



# THE GREENMOUNT GUARDIAN

2026 - 2027

Issue #

Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> October 2026

## Parents' Evenings – Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> October

Meetings will take place in the school hall.  
Please enter via the main school entrance.  
In the hall, your children's work from September will be available to view.  
Please remember that this is only a short discussion to see how your children have settled in.  
There isn't space for children to wait so ideally other arrangements will need to be made.

Don't forget, after half term, we reopen on  
**TUESDAY, 3<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER**

After the half-term holiday there will be a new School Dinner menu.  
As usual, you are encouraged to pre-order with your child at home on SchoolGrid.

The new menu isn't live on there yet, but we expect it will be within the next week or so – we'll keep an eye out for you and let you know !



Next week, a large group of our Year 4 children are off on their travels as they take part in the annual Year 4 Residential in Burwardsley, just outside Chester.

From Wednesday to Friday, they will be walking in the countryside, visiting a local farm, pond dipping and orienteering. Mr Griffith, Mr Geeson, Miss Plumb and Miss Hathaway will be away with them. We're sure they will have an amazing time 😊

### In this issue ...

- Diary Dates for 2026 – 2027
- Greenmount Bonfire
- PTA Dance Night
- Bury Hospice event
- Certificates this week
- Recycling in school
- "What parents need to know about "AI companions"

## Next week @GPS

### School Dinners: Week 3

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

#### Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> October

3.15 p.m. – 3.45 p.m.  
PTA Uniform Shop Open

2.30 p.m. – 6.30 p.m.  
Parents' Evening

3.30 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.

Y3/4 Multisports

~~Y5/6 Football~~ – cancelled due to  
Parents' Evening

#### Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> October

2.30 p.m. – 6.30 p.m.  
Parents' Evening

#### Wednesday to Friday Y4 Residential Trip

#### Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> October

3.15 p.m. – 3.45 p.m.  
PTA Uniform Shop Open

3.30 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.  
Y5/6 Netball

#### Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October

#### Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October

3.15 p.m. – 3.45 p.m.  
PTA Uniform Shop Open

**School closes for half term**



## Greenmount Primary School

Holhouse Lane, Greenmount, Bury BL8 4HD

[www.greenmountprimarybury.co.uk](http://www.greenmountprimarybury.co.uk)

Head Teacher: Mr D W Griffith

01204 884031

email: [greenmount@bury.gov.uk](mailto:greenmount@bury.gov.uk)

Deputy Head Teacher: Miss C Kunce



# dates to Remember

Did you know you can sync our school's calendar so that all our events are saved on your phone !  
Go to the calendar page on our website, scroll down to the bottom of the page and click the relevant "subscribe" button 😊

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

**GREENMOUNT SCOUTS FAMILY BONFIRE + FIREWORKS SAT. 7<sup>TH</sup> NOV.**

• CANON LEWIS HALL • HOLCOMBE BROOK •

**ADULTS: £6**  
**UNDER 16s: £2**

• REFRESHMENTS •  
• GAMES • STALLS

• FOR SAFETY •  
NO PRIVATE FIREWORKS  
NO SPARKLERS  
NO ALCOHOL

**TICKETS:**  
AVAILABLE AT GREENMOUNT BUTCHERS, OR VERNON ROAD

SCAN HERE

**GATES OPEN: 6.30 PM**  
**FIRE LIT: 7.15 PM**  
**FIREWORKS: 8.00 PM**

Scouts

**WALSHAW SPORTS CLUB AND GREENMOUNT PRIMARY PTA.....PRESENTS**

**FROM MY HOUSE TO YOUR HOUSE**

**DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY WITH DJ CRAIG HILL**

**TICKETS £15**  
**INCLUDES DRINK ON ARRIVAL, BACON, SAUSAGE OR CHIP BUTTY**  
**OVER 10'S ONLY**  
**FRIDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**  
**WALSHAW SPORTS CLUB, SYCAMORE DRIVE, BL8 3EG**  
**DOORS OPEN 7PM**

