

Greenside Grapevine

Thursday 2nd April 2026

Dates for your Diary

Please also see the calendar page on our website
<https://www.greenside-sch.org/topic/news-and-events>

April

- 2nd** School closes to all pupils at 3.15pm
- 20th** School reopens to all pupils at 8.40am
- 22nd Year 5 Whitby Residential (22nd-24th)
- 30th Year 1 Harlow Carr Visit (further information to follow)
- 30th Penguins Class Assembly 9am (for parents/carers)

May

- 4th** May Day Bank Holiday - School closed
- 7th Elephants Class Assembly 9am (for parents/carers)
- 11th Year 6 SATS (11th-14th)
- 15th FROGS Bake Sale
- 21st Year 5 Whitby Assembly 9am (for parents/carers)
- 21st** School closes to all pupils at 3.15pm
- 22nd** Inset Day - School Closed

June

- 1st** School reopens to all pupils at 8.40am
- 4th Class Photographs
- 15th Year 6 Weardale Residential (15th-19th)
- 25th Transition Day
- 29th Foxes Class Assembly 9am (for parents/carers)

July

- 1st FROGS Summer Fayre
- 13th Year 6 Performance 2pm-3pm
- 15th Year 6 Performance 6pm-7pm
- 17th Year 6 Graduation 2pm-3pm
- 17th** School closes to all pupils at 3.15pm

As part of our Greenside values, we continually *reflect, learn and act*. During this week's staff briefing, we took time to reflect on the many successes and "what went well" moments from across the half term. These reflections truly highlighted the breadth and balance of our curriculum, the rich experiences offered to our children, and the enthusiasm with which they embrace every learning opportunity.

Our class assemblies have been wonderfully attended by parents and carers. The children have risen to the challenge brilliantly—showing confidence, resilience, and composure (even when a fire alarm made an unexpected appearance).

We were also pleased to welcome our School Improvement Adviser into school this week. Their learning walk focused on SEND universal and targeted provision, and the feedback was extremely positive, recognising the strong practice and ongoing developments taking place.

In our whole school assembly, we explored the story of Easter and revisited the children's prior learning. We were incredibly impressed by how much they remembered and the thoughtful contributions they made. To all our families celebrating Easter, we wish you a peaceful and happy time. And if you find yourself enjoying a chocolate egg, do ask your child why Easter is celebrated with chocolate eggs—they should be able to tell you.

Thank you for your continued support throughout this term. We hope the weather is kind over the break so you can enjoy some well-deserved rest and family time. We look forward to welcoming everyone back for the final term of the academic year on Monday 20th April 2026 at 8:40am.





Parent/Carer WhatsApp Groups

We recognise that parent/carers WhatsApp groups can be incredibly helpful for busy families—whether it’s keeping track of PE days, book bags, non-uniform days, or the many other bits of school life that need remembering. These groups often provide valuable support and connection within our community.

However, it has been brought to our attention that some recent conversations have included unkind or derogatory comments about children and, on occasion, staff. We kindly remind all parents and carers that any concerns about children or staff should be raised directly with the school so they can be addressed appropriately.

If you come across unkind or inappropriate messages within a group, please encourage others to speak with the school rather than discussing individuals online. Together, we can ensure our community remains respectful, supportive, and focused on the wellbeing of all our children. Thank you for your support with this important matter.

Staffing Update

Many of you will be aware that Mrs Begum, one of our Higher-Level Teaching Assistants, was expecting a baby and started her maternity leave on **19th March 2026**. She has since had a baby boy and both are doing well. We would like to wish Mrs Begum all the very best and a joyful maternity. Unfortunately, we were not successful in recruiting for Mrs Begum’s position during the initial round of applications. However, the role has now been re-advertised, and we are hopeful that we will be successful this time. In the meantime, PPA (Planning, Preparation and Assessment time) and staff absences will be covered by a long-term supply teacher or a member of our existing staff team.



