



THE GREENMOUNT GUARDIAN

2026 - 2027

Issue #2

Friday, 11th September 2026

Meet Your TEACHERS

Thank you to those who were able to attend the Meet the Teacher sessions this week. Year 6's is on Tuesday at 6.00 p.m.

We have loaded copies of the presentations on to the class page on the school website if you weren't able to attend or want another look:

<https://www.greenmountprimarybury.co.uk/Curriculum/>

If you scroll down the page, you will find a link to each year group.

Flu vaccinations

IntraHealth are due in school next Wednesday morning to administer the flu vaccinations.

Parents/carers should already have signed up for this through a link you will have been sent directly by IntraHealth.

If not, you can email BuryImms@intrahealth.co.uk or call: 0333 358 3397 Option 2

Bury Hospice – Halloween Rail Trail

On Saturday 10th October from 5pm, everyone is invited to put on their best fancy dress and take part in a 5-mile sponsored walk, starting at Bury East Lancashire Railway Station and finishing at Ramsbottom Station.

And the fun doesn't stop there! Once walkers reach Ramsbottom, they'll climb aboard our spooktacular Halloween train for a special journey back to Bury.

More info on page 3 and at

https://www.buryhospice.org.uk/events/halloween-rail-trail?utm_source=chatgpt.com

Next week @GPS

School Dinners: Week **1**

[Click here to view the menu online](#)

Monday, 7th September

3.00 p.m. – 3.45 p.m.

PTA Uniform Shop Open

6.30 p.m. Governors' Planning Meeting

Tuesday, 15th September

6.00 p.m. Year 6 Meet the Teacher

Wednesday, 16th September

Morning – Flu Vaccinations

3.00 p.m. – 3.45 p.m.

PTA Uniform Shop Open

Thursday, 17th September

9.00 a.m. Reception Parents' Workshop – Phonics

Friday, 18th September

3.00 p.m. – 3.45 p.m.

PTA Uniform Shop Open

In this issue ...

- Diary Dates for 2026 - 2027
- Recycling in school
- Beginning of year updates
- "What parents need to know about "Character AI"
- Certificates this week



Greenmount Primary School

Holhouse Lane, Greenmount, Bury BL8 4HD

www.greenmountprimarybury.co.uk

Head Teacher: Mr D W Griffith

01204 884031

email: greenmount@bury.gov.uk

Deputy Head Teacher: Miss C Kunce





Autumn Term – First Half

Thursday, 17th September	9.00 a.m.	Phonics Workshop - Reception Class
Thursday, 24th September	9.00 a.m.	Phonics Workshop - Year 1
Tuesday, 29th September		PTA Gladiator Day - Info to follow
Tuesday, 29th September	6.00 p.m.	Meeting for Y4 Parents - re Residential
Friday, 2nd October	9.15 a.m.	Harvest Assembly - Parents or Y4, Y5, Y6
Friday, 9th October	9.15 a.m.	Harvest Assembly - Parents of Rec, Y1, Y2, Y3
Friday, 16th October	tbc	PTA Discos
Monday, 19th October	2.30 p.m.	Parents' Evening
Tuesday, 20th October	2.30 p.m.	Parents' Evening
Wednesday, 21st to Friday, 23rd October		Year 4 Residential
Friday, 23rd October		School Closes for Half Term

HALLOWEEN RAIL TRAIL

**BURY HOSPICES SPOOKTACULAR
5 MILE FANCY DRESS WALK**

A fun, family-friendly event for everyone!
Walk from the Bury East Lancashire Railway
station to the Ramsbottom station,
then hop on an exciting train back to Bury.

**EVERYONE
WELCOME
TO JOIN!**

**FANCY
DRESS
ENCOURAGED!**



**SATURDAY
10TH OCTOBER**



**START TIME
5PM**



**ROUTE
BURY ELR STATION
TO RAMSBOTTOM
STATION (5 MILES)**



**RETURN
TRAIN FROM
RAMSBOTTOM
BACK TO BURY**

TICKET PRICES



**CHILDREN
(UNDER 16) £15**



ADULTS £20

FUNDRAISING TARGET



£35

**PER PERSON
FOR OUR 35TH BIRTHDAY!**

SUPER FUNDRAISERS!

ANYONE WHO RAISES

£350+

WILL RECEIVE A
PUMPKIN PICKING VOUCHER
FOR JERSEY GIRLS!

PLUS A 35TH ANNIVERSARY TEDDY!



