Greenside Grapevine

Friday 18th September 2026

Dates for your Diary

Please continue to check the latest edition of the Grapevine as more dates are added.

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

September

23rd Year 6 Weardale Residential Information 5.30pm-6pm
25th FROGS Sponsored Walk
30th Year 5 and 6 Educational Visit to Cartwright Hall
30th Parent/Carer Workshop "Learning in Reception" 5pm-6pm

October

2nd Year 3 and 4 Stone Age Workshop (Chameleons and Anacondas)
9th Year 3 and 4 Stone Age Workshop (Pumas)
13th Year 1 Educational Visit to Abbey House Museum
13th Coffee Morning "Transition Home to School" 9am-10.30am
14th Years 1 to 6 FROGS Disco 3.30pm-5.45pm (further information to follow)
15th Individual Photographs
21st Parent/Carer Consultation Evening (further information to follow)
22nd Parent/Carer Consultation Evening (further information to follow)
23rd FROGS Autumn Bake Sale and non-uniform day, in exchange for a tombola prize
23rd School closes at 3.15pm for October Half Term

November

2nd School reopens at 8.40am
27th Reception and Year 6 Height and Weight Check
27th Reception Vision Check

The children have continued to settle back into school life brilliantly and have now started their after-school clubs, swimming lessons and our new music tuition offer. It has been wonderful to see so many children and families taking advantage of the wide range of opportunities available at Greenside.

Over the last few weeks, the children have been learning about democracy and the importance of having their voices heard while also listening respectfully to the views of others. Pupils have had the opportunity to put themselves forward as School Council representatives and apply for a variety of other roles and responsibilities across the school. These opportunities help children to feel valued, develop confidence and gain a strong sense of responsibility within our school community.

Our Year 6 pupils are already demonstrating what fantastic role models they are. They have embraced their responsibility as buddies to our Reception children with maturity, kindness and enthusiasm, helping them to settle into school life and feel part of the Greenside family.

Well done, Year 6, and thank you for being such excellent ambassadors for our school!



Mrs Sarah Fuller, Headteacher

Candlelighters

We are selling badges for a charity this year called 'Candlelighters' that supports children with cancer. They cost £2 per badge and £1.50 for the pens. We are asking the children to bring in the money in a small labelled envelope so it does not get lost. They will go for sale next week Monday 21st September 2026 and will keep going this month until further notice.

FROGS Sponsored Walk

The children will be walking around the school field on the morning of Friday 25th September 2026 – aiming to complete as many laps as they can in 15 minutes. Please help FROGS to raise money for OPAL by raising some sponsor money for this event. We will send home how many laps your child has completed after the event. A sponsor form went out last week, if you need a new one of these, please let the office know. The children will all wear their uniform on the day but can wear footwear appropriate for walking/jogging on the field. Forms and money need to be returned to the school office by Wednesday 7th October 2026.



Greenside's Got Talent!



Just before the summer holidays, we held our very first Greenside's Got Talent event. We were delighted to be joined by RISE Dance (www.risedance.co.uk), whose helped make the occasion even more special. We enjoyed a fantastic variety of acts from pupils of all ages, including singing, dancing, archery, football skills, comedy and musical performances. It was wonderful to see the confidence of our children as they shared their passions and talents with others. Equally impressive was the way the audience celebrated every performer's bravery and achievements with such enthusiasm and support. A huge thank you goes to Miss Byrne, Mrs Pathak and Mr McLaughlin, who ran the Talent Club and supported pupils in practising and refining their acts ahead of the show. Well done to everybody who took part. We are incredibly proud of you all and are already looking forward to making Greenside's Got Talent 2027 even bigger and better!



Class of 2026 Return Visit

We were delighted to welcome so many members of our Class of 2026 back to school for our afternoon tea reunion. It was wonderful to see them all looking so smart and grown up in their new secondary school uniforms. The pupils shared that they felt well prepared for the transition to secondary school and spoke positively about their first experiences. They also provided some insightful feedback, helping us identify ways we can further support future pupils, particularly in developing independence and confidence as they move on to the next stage of their education. We would like to thank them for taking the time to visit and share their experiences. We wish each and every one of them the very best for a successful and enjoyable first year at high school. We look forward to hearing about their continued achievements in the future!

Before and After School Reminder

To help keep everyone safe, please can I remind parents, carers and children not to use the Trim Trail or any of the OPAL equipment before or after school. These areas and resources are only available during supervised school times and are not to be used outside of the school day for health and safety reasons. Our gates open at 8:30am and close at 3.25 pm allowing families time to gather near the correct doors and prepare for the start and end of the school day. During this time, please ensure that your children are supervised at all times unless they have permission to walk to and from school independently (Year 5 and Year 6 pupils only). Thank you for your continued support and cooperation in helping us keep all members of our school community safe.

Safe Dismissal Reminder

To ensure the safety of all our children at the end of the school day, please make sure that the details of the adults authorised to collect your child are kept up to date on Arbor. If collection arrangements change, please inform the school office by phone or email as soon as possible. The office will then inform the class teacher. Where someone unfamiliar to staff is collecting your child, please provide them with the agreed password. Children will only be released to authorised adults, and staff may ask for identification if they are unsure of a collector's identity. We also ask parents and carers to arrive promptly for collection and to let the office know if you are running late. These procedures help us ensure that every child leaves school safely. Thank you for your support and cooperation in helping us keep our children safe.