Leavers

Miss Goulding, who supports in our Adventurous Anacondas class, will sadly be leaving today. She has an opportunity to support at Camp America and will then start her teacher training in September 2026. We would like to thank Miss Goulding for everything she has done for Greenside since November 2025 and wish her all the best on her next adventure.

Mr Plant, one of lunch time supervisors, will also leaving us today to start his career in the Royal Navy. We would like to thank Mr Plant for everything he has done for Greenside over the last 18 months and wish him all the best in his new career.



Welcome

We are pleased to inform you that we successfully appointed two new temporary teaching assistants:

Miss Lightowler will be supporting the children in Reception on a Tuesday to Friday from the **12th May 2026**. She has a vast experience working within the early years.

Mrs Hussain will be replacing Miss Goulding and supporting in our Adventurous Anacondas from the **20th April 2026**. She has previously working with SEND children in a secondary school.

We are looking forward to welcoming them both and sharing their skills and experience.

Greenside Choir Steps 'Into the Spotlight'

Our Greenside Choir are currently in rehearsals for their showcase 'Into the Spotlight'. They have been focusing on learning songs from musicals, singing some of their favourites as well as being introduced to some new songs by our own musical fanatic, Miss Roberts. Choir will be performing these songs on **Monday 1st June at 4.30pm**. We would love to invite friends and family of our choir members, as well as any members of our Greenside community who want to see what choir have been working on!



Gentle reminders...

Please can we ask that your child arrives at school with everything they need for their day, including their packed lunch, water bottle, swimming or football kits, guitar or keyboard. During the summer term, children may also need extra items such as sun hats and sun cream, as the weather gets a little warmer.



School Pick-Up

Please can we remind our parents/carers that if your child is going to be collected by someone who does not normally collect them (e.g. they are going to a friend's house after school), you must email the school office so your child's class teacher can be notified. If you do not inform us, your child will not be released at the end of the school day and we will need to contact you.



Parking Around School

Please can we remind parents/carers to be mindful of where and how they park around school. It has been noticed by residents that some parked cars are causing blockages that could make it difficult for emergency vehicles to fit through. It has also been noticed that more people are parking up on pavements, causing obstructions on the footpath. If you need to drive to school, please aim to set off a little earlier and park away from the school grounds to avoid congestion. We are also able to use the Golden Lion pub car park. Thank you for your support in this matter.

School Meal Price Increase

We would like to share an important update regarding school meals and funding changes that will come into effect from September 2026.

Expansion of Free School Meals - The government has announced that all children in households receiving Universal Credit will become eligible for free school meals. This change is expected to support over half a million additional pupils across England and could save families approximately £495 per child each year.

Meal Prices for Non-Eligible Pupils - Due to ongoing increases in food and operational costs, from September 2026 the price of paid meals will increase from £2.90 per meal to £2.95 per meal. We will always aim to keep any increases as minimal as possible and will communicate any changes clearly in advance.

FROGS Spring Disco

We are delighted to share the success of our recent school disco held by the wonderful FROGS. Thanks to the enthusiasm and generosity of our pupils, families, and staff, we are pleased to announce that we raised £1169.84.

This is a fantastic achievement and a wonderful example of our school community coming together. The children had a brilliant time enjoying the music, dancing, and activities, and it was lovely to see so many smiling faces throughout the event.

The money raised will go towards supporting school resources and enriching experiences for our pupils, helping to enhance their learning and overall school experience.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who contributed—whether through donations, helping to organise the event, or supporting on the day.





Comic Relief

We are delighted to share the fantastic outcome of this year's Red Nose Day fundraising. Thanks to the incredible generosity and enthusiasm shown across the UK, Red Nose Day 2026 has raised approximately £30 million to support vital projects tackling poverty and hardship both in the UK and around the world.

In school, we were equally proud to see our pupils get involved—through wearing red, spots or non-uniform and making donations. Greenside raised an impressive £122.85. Your support helps make a real difference to the lives of children and families who need it most.