SIGN UP TODAY!



www.buryhospice.org.uk/events/

Autumn Term – Second half

Tuesday, 3rd November	9.00 a.m.	School Re-Opens
Friday, 6th November		Non-Uniform Day for Autumn 1 Winning Team
Monday, 9th November	Morning	Individual and Family Photos
Monday, 9th November	6.30 pm.	Governors' Meeting
Thursday, 19th November	6.30 p.m.	Open Evening for September 2027 entry
Friday, 20th November	9.30 a.m.	Open Morning for September 2027 entry
Friday, 27th November	tbc	PTA Donations Day
Saturday, 28th November	tbc	PTA Christmas Fair
Tuesday, 8th December	9.30 a.m.	Y1/Y2 Christmas Performance
	5.30 p.m.	Y1/Y2 Christmas Performance
Thursday, 10th December		Christmas Jumper Day
	9.30 a.m.	Reception Christmas Performance
		Christmas Dinner
	5.30 p.m.	Reception Christmas Performance
Monday, 14th December	Morning	PTA Secret Christmas Shop
Wednesday, 16th December	2.30 p.m.	Christmas Musical Afternoon
Thursday, 17th December		Christmas Parties
Friday, 18th December	9.15 a.m.	Christmas Service in Church
	3.30 p.m.	School closes for Christmas

Spring Term – First half

Monday, 4th January	7.30 p.m. - 5.30 p.m.	GOOSE Holiday Club
Tuesday, 5th January	9.00 p.m.	School Re-Opens
Friday, 8th January		Non-Uniform Day for Autumn 1 Winning Team
Monday, 18th to Friday, 22nd January		Year 5 Swimming (mornings)
Thursday, 28th January	Evening	Year 5 / Year 6 Young Voices Concert
Monday, 1st to Friday, 4th February		Children's Mental Health Week
Tuesday, 9th February	2.30 p.m. - 6.30 p.m.	Parents' Evening - Year 6
Wednesday, 10th February	2.30 p.m. - 6.30 p.m.	Parents' Evening - Year 6
Friday, 12th February	3.30 p.m.	School Closes for Half Term

[Term dates until 2028 are available on the website – click here](#)

Please note that due to regulations from the DfE, schools can not authorise absences for the purpose of family holidays. Parents risk the possibility of receiving a Fixed Penalty Notice from the Local Authority if children are taken out of school for holidays.

Please contact Mr Griffith if you are considering a family holiday during term time – please email in to greenmount@keeplearningtrust.co.uk

More information about the regulations can be found by [clicking here](#)

Spring Term – Second half

Monday, 22nd February	9.00 a.m.	School Re-Opens
Friday, 26th February		Non-Uniform Day for Spring 1 Winning Team
Monday, 1st March	6.30 p.m.	Governors' Meeting
Thursday, 4th March		World Book Day - Dressing Up
Friday, 5th March	tbc	PTA Secret Mothers' Day Shop
Tuesday, 16th March	2.00 p.m.	Y3/Y4 Production
	6.30 p.m.	Y3/Y4 Production
Tuesday, 23rd March	2.30 p.m. - 6.30 p.m.	Parents' Evening - Reception to Year 5
Wednesday, 24th March	2.30 p.m. - 6.30 p.m.	Parents' Evening - Reception to Year 5
Thursday, 25th March	9.15 a.m.	Easter Service (in Church)
	3.30 p.m.	School closes for Easter
30th March to 4th April	7.30 a.m. - 5.30 p.m.	GOOSE Holiday Club



Summer Term – First half

Monday, 12th April	9.00 a.m.	School Re-Opens
Friday, 16th April		Non-Uniform Day for Spring 2 Winning Team
Monday, 3rd May		Bank Holiday - School Closed
Monday, 10th to Thursday, 13th May		Year 6 SATs Week
Friday, 14th May	tbc	PTA Discos
Tuesday, 18th May	6.00 p.m.	Meeting for Year 6 Parents re Residential
Monday, 24th May	Morning	Class Photographs
Thursday, 27th May	3.30 p.m.	School Closes for Half Term

Summer Term – Second half

Tuesday, 8th June	9.00 a.m.	School Re-Opens
Wednesday, 9th to Friday, 11th June		Year 6 Residential Trip
Wednesday, 16th June	6.00 p.m.	Meeting for new Reception parents
Friday, 18th June	tbc	PTA Secret Fathers' Day Shop
Tuesday, 22nd June	3.40 p.m.	Open Afternoon
Thursday, 1st July		Sports Day 9.00 a.m. Year 6 10.00 a.m. Year 5 10.45 a.m. Year 4 11.30 a.m. Year 3 1.00 p.m. Reception 1.45 p.m. Year 1 2.30 p.m. Year 2
Friday, 2nd July	tbc	PTA Donations Day
Saturday, 3rd July	tbc	PTA Summer Fair
Monday, 12th July	6.30 p.m.	Governors' Meeting
Tuesday, 13th July	2.00 p.m.	Year 5 / Year 6 Performance
	6.30 p.m.	Year 5 / Year 6 Performance