**BOOK NOW USING THE BELOW QR CODE**

**BURY HOSPICE**

PRESENTS

**THE DEVIL WEARS PRELOVED**

Greenmount Old School  
**Sat 24th October**  
**2pm – 6pm**

**Ticket price:**  
**£15 Adults - £5 Children**

To book tickets, call the fundraising office on 0161 797 1748 or visit our website at: [www.buryhospice.org.uk/events/the-devil-wears-preloved](http://www.buryhospice.org.uk/events/the-devil-wears-preloved)

Registered Charity Number: 1136843

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

## Autumn Term – Second half

|                                   |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Tuesday</b> , 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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Friday, 13 <sup>th</sup> November | 7.30 p.m. | PTA 90s Dance Night @ Walshaw Sports Club<br><a href="https://www.ticketsource.com/greenmount-primary-school-pta/90s-dance-night/2026-11-13/19:30/t-ixjqovk?">https://www.ticketsource.com/greenmount-primary-school-pta/90s-dance-night/2026-11-13/19:30/t-ixjqovk?</a> |
| 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 a.m. - 5.30 p.m. | GOOSE Holiday Club                        |
| Tuesday, 5th January                 | 9.00 a.m.             | School Re-Opens                           |
| Friday, 8th January                  |                       | Non-Uniform Day for Autumn 2 Winning Team |
| Monday, 18th to Friday, 22nd January |                       | Year 5 Swimming (mornings)                |
| Friday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> January     |                       | PTA Freaky Friday                         |
| 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 - 6.30 p.m.      | Parents' Evening - Year 6                 |
| Wednesday, 10th February             | 2.30 - 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](mailto: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              |
| Friday, 12 <sup>th</sup> March   |                       | PTA Non-Uniform Day – bring an Easter Egg |
| Tuesday, 16th March              | 2.00 p.m.             | Y3/Y4 Production                          |
|                                  | 6.30 p.m.             | Y3/Y4 Production                          |
| Thursday, 18 <sup>th</sup> March | Tbc                   | PTA Easter Bingo                          |
| Tuesday, 23rd March              | 2.30 - 6.30 p.m.      | Parents' Evening - Reception to Year 5    |
| Wednesday, 24th March            | 2.30 - 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                                                                                                                                               |
| Tuesday, 29 <sup>th</sup> June      |                          | “Move up” morning                                                                                                                                            |
| Thursday, 1st July                  |                          | Sports Day<br>9.00 a.m. Year 6<br>10.00 a.m. Year 5<br>10.45 a.m. Year 4<br>11.30 a.m. Year 3<br>1.00 p.m. Reception<br>1.45 p.m. Year 1<br>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. -<br>5.30 p.m. | GOOSE Holiday Club                                                                                                                                           |



## ***Making their mark this week:***

### **Certificates were awarded to:**

#### **Reception:**

Aliya, Cameron, Otis, Santino

#### **Year 1:**

Grace, Phoebe, Artie, Toby, Hajra

#### **Year 2:**

Sophia, Ezra, Penny, Sienna, Billy J

#### **Year 3:**

Elodie, Haniya, Brodie, Oliver O, Rosie N

#### **Year 4:**

George, Max, Clara, Betty, Luis, Flynn

#### **Year 5:**

Harvey, Tilly, Steffi, Affan, Eva

#### **Year 6:**

William, Georgia, Nathan, Ashleigh, Hattie, Alfie, Grayson

### **Stars of the week:**

#### **Reception:**

Jacques

#### **Year 1:**

Beau

#### **Year 2:**

Rita

#### **Year 3:**

Sofia

#### **Year 4:**

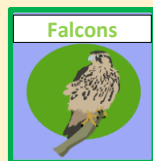
Emmy

#### **Year 5:**

Freddie

#### **Year 6:**

Luca Ti, Joe



### **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 AI COMPANIONS

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Powered by generative AI models like ChatGPT and Google Gemini, AI companion apps and virtual chatbots such as Character.ai, Snapchat My AI, Replika and Talkie, allow users to create, customise, and chat to synthetic avatars around the clock. While many young people use them for harmless entertainment, creative writing or homework help, these tools are designed to simulate genuine human empathy, emotional bonding and deep friendship.