Book Fair

Thank you to all of the pupils, parents and carers who supported this year's Scholastic Book Fair. Through sales of books and stationery, we earned an amazing £400 as a school to spend on new books which have been added to the library, to classrooms, to our Cloud Unit and to our stock of reading for pleasure books that pupils that can bring home each week. We have purchased a range of newly-published books, classic stories, non-fiction, graphic novels, books reflecting different cultures and books to support emotional wellbeing.



Greenside's Got Talent!

Greenside is buzzing with excitement as we launch this year's "Greenside's Got Talent" showcase! Pupils from Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 are invited to take part and share their amazing skills with the whole school. Whether it's singing, dancing, comedy, magic, music, gymnastics, or something wonderfully unique, we want to see it!

All students are invited to take part, either as solo performers or in groups. Each phase (KS1, lower KS2 and upper KS2) will have three dedicated weeks during the summer term to rehearse and perfect their acts, with sessions taking place each Thursday from 3:15–4:15pm. Our staff will be supporting pupils every step of the way, and we're excited to celebrate the creativity and talent of our Greenside stars. The final performance will take place during school hours in the last week of the school year, on 14th July, bringing our fabulous year at Greenside to a joyful close.

If your child would like to take part, please register their interest via the Clubs section on Arbor by 21st April. Let the talent shine!





Attendance

Our attendance target for this academic year remains at 98%.
Our whole school attendance from the start of September is 95.49%.

98%

We would like to thank all our parents/carers for their support in ensuring their child(ren) attend school regularly, on time and ready to learn!

If you need any support, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Knowles or Mrs Middleton.

Attendance

As we come to the end of another half term, we will be sending out our usual attendance emails. These are now sent via Arbor and you will also receive an in-app message to notify you of your email.

If your child has **below 97% attendance**, this is a gentle reminder to encourage your child to attend school regularly, even if they are a little "under the weather". It is also a prompt for parents/carers to contact school if they feel we can support in any way.

If your child has **below 90% attendance**, this is also a prompt to contact school if we can support you or your child however, any absences below 90% cannot automatically be authorised. By working together, we can support parents/carers, providing any additional information and ensuring pupils get the best out of their school life.

REMEMBER
The class with the highest attendance each week will receive an extra playtime!

Class Attendance so far this academic year:

- Friendly Foxes 96.00%
- Enthusiastic Elephants 95.17%
- Positive Penguins 97.17%
- Outgoing Otters 97.68%**
- Confident Chameleons 96.96%
- Adventurous Anacondas 93.52%
- Persevering Pumas 96.11%
- Tenacious Toucans 95.60%
- Dazzling Dolphins 92.56%
- Creative Caimans 94.99%

Well done Outgoing Otters!



Punctuality

We have seen an improvement from last half term with regards to lateness.

During the first half term following Christmas, we recorded 2,822 minutes across the whole school. Since returning from February half term, we have recorded 1,691 minutes. Using data on the left, we can see that Reception and Key Stage 1 have slightly better punctuality than Key Stage 2.

From the start of this half term (23.02.2026), classes have the following late marks on their registers. This includes both L marks (late after 8.45am) and U marks (late after 9.15am).

Friendly Foxes 3

- Enthusiastic Elephants 19
- Positive Penguins 5
- Outgoing Otters 25

Confident Chameleons 3

- Adventurous Anacondas 23
- Persevering Pumas 42
- Tenacious Toucans 14
- Dazzling Dolphins 8
- Creative Caimans 22

Well done Friendly Foxes and Confident Chameleons!

REMEMBER
The class with the least late marks each half term will receive an extra playtime!

Please encourage your child and remind them of the importance of good punctuality.

Better late than never
But never late is better





THE WELLY POST



Reminder of School Houses



FOUNTAINS ABBEY



ROCHE ABBEY



BOLTON ABBEY



KIRKSTALL ABBEY

OPAL Phase 1 Launch

We are very excited to announce the launch date for Phase 1 of our OPAL Programme here at Greenside. We will launch on Tuesday 5th May. We want to say a huge thank you to our OPAL Working Party for their hard work as well as our parents and carers for the generous donations. The Welly Post will now be a regular feature in our Grapevine, to keep you up to date with developments and the progress we are making to enhance the play of our young people. On the launch we will be making some changes to lunchtimes, children will now go to dinner in **their houses** and all children will have their **lunchtimes 12.15-1.15**, (The only exception is Reception who will still go in as a year group and a little earlier at 12.00)

All our children will **need wellies/waterproofs** to keep in school so they can access all areas in all weathers, however we will send out more information about this nearer the time. If you do have any concerns about being able to provide this please speak to our Family Liaison Officer, Mrs Middleton.

