



Baines School
Nil Sine Labore



Headteacher Update – 21st September 2026

Parents, Carers, Students, and Friends of Baines School,

We had some very exciting news this week - for the first time ever, we have achieved a Distinction in our Eco-Schools award! We are the only secondary school in Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre to achieve this milestone. This success is a true testament to the hard work and dedication of our incredible students, and of course the support from staff across the whole school. Mrs Clarke is committed to leading Baines School in its eco journey and, with her band of eco-warrior, she is making Baines School an eco-friendlier school.



Nil Sine Labore!

Open Evening September 2026

Our Open Evening this year will be on Tuesday 22nd September.

We are absolutely thrilled by the number of families who have already participated in a tour and are excited to share our school

Mrs C J Doherty

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'Encourage, Engage, Empower'

with families.

The next tours are:

Wednesday 23rd September 2026;

Wednesday 30th September 2026;

Wednesday 7th October 2026;

Wednesday 14th October 2026;

Wednesday 21st October 2026;

Tours will be 2pm until 2:45.

If you would like to come on a tour as a prospective parent, please contact info@baines.lancs.sch.uk

Communication Plan

We have a clear communications plan in school. If a parent or carer needs to contact school, they do so through a hierarchical system.

1. Contact your child's progress tutor.
2. Contact the pastoral officer for your child's year group
3. Contact the Progress Leader for your child's year group
4. Contact the SLT link for your child's year group
5. If you feel your concern has not been resolved, contact Mr Uphill, Deputy Headteacher
6. If you feel your concern has still not been resolved, contact Mrs Doherty, Headteacher



Currently we have a number of parents moving straight to either Mr Uphill or myself and bypassing this system. There are systems in place to ensure that communications can be responded to within 48 hours. If the concern is a safeguarding one and needs a more urgent response, please telephone the school office. If someone does not answer immediately, please persevere, they may be speaking to another parent.

We always look to work with parents and carers, as ultimately, we want all students to flourish and succeed at Baines School.

Reading Canon

We are absolutely delighted to launch the very first Baines School reading canon! Our reading canon is a carefully selected list of foundational books and texts that every student is expected to read or encounter during their time at Baines.

Research shows that -

"A tutor time reading programme [is] an easy way to get more pupils reading... [There are] strong correlations between reading ability and GCSE attainment across the curriculum, including in Science, Maths and Geography." (Greenshaw Research School, 2022)

"For many pupils, hearing the fluent reading of their teacher is a valuable necessity." (Alex Quigley, 2023)

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“Fluent readers can read accurately, at an appropriate speed without great effort... and with appropriate stress and intonation.” (EEF Guidance)

The books that our students will read whilst at Baines School include:

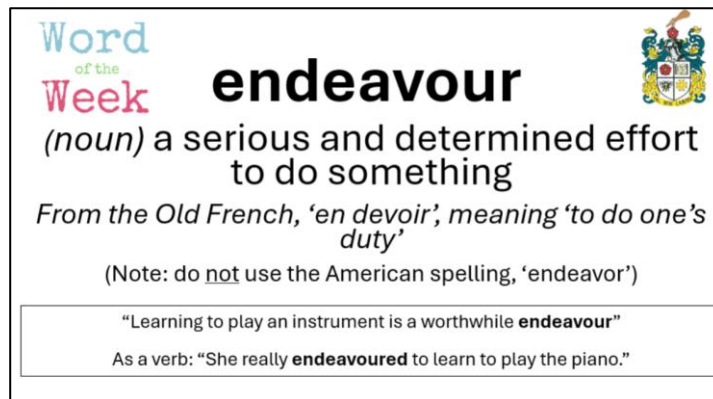
Year 7 – The Hobbit, A Kind of Spark, Tales Dark and Grimm

Year 8 – The Bone Sparrow, The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime, The Reason I Jump

Year 9 – You Don't Know What War Is, Trash, My Sister Lives on the Mantlepiece

Year 10 – In Cold Blood, Rebecca, Orange Bay

Word of the Week



Safeguarding and Wellbeing

Just a reminder that if you or your son / daughter has any safeguarding concerns, please contact a member of the safeguarding team:

Mr Moseley (DSL)

Mrs Doherty (Headteacher)

Mrs Streetly (Assistant Headteacher Wellbeing and Mental Health)

Mrs Fell (School Counsellor)

If you have any ideas how you feel we could improve our safeguarding of students, please feel free to email Mr Moseley (ams@baines.lancs.sch.uk)

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact the school's safeguarding lead on ams@baines.lancs.sch.uk

If you are worried about the mental health of your child or need some food from our food hub (tins, pasta, cereal etc), sending home, please contact the wellbeing team on wellbeing@baines.lancs.sch.uk. We will be extremely discrete.

Mobile Phones in School and Social Media Reminder of Age Restrictions

Under the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026, state-funded schools in England are legally required to operate as mobile phone-free environments by default. We have been preparing for this since