Arbor

Thank you to everyone for your patience and support while we transitioned to Arbor. We are pleased to say that the majority of the initial technical issues have now been resolved, and the system is helping to streamline many of our processes, making communication and administration more efficient and effective. Please ensure that you have downloaded the Arbor app and that you log back in whenever your device or app updates. This will help ensure that you continue to receive important notifications and communications from school. One of the many benefits of Arbor is that both parents and carers can have access to their own account, helping everyone stay informed about their child's learning, attendance and school updates. If you are experiencing any difficulties accessing Arbor or feel that you are not receiving school communications, please contact or visit the school office. Our team will be happy to help and ensure that you are fully connected. Thank you for your continued support as we make the most of this new system.

Greenside Open Events

If you have a child due to start primary school in September 2027, please see the information below about our open evenings and school tours. If you know someone who has a child due to start school in September 2027 who may not see our newsletters, please feel free to share the information. We look forward to meeting our new prospective families.





Attendance



Our attendance target for this academic year remains at 98%. Our whole school attendance from the start of September is 96.95%.

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!

Reminders

Regular attendance is directly linked to better academic performance, and pupils who attend school consistently are more likely to do well in school and succeed in the future.

School is also the perfect environment for social interaction and regular attendance helps pupils build relationships with their peers and teachers. Positive peer relationships contribute to better mental health and overall well-being.

Class Attendance this year:

Friendly Foxes 100%
Enthusiastic Elephants 97.79%
Positive Penguins 97.47%
Outgoing Otters 97.71%
Confident Chameleons 98.07%
Adventurous Anacondas 97.10%
Persevering Pumas 98.48%
Tenacious Toucans 95.03%
Dazzling Dolphins 91.86%
Creative Caimans 97.43%

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

Well done Friendly Foxes!

Our Attendance Expectations

If your child is going to be absent, you must call or email the school office to report the reason for their absence, including symptoms of their illness. This should be before 8.45am, both on the day of their initial absence and each subsequent day of absence to give an update.

We do request that, where possible, all medical appointments are made outside the school day or during the school holidays but, if you need to take your child out of school for a medical appointment, you must report this to the school office and provide proof of the appointment.

If you need to take your child out of school during term time for any other reason, you must complete a Leave of Absence request form prior to the leave being taken. These can be found on our website www.greenside-sch.org/attendance-1 or collected from the school office.

Our School Promise

Mrs Knowles and Mrs Middleton monitor attendance and provide all the relevant information and support.

Attendance is checked regularly on a 10-week "rolling" period, which means the 10-week clock is continuously moving and absences are not wiped clean at the end of a half-term or academic year. Instead, they are carried forward into the new term or year.

If you require any further clarification or support with attendance, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Knowles or Mrs Middleton.

Punctuality



Please can we remind parents/ carers of the importance of attending school on time and ready to learn.
Doors open at 8.40am and school starts at 8.45am.

Punctuality is important throughout life in general. It shows you are reliable, organised and respectful of other people's time. In school it also shows commitment to learning and helps establish and maintain good relationships with both staff and other pupils.



Mindful Messages

This segment on our Grapevine is to support the wellbeing of our families and young people. Mrs Middleton, our Family Liaison Officer, is keen to share services and groups, both local and national. If you would like any support, please do not hesitate to contact us via the school office or by our family support email address **familysupport@greenside-sch.org**.



You can also find lots of helpful information on our website **https://www.greenside-sch.org/support-for-families/**

MindMate Support Team

As a school, we work closely with the NHS Mind Mate Support Team. They offer a range of wellbeing support for our young people and parents/carers. We use some of their workbooks within our pastoral sessions and they also come into school for our drop ins and coffee mornings to support you directly, as well as delivering assemblies to our young people.

The team can also provide more direct support in and out of school by working 1:1 or in groups with young people following a consultation with them. If you would like any further information, then please contact us or follow the link below to their website.

https://mindmate.org.uk/im-a-parent-or-carer/





Greenside Primary School Edition

THE WELLY POST

OPAL has returned!

We have continued OPAL straight away and the children have responded brilliantly. We will now look at how we can prepare for the coming seasons and how we can continue to develop and improve provision!

Autumn is here - Winters on the way

We will continue to be out in almost all weathers and unfortunately it is turning colder and wetter so please ensure your children are prepared for this! We are hoping however to use the seasons in our play as much as Possible with fallen leaves, conkers, puddles, etc!

Play beyond the playground…..



Field - Wellies and Waterproofs

Please can we remind all parents/carers that children need to bring coats every day as the weather is so unpredictable… and we are out in almost all weathers! We also ask parents/carers to bring in wellies or old trainers/football boots so children are able to access all areas, all the time! On damp or wet days the field may be a welly-only zone, and we would hate for children to miss out!



If you need any support with coats or wellies, please contact school and we can help.

Feedback Response

Thank you to those who completed the parent/carer form and gave feedback.

Most of the OPAL feedback was extremely positive, however one thing that our parents/carers found didn't work was the children eating lunch in their house teams so, after your feedback, we have decided to change back and children will be going into the hall for lunch in their year groups.

We will be mixing the year groups so older children can be good role models for the younger children and Reception and Year 6 will eat together first, as before.