Wish List

Going forward we will be building a wish list of specific resources that we need in school. Please keep an eye on this part of the Welly Post to see if there is anything you have and would be willing to donate.

We are kindly asking that future donations **only be of a natural material where possible**. We are trying to move away from plastic and be more environmentally friendly all round.



KSI OPAL Trial Play Session



Our KSI children had a brilliant 15 minutes extra playtime using some of the lovely OPAL equipment as a prize for winning the OPAL Resources BINGO. It is great to see them using their imaginations, working together, having fun and exploring our new resources. We are excited for the upcoming launch and to see how this will develop with mixed aged groups from right across the school.

Play beyond the playground...

In this part of The Welly Post we will share ideas of how you too can be part of this journey to enhance your child's play. We will go through the types of play and give you some ideas of how you can try this at home. Here are some websites that are full of ideas for you to try at home.

Inspiration for outdoor play at home

Websites:

- Backyard Nature
www.backyardnature.org
- National Trust 50 things to do before you're 11½
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/children-and-nature
- NSPCC, Is my child ready to go out alone?
<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/leaflets/out-alone>
- Ordnance Survey Greenspaces map
<https://getoutside.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/greenspaces/>
- Play England
www.playengland.org.uk
- Playing Out
www.playingout.net





Welcome to Herd Farm Holiday Activities- a safe space for your child to be active, explore, and thrive!

Our holiday clubs give young people the chance to enjoy **fresh air, active fun**, and unforgettable adventures. Whether they're trying something new, making friends, or simply enjoying the great outdoors, Herd Farm is the perfect place for them to stay energised, inspired, and supported.

Click below to secure your child's place and make memories to last a lifetime.

£48 per place per day or £135 for 3 days

Age 8 - 14 Years

What to Expect: Sample Programme 9am - 4pm (gates open 8.45am)

- 9.00 Welcome and ice breaker fun** - A friendly start to the day with lively games and team challenges to help everyone settle in and make new friends.
- 9.30 Zip line** - time to soar! Whizz through the air on our exciting double zip line, show us your best superhero pose or go blindfolded for extra sensory fun.
- 11.30 Baking with chef** - Hands on kitchen fun. Join chef to mix, bake and decorate a tasty treat. Cookies, brownies or flapjack to enjoy later in the day.
- 12.30 Lunch** - A well deserved break to fuel the outdoor adventures still to come.
- 1.15 Mountain boarding** - A chance to try something new. Guided by our activity workers you will learn how to balance, ride and take on gentle slopes around the site.
- 2.15 Crate stack challenge** - Work together to stack crates higher and higher, climbing carefully as your tower grows. A thrilling mix of balance, bravery and teamwork, all safely supervised by our activity workers. A brilliant confidence booster and guaranteed giggles as you try to beat your personal best!
- 3.40 Snack** - remember those cookies you made earlier? You've earned them.
- 4.00 Home time** - depart happy and tired, bursting with stories about your action-packed day!

Check out their website <https://www.herdfarm.co.uk/herd-farm-adventure-day-october-2025> for further information including their

Easter Adventure Days!

We are **child friendly Leeds** presents your... **Easter Guide** SPRING 2026

TO FREE & LOW COST ACTIVITIES HAPPENING ACROSS LEEDS

Child Friendly Leeds' 12 wishes are based on what children and young people from all parts of the city told us. Wish 7 is all about helping you find out about fun, free and affordable things to do across the city - so here's a guide to help you navigate your way through the holidays. Low-cost activities are shown with a * while all other activities are free or pay as you feel.

