

# Greenside Grapevine

## Friday 7th November 2025

### Dates for your Diary

Please also see the calendar page on our website

<https://www.greenside-sch.org/>

#### November

- 10th** Odd Socks Day
- 13th** Penguins visit to Pudsey Library
- 14th** Children in Need
- 20th** Otters visit to Pudsey Library
- 26th** NCMP Height/Weight Check (Reception and Year 6)
- 26th** Vision Screening (Reception only)
- 27th** Elephants visit to Pudsey Library

#### December

- 9th** Flu Immunisations

We hope you all had a restful and lovely break and enjoyed some quality time with family and friends. It's been wonderful to welcome the children back, they've settled in quickly and are already impressing us with their hard work, enthusiasm, and dedication to learning.

Autumn 2 is always a busy and exciting half term, packed with enriching activities, themed days and festive celebrations. From curriculum highlights to seasonal events, there's so much to look forward to, and it always seems to fly by!

Please keep an eye out for updates and reminders over the coming weeks so you don't miss any of the fun. As always, thank you for your continued support, we're looking forward to a fantastic half term together.

With Remembrance Sunday approaching, our children will be learning about the significance of the 11th of November and why it remains such an important date in our national calendar. Through class discussions and activities, we will reflect on the sacrifices made by those who served and continue to serve in the armed forces.

We are very fortunate to have the cenotaph located just opposite our school. To mark this important occasion, our Year 5 and 6 pupils will represent the school by attending the Remembrance Service at the cenotaph on **Tuesday 11th November**, beginning at **10:45 am**.



We warmly welcome all parents and carers to join us at the service as we come together as a community to remember and pay our respects.

### Christmas Dates for your Diary

#### 3rd December

FROGS Christmas Fayre  
3.15pm-4.30pm



#### 11th December

Key Stage 2 Christmas Concert  
9.15am-11am and 6pm-8pm



#### 11th December

Christmas Jumper and Dinner

#### 15th December

Back Chat Brass, visiting school for a Christmas Treat from FROGS

#### 16th December

Reception Nativity  
2pm

#### 17th December

Reception Nativity  
9.30am

#### 17th December

Key Stage 1 Sing Along  
2.30pm



## OPAL - Playtimes at Greenside

At Greenside, we value the importance of play. Play takes up 20% of the school day and is an opportunity for children to learn in a different way and learn things that cannot be taught, whilst having fun! OPAL is an award-winning, mentor Supported, school improvement programme which sustainably improves the quality of play at primary schools. Therefore, we are excited to announce that this academic year we are beginning our 2-year journey with the not-for-profit organisation OPAL (Outdoor Play And Learning) to improve pupils' experiences at play and lunchtimes and promote social-emotional skills, problem-solving, creativity, resilience and many more vital life skills. The OPAL ethos is that playtimes should be active, creative and involve activities that are freely chosen and directed by the child.

This is an exciting opportunity and is the next step for Greenside. We will have a working party who will take the school on this journey, led by our OPAL Play Leader who will be responsible for overseeing OPAL at Greenside. Our OPAL Play Leader is Mrs Hardy, a new teacher who joined us in September and has lots of experience with OPAL having been on the journey with her previous school, where they achieved the Gold OPAL award at the end of their 2-year journey. She will be bringing her experience, knowledge and enthusiasm to playtimes at Greenside.

One reason the school is carrying out this programme is that childhood has drastically changed and many children no longer get their play needs met, on average screen time for children is 6 hours per day and average outdoor play time a week is only 5 hours. OPAL has begun to tackle this and has many benefits such as increasing enjoyment of school, less disruptions between children, less accidents and improved behaviour as well children getting greater opportunities of varied play and learning life skills.

This is a journey and will take time but we are excited for our parents/carers to join us on this journey. In order to play, children need clothes they can play in, things to play with and the space and freedom to play. Therefore, as the school improves play opportunities for the children, you may find we need your support in hearing your opinions and asking for resources. Children may get messier as they are able to use more of the grounds for more of the year and are exposed to more challenges and have greater freedom but please be patient with us as we foster these experiences which are essential for children's mental and physical wellbeing.

***Mrs Hardy "I am so excited to bring OPAL to Greenside and go on this journey with our Greenside community! I have always believed play is a vital part of childhood and is a really important element of the school day which can improve children's physical and emotional health and increase enjoyment of school! I have experience as a PE leader seeing how physical activity throughout the day can really improve children's health and wellbeing, which is a big aspect of OPAL, and have been on this journey at my previous school and seen the amazing impact it can have. It is so important that everyone is involved in this process, especially the children and we want to provide them the best opportunities to play and thrive in a safe and positive environment. I am looking forward to leading us all on this exciting journey so we can make play times at Greenside more fun, happier and a successful time in your children's day!"***

We would appreciate you completing the survey below so we can collate your views and feedback. Please click the link and complete by **Friday 19th December**. Thank you for your support with this matter.

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=WtBopvNFokWKFWJwhbh5MOWdX1TQE-JljwiE\\_A\\_y89IUNTZPNkNPROZORlpCRTdaRkRXRE1LTFFGSy4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=WtBopvNFokWKFWJwhbh5MOWdX1TQE-JljwiE_A_y89IUNTZPNkNPROZORlpCRTdaRkRXRE1LTFFGSy4u)



## Arbor

Previously, our school data has been recorded through SIMS but this half term we have moved to Arbor. This will bring many exciting changes as Arbor consolidates multiple functions like student data, communications and payments into a single system, reducing the need for separate tools and other systems. Please look out for updates in the coming weeks and do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.



## Attendance

Previously, our school attendance has been recorded and reported through the school system SIMS. As previously explained, we have now transitioned to using a new system, Arbor, to record our pupils' attendance data.

While we are getting used to this system and learning how to access our various attendance reports, we will be unable to provide our usual information. However, please be assured, we are still monitoring attendance and punctuality and remain available to support with any concerns.

We still have our aspirational whole school attendance target of 98% and we expect all our pupils to aim for above 97%, which equates to 6 days absence across the whole school year. If you need any support with attendance or punctuality, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Knowles or Mrs Middleton.



## Children In Need

On Friday 14th November, children are welcome to dress up in non-uniform for Children in Need and we will be collecting 1ps and 2ps to donate towards this cause. We will contribute to completing an enormous mosaic of Pudsey Bear at Pudsey Leisure Centre, made from all your donated coins.

## Reception 2026

If you, or someone you know, has a child who is due to start primary school in September 2026, we would like to invite you to join us on our Early Years' Open Evening on Wednesday 12th November 2025 from 6pm-7pm. This is for parents and carers only and no booking is necessary.

If you cannot make this date, or would like to view our school with your child, we have the following tour dates and times available:

Monday 24th November - 09.15am  
Monday 24th November - 1.30pm  
Tuesday 2nd December - 9.15am  
Thursday 4th December - 1.30pm

Booking for the tours is essential and there are limited places available. Please email [admin.info@greenside-sch.org](mailto:admin.info@greenside-sch.org) to book your place.

Is your child due to  
start primary  
school in  
2026?



Applications are open for Reception  
places to start in **September 2026**

You can apply online until **Thursday 15 January 2026**

[www.leeds.gov.uk/apply](http://www.leeds.gov.uk/apply)