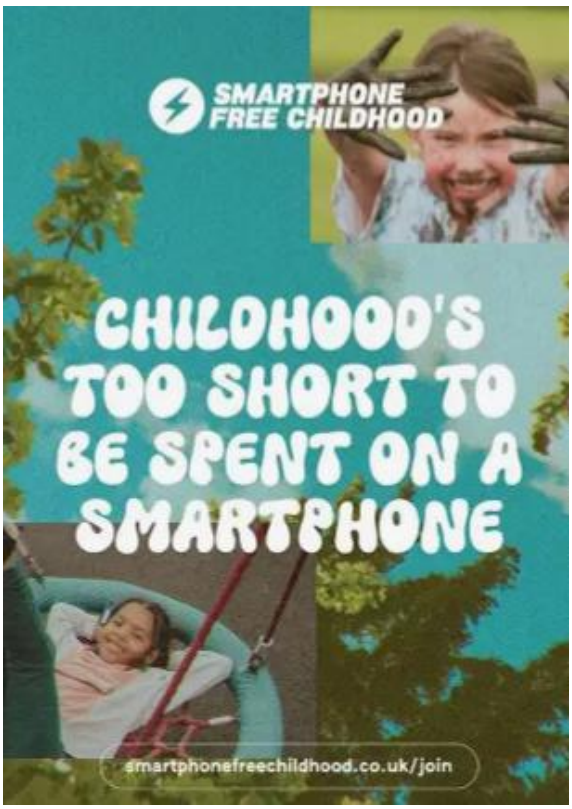
The PTA met at The Dog and Partridge in the last week of September. Parents are often saying they would like to help but don't have time and ask if there is a way to contribute. To address this the PTA have created a Great Wood PTA Amazon List where items that are needed for events are listed with the idea that individuals or businesses can sponsor them.

On Wednesday, November 4th, just after half term, there is a PTA Bake Sale – this is notice in case you want to bake with your children in the holiday. Reminder- Christmas Card design deadline is Thursday.

The PTA have recently sponsored a new listening station for the reception classes, resources Lego Therapy and a selection of word a day book books that the English Coordinator had selected for infant classes. If you are interested in dates of future meetings and don't use the parent Facebook, please contact pta@greatwood.lancs.sch.uk The next PTA meeting October 8th after school at school.

PTA Halloween Disco Reminders. Dress up is optional. No weapons, phones or coats inside, please. Children to have £2 cash in hand to pop in the tin as they enter. Both Infant Disco (4:30 – 5:15) and Junior Disco (5:30 – 6:30) enter through the main entrance and exit onto the junior playground and the pick-up entrance for is the door into the link corridor where Y2 enter in the mornings.

Governors – Great Wood welcomes two new governors from the local community who have agreed to volunteer to support the school as a 'critical friend': Caroline Moorby, a retired primary school SENCO and Colin Mitchell, a former parent of children at Great Wood and current grandparent. Governors are not involved in the day to day running of the school, rather they have a duty to ensure that the school is fulfilling its legal obligations and they review the school's effectiveness and provide challenge to the school's leadership to ensure that the strategic direction and financial management of the school is appropriate. They keep in touch with school events, hear and read reports from leaders and teachers, meet with teachers and alongside staff meet with pupil representatives, participate in the staff recruitment process and meet formally, termly. OFSTED inspectors meet with governors and assess their effectiveness as part of their report. By the way – Parents can share their views of the school with OFSTED at any time using http://www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk There is a Parent View link on our website under Accountability.



Following contact from a parent, governors discussed the potential dangers of images of children on school social media at a summer meeting. You may have noticed a slight change in the images on social media as a result of this discussion and guidance from the DfE. Although it was agreed to continue to include photos of the 98% of children where parents had given consent, we will more frequently use photos where the images can be less easily harvested for deep fake use – eg images that are further away or from the side or back. Thank you for your understanding.

Two years ago, school shared concerns about the impact of smart phone use and parents completed a survey. Governors discussed the results of the survey at length. GW-Smart-Phone-Survey-October-2024-1.pdf With further growing concern about the impact on smart phone use, Great Wood School is repeating the same survey to see if there is changing opinion in our community. The link to the survey is at the end of Smart Phone Free Child Hood Information and Survey Link The deadline for completing the survey is October 31st 2026.