Thursday, 15th July		Reserve Sports Day
Friday, 16th July		Reports Sent Home
Monday, 19th July		Non-Uniform Day for Summer 2 Winning Team
Wednesday, 21st July	2.30 p.m.	Leavers' Assembly - Year 6 Parents
	3.30 p.m.	School Closes for Summer Holiday
22nd July to 6th August	7.30 a.m. - 5.30 p.m.	GOOSE Holiday Club

Safeguarding

Greenmount Primary School is committed to ensuring the welfare and safety of all our children in school. We believe that pupils have a right to learn in a supportive, caring and safe environment which includes the right to protection from all types of abuse; where staff are vigilant for signs of any pupil in distress and are confident about applying safeguarding processes to avert and alleviate any such problems.

Safeguarding is about ensuring that everyone is safe from harm - safe from bullying, safe from people who could abuse, safe from discrimination or harassment - and that we all feel safe in our environment.

Parents should be aware that the school will take any reasonable action to ensure the safety of its pupils. In cases where the school has reason to be concerned that a child may be subject to ill treatment, neglect or other forms of abuse, staff have no alternative but to follow Bury Integrated Safeguarding Partnership's Procedures and inform the Social Services of their concern.

If you have a concern about the welfare or safety of a child at our school please speak to:

Mr D Griffith - Designated Safeguarding Lead

Miss C Kunce - Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Miss E Fishwick - Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Dinner Money – Juniors only

Just a reminder that dinner money is £2.95 per day. Meals are paid for via School Grid.

If you've mislaid your login details please email the school office:

greenmount@keeplearningtrust.co.uk

Please note that if your child wants to change from school meals to packed lunch (or vice versa) we need two weeks' notice. Please speak to Mrs Rothwell in the school office.

Contacting the School Office

If you need to speak to one of the staff members in the school office, please come to the office window or you can email or phone:

greenmount@keeplearningtrust.co.uk 01204 884031

If you need to return something to the office, you can ask your child to put it in the box in their classroom or you can use the white post box which is just inside the foyer if the office is unmanned.



Operation Encompass is designed to provide early reporting to schools of any domestic abuse incidents that occur outside of school but which might have an impact on a child attending school the following day. This information will be shared on school days during the school term. When incidents occur on a Friday, Saturday or a Sunday, the police will contact the relevant school the following Monday.

A nominated member of school staff, known as a Key Adult, is trained to liaise with the police. At Greenmount Primary our Key Adult is Mr Griffith (Miss Kunce in his absence). We use the information that has been shared with us, in confidence, to ensure that the school is able to support children and their families. Information will be shared where it is identified that a child or young person was present, witnessed or was involved in a domestic abuse incident.

Holhouse Lane

Just a reminder that parents/carers should not drive or park on Holhouse Lane.



This is to ensure the safety of our children and to respect our neighbours.

There are only two exemptions to this:

- For those parents / carers who have received permission from the head teacher (this would be for mobility reasons)
- For parents / carers who are coming to school to pick up a sick child during the day (e.g. after school has phoned to ask them to collect their child early)

Starting School September 2027

Do you have a pre-school child who is due to start school in September 2027?

Are their names on the school's waiting list?

When we are showing prospective parents around school it is useful to be able to say how many siblings will be joining us in the following September. Please contact the school office with their details if you haven't already done so. **Thank you**



Making their mark this week:

Certificates were awarded to:

Reception:

Otis, Cameron, Lara, Matilda

Year 1:

Isla, Alice, Henry, Charlie, Jack

Year 2:

Leo, Penelope, Ezra, Freddie, Lucas

Year 3:

Aurora, Mia, Charlie, Reuben, Elodie, Emmie

Year 4:

Arty, Louie, George

Year 5:

Jayden, Willow, Freddie, Ella, Harper

Year 6:

Tom, Harry, William, Henry, Jack W, Buddy

Stars of the week:

Reception:

Rowan

Year 1:

Willow

Year 2:

Elias

Year 3:

Edie, Oliver A

Year 4:

Alexa, Emmy

Year 5:

Evelyn

Year 6:

Amelia



This week's winning team:

Each week, class staff choose a small group of children who have “made their mark” over the week and really impressed them. These children receive a certificate and one of them in each class is nominated as the “Star of the Week”. Once the children have received three certificates, they achieve a bronze award. Six certificates achieves a silver award. Children who achieve ten certificates receive a prestigious gold award ! The phrase “Make your mark” comes from the book “The Dot” by Peter H Reynolds and is our school motto and underpins our behaviour expectations.

Recycling Point

Have you found our Recycling Point yet ? It's just outside the kitchen; head to your right at the main entrance.