Follow us on social media and share your favourite activities!

Scan the QR code to view the official blog.



All Holidays Story Explorers at Leeds Central Library
Take a fantastical trip to outer space, the depths of the jungle and the bottom of the ocean with many play elements from the moon to a giant octopus and an activity table. A brilliant free interactive exhibition with the British Library.

All Holidays Hats, Play & The Farm - Temple Newsam
Explore the hats from historic styles to creating your own crafty masterpiece. Or why not visit the Home Farm or Play Barn and meet new-born lambs, and many more. Crafts, activities and trails included with standard admission during opening hours.

All Holidays The Search for the Lost Eggs at Lotherton
Dragon Quest is back - a family-friendly adventure to discover the secrets of these mythical beasts. Finish your quest to collect your certificate - become an honorary Dragonologist. Drop by face painting on bank holidays and weekends.

28 Mar -19 Apr Medieval Easter at Royal Armouries
Free action-packed Easter holiday at the museum, with combat demonstrations and themed activities, plus you can explore the amazing national collection of arms and armour and watch the knights compete in a four-day jousting tournament.

31 Mar - 11 Apr Easter activities at Kirkgate Market
Enjoy free activities: Lego, Duplo, colouring, and crafts (11am to 3pm - weekdays only), Circus School (1st & 2nd April), Bath Bomb Making (8th & 9th April, 11:30am to 2:30pm), special screening from Leeds Young Film Festival (10th & 11th April).

28 Mar - 19 Apr Birds and Bumblebees at Tropical World
Discover the exotic birds that live in our waterfall house, see how many you can find using our NEW Spotter Sheet. Visit the Activity Room and make a feeder, or do some colouring. Children must be supervised by an adult at all times.

Fri 17 Apr Planet Omar with Zanib Mian - Author Event
Come and meet Zanib Mian as she introduces Planet Omar, shares the fun and mayhem behind her stories in this free, family-friendly event at Leeds Art Gallery for children aged 7+.

28 Mar - 19 Apr Easter fun at Leeds Museums & Galleries
Felted Egg Hunt at Leeds Industrial Museum, Silly Sheep Round Up at Kirkstall Abbey, Bunny Fun at Abbey House Museum and Play the Room at Leeds City Museum. All are either give what you can or included in admission.

- Every Sat 11-2pm Rowland Road Play Patch - Yorkshire Contemporary**
A fun community adventure space where children can build dens, explore loose-parts play, get creative with arts and crafts and connect every Saturday.
- 11 - 12 Apr The Springs - Leeds Local Easter Market**
Discover Easter treats and gifts from local traders on Saturday 11 April (10am-3pm) and Sunday 12 April (11am-4pm), with free family fun including face painting (Sat 11-2, Sun 12-3) and sunflower seed potting (both days 11-1).
- 15 Apr 11-3pm Peter Rabbit™ hops into the Merrion Centre for Storytelling**
Peter Rabbit™ will be popping up on The Green at the Merrion Centre for free interactive story-time sessions between 11am and 3pm, with appearances at 11.00, 12.00, 13.00, 14.00 and 15.00, each lasting around 30 minutes.
- 7 - 19 Apr Easter Holiday Junior Activities - Active Leeds Leisure Centres**
Enjoy a range of aquatics and sports sessions across the city. Find intensive swimming, gymnastics lessons, dive camps, and outdoor adventures. Activities & price vary by site, booking methods may differ & starts from £7.50.*
- All year round Mumbler's Guide to School Holidays from activities, events and camps**
Including family days out, free & low cost activities, trails and egg hunts including Harewood House, and all the fantastic shows and events on at theatres.
- All year round Leeds Local Offer - SEND things to do**
Provides information, services & activities for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and their families.



Sign up for free to Healthy Holidays Leeds!

School-aged children and young people eligible for free school meals can take part in FREE activities and holiday clubs - with a healthy meal over holiday periods.



Did you know that you can apply to close your street for a set amount time to turn your neighbourhood into a 'play street'?

In partnership with... **Breeze** Leeds City Council