Somewhat connected: We have a moderated 'Parents of Current Pupils' facebook site for queries etc between parents, however, sometimes class or year group Whatsapp groups are started; We have no jurisdiction over these, however, would like to remind parents of the dangers of gossip and that if a parent has a problem with something at school to contact someone at school – and that if a negative comment is made about an individual pupil, parent or staff member, action should be taken to remove the post asap.

To support the delivery of Best Start in Life Lancashire County Council have commissioned the Easy Peasy App for Lancashire families. This is a free App **for all parents and carers of children aged 0-5 years**. The App provides activities that support the learning and development of babies and children and offers support and signposting. The launch of the App is part of Lancashire's Best Start in Life Plan and promotes good quality home learning environments. LCC would like **all** our parents and carers to download the App and use it on a regular basis – the evidence is that using it has impact.

Please see the new link on the website to Neu-Way.pdf– support for families of children and young people with neuro-developmental needs commissioned by the NHS. The service 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

Our current School Nurse – Rachel Proctor has shared information about support webinars – the information is included on our website. School Nurse – Great Wood School

Lancashire Health Visiting and School Nursing

NHS

Free Monthly Parent Webinars from the School Nursing Team

We are pleased to offer a series of **free monthly online webinars** for parents and carers commencing October 26, providing practical advice and support on a range of children's health and wellbeing topics:

🌙 **Sleep** – Tips for establishing healthy sleep routines and managing common sleep difficulties.

🚻 **Continence** – Information and support to help children develop healthy bladder and bowel habits. * if a child has symptoms such as pain when using the toilet, blood in their urine or poo, repeated infections, unexplained weight loss, severe constipation please seek advice from your GP before joining the webinar.

🍓 **Healthy Lifestyles** – Advice on nutrition, physical activity, screen time, and building healthy habits for the whole family.

💙 **Behaviour and Emotional Health** – Understanding behaviour, supporting emotional wellbeing, and helping children build resilience.

All webinars are delivered online by members of the School Nursing Team and are free to attend. **No referral is required**. Parents and carers can book directly onto any webinar using the registration links available on our website.

To book a place, visit: https://lancschildandfamily.co.uk/

Or Scan the QR Code

Dining Hall Reminder - no nut or nut products, or sweets, and as grapes can he a choking hazard, half them for younger pupils' lunchboxes. There is no waste bin for yoghurt pots etc – we compost school all meal food waste. Packed lunch packaging etc goes back home.

Please be reminded that the entitlement for Free School Meals has been revised. Eligibility will be checked annually, there is no longer meal support during school holidays but there is an 'expanded' scheme to include parents in receipt of Universal Credit. Please be aware that although school receives additional funding which enables 50% discount on trips and clubs, school does not receive funds for the 'expanded' category of FSM so no discounts are available to pupils in that category.

All after school clubs have a designated pick-up spot listed on the sign-up sheet. Parents are not allowed around the rear of school to watch a club or pick up as the Sunset Club children are out and about. The same reason why children can't go beyond the trees from the timber trail when playing after school.

For those who plan ahead proposed term dates for 27-28 are available. Great-Wood-Calendar-27.28.docx

We continue to have drivers at pick up and drop off time parking near school with little consideration for others – The corners with Stickland and Beaufort Roads are marked for no parking and the double decker that goes on to pick up children from Ripley has been delayed due to cars parking near this corner.

From the head's inbox "I know the school doesn't really have any powers over parking but was wondering if it may be possible to put out a reminder. My daughter was nearly hit by a car reversing on the pavement on the corner of Strickland drive the driver had parked over the junction directly on the corner on the pavement blocking the corner to cross, and as we walked on the pavement they reversed nearly hitting my daughter. Again I know the school is not responsible for others actions but perhaps a reminder might make people consider the children's safety.

parking@lancashire.gov.uk if you have a problem.

