



Bowlee Park Community School School Newsletter

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A big thank you

to all parents and carers who ensure their child attends school regularly and to those who have worked with us to improve their child's attendance.



Good attendance is vital for children's learning and wellbeing.



Attendance below 92%

If your child's attendance is **below 92%** and they have had **three or more absences** this academic year, any further absence will require medical evidence to be authorised.



What counts as medical evidence?

- GP or hospital letter
- Appointment card
- Photo of prescribed medication



Without medical evidence

the absence will be recorded as unauthorised. Continued unauthorised absences may result in a Penalty Notice. We are committed to working with families to avoid this and support improved attendance.



Email

attendance@bowleepark.rochdale.sch.uk

Get in touch



Telephone

0161 654 0257 opt 1



Let's work together!

Good attendance today, brighter futures tomorrow.



TIGGER-ON-TIME WINNERS



The class with the least **lateness** across each phase (Nursery & reception, 1 & 2, 3 & 4, 5 & 6) will have the honour of homing Tigger-on-time for the week!

Reception

Year 1

Year 3

Year 1 Class 3

Year 3 Class 1 & 3

Year 5 Class 2

Year 6 Class 3

ATTENDANCE BEAR WINNERS



The class with the **highest attendance** across each phase will have the honour of homing the Attendance Bear for the week!

Reception

Year 2

Year 3

Year 5

Class 1

Class 1 & 4

Class 1

Class 3



WaterAid Fundraising Day – Friday 12th June 2026

To help raise awareness and support for WaterAid, pupils are invited to come to school dressed in **blue** on Friday 12th June 2026.

If you would like to make a voluntary donation to the charity, please send this in with your child on the day.



We have a number of exciting school trips planned for the Summer Term. If you have not yet paid for your child's upcoming trip, we kindly ask that payment is made as soon as possible.

Please note that these trips can only go ahead if sufficient funds are received to cover the overall costs. At present, there are still outstanding payments for the Preschool, Reception, Year 2, Year 4 and Year 6 trips.

These visits provide valuable educational and enjoyable experiences for the children, and we are very keen for them to take place and continue for future year groups. We would therefore appreciate all outstanding contributions being paid promptly.

If you are experiencing any difficulties or have concerns regarding payment, please contact the school in confidence so that we can offer support where possible.

Thank you for your continued support.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Changes to Free School Meals (FSM)



From **September 2026**, all children in England whose households receive **Universal Credit** will be entitled to Free School Meals (FSM), regardless of household income.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR FAMILIES



FREE SCHOOL MEALS
for your child every school day.



SUPERMARKET FOOD VOUCHERS
during school holidays.



FREE PLACES
at Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) clubs.



NO INCOME THRESHOLD
eligibility will be based on receiving Universal Credit.



SAVE AROUND £500
per child each year.



A FREE, NUTRITIOUS MEAL
for your child every school day.



DO PARENTS STILL NEED TO APPLY?

YES. Even though eligibility is expanding, parents and carers must still submit an application so schools can confirm entitlement and ensure your child receives all the support available.

YOU MAY NEED:

- ✓ Your National Insurance Number
- ✓ Your Universal Credit reference number



FIND OUT MORE AND APPLY

Visit Rochdale Council's website:

rochdale.gov.uk/benefits-money/free-school-meals

Please apply even if your child has not previously qualified for Free School Meals.



Milo from Reception has generously donated his hair to The Little Princess Trust, cutting off nearly **15 inches** to help create a beautiful real-hair wig for a child or young person experiencing hair loss due to illness or a medical condition.



Alongside donating his hair, Milo has been raising money to support the charity's incredible work. The funds help cover the cost of making and providing wigs free of charge, as well as supporting vital research into childhood cancers and other conditions that cause hair loss.

So far, **Milo has raised an amazing £275.**



Before the holiday, as part of our celebration of **National Smile Month**, Year 1 took part in an exciting science experiment to investigate how different drinks can affect our teeth.

We learned that eggshells contain calcium, just like our teeth, making them an excellent material for our investigation. First, we drew a small circle on each hard-boiled egg using a permanent marker. We then carefully brushed fluoride toothpaste inside the circle to see whether it would help protect the eggshell from damage.

Next, we placed each egg into a different liquid and left them to soak throughout the day. The liquids we tested were vinegar, fresh orange juice, milk and cola.

After observing the eggs, we compared the effects of each liquid:

- **Vinegar** had the greatest effect. The eggshell completely dissolved, showing how acidic substances can damage tooth enamel.
- **Cola** stained and darkened the shell, demonstrating how sugary and acidic drinks can affect the appearance and health of our teeth.
- **Milk** caused no visible changes to the shell. As milk contains calcium, it is a much healthier choice for our teeth.
- **Fresh orange juice** caused the shell to bubble and become weaker, showing that even natural fruit juices can be acidic and affect tooth enamel.

We also discovered that the **fluoride toothpaste** helped to protect parts of the eggshell that were submerged in the cola and orange juice. However, it was unable to protect the eggshell placed in vinegar, as the acid was too strong.

The children thoroughly enjoyed this hands-on investigation and learned some valuable lessons about making healthy choices to keep their teeth strong and healthy. We encourage them to continue practising good oral hygiene habits at home, including brushing twice a day with fluoride toothpaste and choosing tooth-friendly drinks whenever possible.



Lost Property Reminder

We currently have a large collection of lost property, including coats, jumpers, cardigans, packed lunch bags, and other non-uniform items.

Please encourage your child to check the lost property area for any missing belongings.