Watch out for photos of lost property items on the [Parents of Greenmount Primary School Facebook Page](#) ... please collect anything that belongs to you !

Our Lost Property is stored here.

We're collecting beauty, health care and wellness products:

Make up containers and beauty products such as:

- Mascara and eye liner tubes
- Lipsticks, palettes, compacts
- Toothpaste tubes
- Plastic lotion tubes and pots
- Deodorants (not aerosols)

We're collecting oral health products:

- Toothpaste tubes
- Toothbrushes
- Toothbrush heads
- Toothbrush packaging
- Floss containers

Unfortunately, we are no longer collecting batteries.

BABYBEL PRODUCTS



Writing Implements

Pens, markers, felt tips, highlighters etc

MAKE
SECOND
HAND
YOUR FIRST
CHOICE




NOW
ACCEPTING
DONATIONS

PLEASE LEAVE ANY CLEAN UNIFORM, COATS & BAGS IN THE BLUE BIN NEAR THE MAIN GATES

100% of all sales goes directly to the PTA charity to help with school funds

~ Thank you for your support ~

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CHARACTER.AI

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

AI replies are generated in real time rather than chosen from a fully checked script. Even with safety filters on, conversations can still move into sexual, violent, discriminatory, or self-harm material. These AI characters are often made by users, so a familiar name or child-friendly description does not guarantee that every response from the character will be suitable for a young person.

BLURRED BOUNDARIES

Characters on Character.AI can use the language of friendship, love, and empathy without ever feeling anything. Vulnerable young people may struggle to separate this simulation from genuine understanding. Romantic role-play or a character that demands attention, loyalty, or secrecy could also risk distorting young people's expectations around consent, disagreement, and the give-and-take involved in healthy human relationships.

UNRELIABLE ADVICE

Characters, like other chatbot platforms, are at risk of inventing facts or giving inappropriate advice while sounding completely confident. Characters may also echo a young person's assumptions instead of questioning them. This can become particularly risky when users rely on a character for guidance about health, mental wellbeing, relationships, money, or personal safety instead of checking with a credible source or trusted adult.

EMOTIONAL DEPENDENCY

Character.AI chatbots can appear endlessly attentive, supportive, and affectionate, which is one of the hallmarks of the generative AI models that such companions are built on. A young person may start turning to a character chatbot whenever they feel lonely or upset and believe that it understands them better than the humans in their life. This can become more concerning when chatting starts to replace sleep, schoolwork, hobbies and friendships.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Character.AI chats may feel private, especially when a bot sounds personal and caring, but they take place on a company's online systems. Users could intentionally or unintentionally reveal their name, school, location, routines, images, or intimate concerns. Character.AI says some data may be retained to improve its services and AI models, so young people should never treat a chatbot like a confidential diary.

UNHEALTHY ENGAGEMENT

Be aware of warning signs such as secret accounts, bypassing age restrictions, hiding phone use from adults, chatting late at night, distress when access to the platform or character stops, withdrawal from other people, falling interest in school, or believing the character is conscious. Increased use may also signal that the young person is already lonely, anxious, or seeking help.

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Ask what the young person enjoys about Character.AI and invite them to show you how the platform and their favourite characters work. Useful questions include, "Has it ever said something that felt wrong?" and "How can you tell it doesn't have feelings?" Avoid shaming them for using platforms like Character.AI or making them feel there is something wrong with them for doing so.

PAUSE, CHECK AND ASK

Teach young people to pause before accepting an answer from characters on Character.AI. Encourage them to check important claims against a trustworthy source and ask a safe adult when the issue matters. Never use a character as the sole source of medical, mental health, legal, financial, or safeguarding advice. Remind them not to share passwords, contact details, school information, live locations, or private images.

CHECK AGE, SETTINGS & LIMITS

Character.AI's minimum age is 16 in the UK, but open-ended companion chat is restricted to adults aged 18 or over. Users aged 16 to 17 receive a different experience built around guided 'Stories' and other creative or social features. Check their current settings, never help or encourage a young person to give a false age, and apply the same safety rules to other chatbot apps.

NOTICE AND RESPOND

Take action if chats involve sexual content, threats, coercion, abuse, self-harm or danger. Save relevant evidence, report the character and follow the setting's safeguarding process; educators should involve the designated safeguarding lead. If anyone is in immediate danger, contact emergency services. Childline is available on 0800 1111 and the NSPCC Helpline on 0800 800 5000.

Meet Our Expert

Darren Coxon is an educator with almost 30 years' experience across teaching, school leadership and governance. He works internationally supporting schools and colleges with AI leadership and governance and [insert NC courses I have written].



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website



@wake_up_weds



/www.thenationalcollege



@wake.up.wednesday



@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 09.09.2026