### EMOTIONAL DEPENDENCY

AI companions are programmed to be endlessly agreeable, attentive, and available 24/7. Unlike human friendships, an AI companion never disagrees, sets personal boundaries, or gets tired. Young people (especially those experiencing loneliness, social anxiety, or low self-esteem) can quickly develop an unhealthy emotional attachment, viewing synthetic software as their 'best friend' or a surrogate romantic partner.

### DANGEROUS MENTAL HEALTH ADVICE

AI chatbots possess no genuine empathy, professional clinical knowledge, or moral reasoning. While developers state these tools are not therapists, vulnerable teenagers often turn to them in crisis. Chatbots have previously hallucinated unsafe medical guidance, validated depressive spirals, and failed to safely escalate disclosures of self-harm or suicidal ideation to real-world protective services.

### DATA HARVESTING & OVERSHARING

Because conversational bots simulate warmth and understanding, children often lower their guard and treat the chatbot as a trusted friend. They may disclose sensitive personal information, including full names, school details, private family problems, or secrets, unaware that their conversations are being logged, may be analysed by third parties (including advertisers), or used to train future AI models.

### DISTORTED SOCIAL SKILLS

Navigating real-world friendships can be messy, involving dealing with conflict, compromise, boredom, and awkwardness. If a teenager spends hours interacting with an AI that is tailored specifically to validate and flatter them, they may become impatient with real-world relationships. Over time, this can lead to social withdrawal, heightened anxiety in peer groups, and isolation: a vicious circle of growing online dependency coupled with a heightened sense that relationships in the 'real world' are too challenging to maintain.

### INAPPROPRIATE OR EXPLICIT CONTENT

While most mainstream platforms feature safety filters and guardrails, young people frequently discover 'jailbreak' prompts to bypass them. Some companion platforms subtly nudge users towards mature themes, romantic roleplay, or sexually suggestive conversations. In worse cases, third-party apps with weak safety checks have been found to generate sexually explicit text or intimate images.

### "FREEMIUM" UPSELLS & SUBSCRIPTIONS

Many companion platforms operate on a freemium model. While basic chat is free, features like voice calls, uncensored responses, custom avatars, or 'deeper bonding' tiers are locked behind expensive monthly recurring subscriptions or in-app token purchases. This can lead to significant hidden costs and pressure on young people to spend money to maintain the 'friendship'.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### TALK OPENLY ABOUT FAKE RELATIONSHIPS

Demystify how these tools work. Explain to young people that an AI companion has no feelings, memories, or consciousness; it is simply calculating the next most mathematically probable word based on its training data. It is helpful to explain to them the mechanics of large language models so that they understand how they are trained and how they are designed to always flatter and be helpful.

### ENCOURAGE REAL-WORLD CONNECTION

Ensure technology habits do not replace face-to-face peer socialisation, sports, hobbies, and family time. Create healthy boundaries at home (such as keeping phones and tablets out of bedrooms overnight) to prevent late-night, unmonitored attachment loops with conversational chatbots when young people are at their most vulnerable.

### AUDIT PRIVACY SETTINGS & AGE LIMITS

Check which companion apps are installed on your child's phone or tablet. Many dedicated companion apps carry an App Store rating of 17+, while platforms like Character.ai set a minimum age of 13+ (or 16+ in the UK/EU). Review the privacy settings together: turn off data-sharing toggles, disable model training where possible, and ensure location permissions are blocked.

### REINFORCE WHERE TO GET REAL HELP

Make sure young people know that a machine can never replace professional pastoral or mental health care. Remind them of the trusted adults they can turn to at school – such as their Form Tutor, Head of Year, or the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) – as well as dedicated youth support services like Childline (0800 1111) or Shout (text 85258).

### Meet Our Expert

Darren Coxon is the Founder and Executive Director of Compass Education, a consultancy specialising in supporting educators, students and parents in making wise choices with AI. His book *Ethical AI and Education*, co-authored with Clara Hawking, will be released later in 2026 by Taylor and Francis.



The National College

See full reference list on our website



@wake\_up\_weds



/www.thenationalcollege



@wake.up.wednesday



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