We would also like to remind parents and carers to ensure that all uniform and personal belongings are clearly labelled with their child's name, as this helps us return lost items promptly.

Any unclaimed items will be kept until **Friday 19th June**. After this date, all remaining items will be transferred to our uniform donation rail.

Thank you for your continued support.



Date	Event	Time
Thursday 11 th June	Year 3 Class 2 and 3 Trip to Martin Mere	
Friday 12 th June	Year 3 Class 1 and 4 Trip to Martin Mere	
Friday 12 th June	Year 1 Class 4 Assembly, Entrance via hall doors	9am
Friday 12 th June	Water Aid – Dress in Blue for a donation	
Monday 15 th June	Year 6 Class 1 Stay and Learn Entrance via hall doors	9am
Monday 15 th June	Year 6 Careers Carousel	
Tuesday 16 th June	Year 4 Class 2 and 4 Trip to MOSI	
Wednesday 17 th June	Year 4 Class 1 and 3 Trip to MOSI	
Friday 19 th June	Year 1 Class 3 Assembly, Entrance via hall doors	9am
Friday 19 th June	Year 6 Class 2 Stay and Learn Entrance via year 3 doors	9am



WATER SAFETY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS & CARERS

MAY 2026



We would like to share an important water safety reminder with all families.

Tragically, six children and young people lost their lives in open water incidents across the UK during the late May Bank Holiday weekend.

As the weather becomes warmer, many children and teenagers are naturally drawn to rivers, canals, lakes, reservoirs and other open water areas. While these places may look inviting, open water can be extremely dangerous. Cold water shock, hidden hazards beneath the surface, strong currents and steep banks can quickly turn a fun day out into a life-threatening situation.



We encourage all parents and carers to talk to their children about staying safe around water and to share the resources below.



KNOW THE RISKS



Cold water shock



Strong currents and hidden hazards



Deep water and steep banks



Difficulty getting out once in the water



REMEMBER:

- ✓ Never swim in open water unless it is a designated, supervised swimming area.
- ✓ Avoid jumping into unknown water.
- ✓ Stay with friends and look out for each other.
- ✓ Call 999 and ask for the Fire and Rescue Service or Coastguard in an emergency.

**CALL
999
IN AN
EMERGENCY**



USEFUL RESOURCES & POSTERS

These resources can be used at home to help start conversations about water safety:



Water Safety Partners Pack

<https://tinyurl.com/watersafety-partners-pack-2026>



Dying for a Dip? Leaflet

<https://tinyurl.com/dying-for-a-dip-leaflet-2024>



Dying for a Dip? Accessible Poster

<https://tinyurl.com/dying-for-a-dip-accessible-poster>



GREATER MANCHESTER FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

Water Safety Campaign 2026

Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service's 2026 campaign highlights the dangers of open water and provides practical advice on staying safe.

<https://manchesterfire.gov.uk/your-safety/campaigns/water-safety-campaign/>



LEARN THE RNLI'S "FLOAT TO LIVE" TECHNIQUE

If someone unexpectedly enters cold water, the RNLI advises them to Float to Live. This simple technique can help people regain control of their breathing and improve their chances of survival.



- 1 Tilt your head back with your ears submerged.
- 2 Relax and try to control your breathing.
- 3 Gently move your hands and legs to stay afloat.
- 4 Once calm, call for help or swim to safety.



RNLI FLOAT TO LIVE GUIDANCE AND VIDEO

<https://rnli.org/safety/float>



WATER SAFETY ADVICE FOR TEENAGERS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The Canal & River Trust provides practical advice specifically for teenagers and young people about staying safe near canals, rivers and other waterways.



Canal & River Trust Water Safety Advice for Young People

<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/enjoy-the-waterways/safety-on-our-waterways/water-safety-for-teenagers-and-young-people>



WORKING TOGETHER TO KEEP CHILDREN SAFE

Thank you for helping us reinforce these important safety messages.

By talking regularly with children and young people about the risks of open water, we can all play a part in keeping them safe.



Are you struggling with your child's school attendance?

Join our school attendance support for parents (SASP) group this summer.

Our education welfare service offers a safe space for parents and carers (only) to access confidential peer support, advice, and guidance to overcome these challenges. Refreshments provided.

Upcoming sessions

- 20 May 2026, 4-5.30pm at Sandbrook Family Hub
- 3 June 2026, 1.15-3pm at Belfield Family Hub
- 8 June 2026, 2.30-4pm at Norden Family Hub
- 10 June 2026, 9am-12pm at Derby Street Family Hub
- 17 June 2026, 1-3pm at Langley Family Hub

For more information contact:

T: 01706 925115

E: education.welfare@rochdale.gov.uk



ROCHDALE
BOROUGH COUNCIL

 **NATIONAL
YOUTH CHOIR**



SING! Greater Manchester

Join **SING!** near you! Three **FREE** workshops led by expert vocal leaders from National Youth Choir. No experience needed! Come along to improve your singing, learn new songs together and make friends who love to sing.

For young people who are in Year 5 to 8 at state school or homeschooled
Free to take part • We can pay travel costs

Dates for your diary

Sunday 10 May, 10am-4pm
Claremont Centre, Trafford

Sunday 28 June, 10am-4pm
Oasis Academy Leesbrook, Oldham

Sunday 18 October, 10am-4pm
MAPAS, Salford
includes auditions for National Youth Choir

**"Today made
me happy and
made me want
to sing more"**

Sign up for SING!

www.nationalyouthchoir.org.uk/sing-greater-manchester