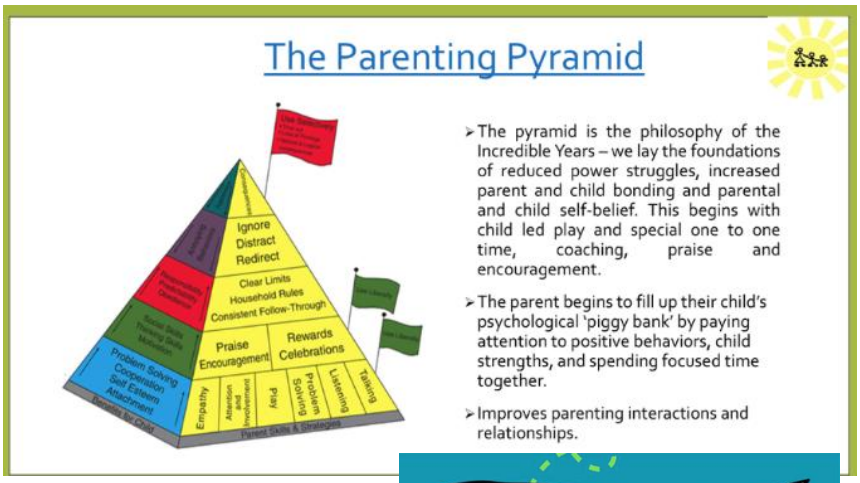
School Admissions - The Lancashire online application process for school admissions is now live at www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools Parents of Year 6 have until 23:59 on October 31st to register preferences. Some high school open days haven't taken place yet. Y6 Parents should note that there are two Great 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.

Great Wood is hosting a camp – Book directly paul@superballpaul.co.uk. there are also activities in Lancaster with https://cartmell-tennis.classforkids.io/camps

Please be aware of a 15 week INCREDIBLE YEARS parenting programme for parenting children between 2-10 that takes place at Harvey House on Wednesday mornings. It is free and ca be booked by contacting d.lawless@lscft.nhs.uk

Also the Online course below.



Mon 28th	Great Artists Gallery/EYFS Mark Making – after school
Wed 30th	Acorn Come Dine with Me - for parents.
October 26	
Thur 1st	Chestnut Come Dine with Me – for parents

	PTA Christmas Card Design noon deadline
Fri 2nd	School Closed for pupils- teacher training
Mon 5th	Open Morning for Prospective Families 5th-9th Well-Being & Mental Resilience Week Y5 Trip to Sunderland Point
Thur 8th	Y2 am Y1 pm History Visitor
Tue 13th	5R Assembly after registration
Thur 15th	Parents Evening
Tue 20th	5C Assembly after registration
Wed 21st	Y3 Trip to Vindolanda
Thur 22nd	Open Morning for Prospective families Halloween Discos after school
26th-30th	School Closed
31st midnight	High School Application Deadline
November 26	
Mon 2nd	Autumn 2 starts - Nasal Spray Vaccinations
Wed 4th end of day	PTA Bake Sale - provisional

SWIM BIKE RUN

GET INVOLVED, SCAN HERE

City of Lancaster Triathlon presents...

Swim Bike Run Mini

Try a triathlon in a fun and friendly environment
All ages welcome

When?

Sunday 11 October 2026
Registration from 09:00
First Race 10:30, Senior race 12:00

Where?

Salt Ayre Leisure Centre, Lancaster
Full address and parking info available on registration page

Equipment?

Roadworthy bicycle, helmet, trainers

Swim 50m, bike 5km, run 1km (child)
Swim 200m, bike 10km, run 3km (adult)

Who?

Junior race Ages 6+
Family race (Adult/child ratio 1:2 Child 6+)
Senior race Ages 15+

Make your move

Scan the QR code to sign up and find out more
or go to britishtriathlon.org/events and search 'Lancaster'

Morecambe Bay Foodbank
Together with Trussell

Harvest appeal

Help support your food bank this Harvest

In the three weeks leading up to Harvest 2025, our food bank provided 267 food parcels for local individuals and families facing hardship.

Donate food

Donate an item or two from our shopping list, ensuring we can provide food for people facing hardship in your community.

Donate money

Help to cover the costs of storing and distributing food, as well as developing sustainable projects.

Shopping list

- Tinned Spaghetti Bolognaise
- Tinned Vegetables
- Tinned Fruit
- Tinned Beans with Sausage
- Tinned Ravioli
- Tinned Macaroni Cheese
- Cup A Soup

01524 932001
morecambebay.foodbank.org.uk

Registered Charity in England & Wales (1176579).

Dear Great Wood Community,

Morecambe Foodbank are currently appealing for donations of the following items:

Tinned Spaghetti Bolognaise
Tinned Vegetables
Tinned Fruit
Tinned Beans with Sausage
Tinned Ravioli
Tinned Macaroni Cheese
Cup A Soup

The Foodbank staff report that food stock is the lowest it has been for six years yet the number of people and households they support has increased.

If you could donate one or two items there will be a collection box just inside the front vestibule at the main entrance to the school. The Great Wood community has generously supported our local appeals for help in previous years and the children always respond positively to the idea of collaborating to help others.

Thank you in advance and let's aim for a really successful collection.