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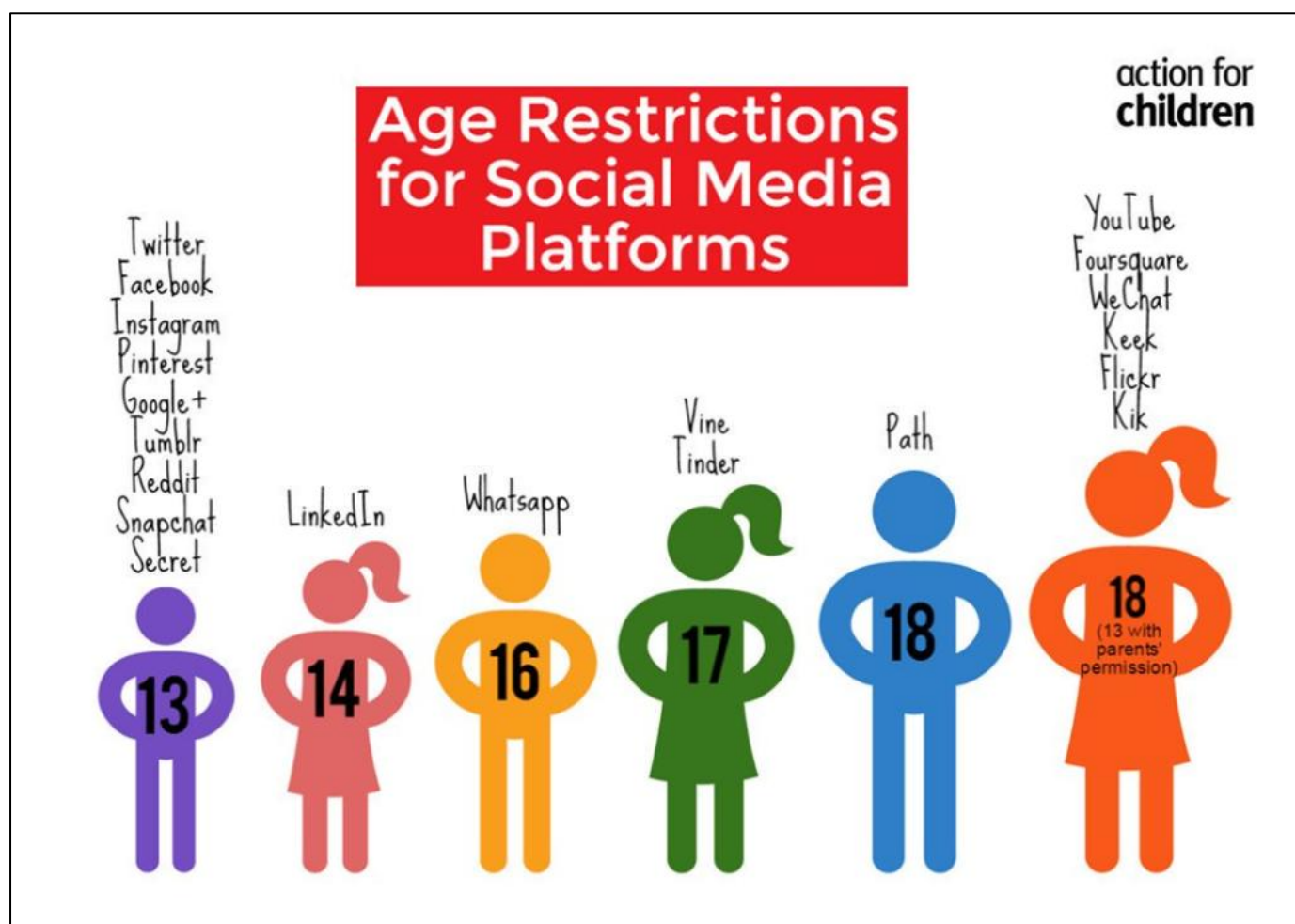
‘Encourage, Engage, Empower’

May 2026 by designing and ordering the Baines School mobile phone pouches. The system is very straightforward – students either have a pouch or do not bring their mobile phone to school.

Some schools have completely barred phones from being brought in however we appreciate that parents and carers may wish to speak to students on their way home from school for safeguarding purposes and often students use the app for bus tickets etc. There are some exemptions on medical grounds. It is absolutely fine for parents to choose not to purchase the pouches, but their child should not bring a phone to school. Any phones in school will be confiscated and parents/carers expected to collect.

[Mobile phones in schools \(England\) - House of Commons Library](#)

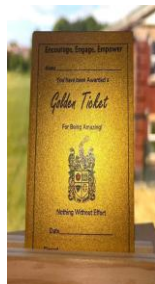
To do your part outside of school, please monitor your child's mobile phone and in particular social media activity. This is still one of the biggest issues we deal with.



Stars of the Week:



Golden Ticket Winners:



7: Rowan
8: Dexter
9: Bella
10: Amelia
11: Imogen
Well done to all our students who have been awarded Golden Tickets.

Students with the most positive points this week:
Year 7 → Levi
Year 8 → Miller
Year 9 → Emily
Year 10 → Hugo
Year 11 → Willow

Form winners for the most positive points include:
Year 7 → 7MAX & PAR
Year 8 → 8MAX
Year 9 → 9OGD
Year 10 → 10PAR

Dates for your diary:

Date	Event
Monday 21st Sept 2026	Musical Auditions 3pm school hall Year 7 CAT Tests all week and Yr7 Effort Report – Issued to families Assemblies: European Day of Languages
Tuesday 22nd Sept 2026	Year 7 CAT Tests all week Prospective Year 7 Open Evening 4.00pm-7.30pm (early finish 1pm) School Photographs Years 7 & 10 individuals
Wednesday 23rd Sept 2026	Year 7 CAT Tests all week
Thursday 24th Sept 2026	Year 7 CAT Tests all week
Friday 25th Sept 2026	Year 7 CAT Tests all week Blackpool Sixth Form Year 11 Assembly MacMillian Coffee Morning 9.30 - 11am
Tuesday 29th September 2026	Year 7 Road Safety Presentation “Streetwise” at 2pm
Wednesday 30th September 2026	Year 7 Meet the Tutor Event 4-7pm Year 10 & 11 Information Evening 5pm and 6pm (School hall)
Thursday 1st October 2026	KS3 Science Made Simple Workshop
Friday 2nd October 2026	Year 11 Assembly AKS
Monday 5th October 2026	Year 11 Performing Arts Performance Exam (w/c)
Friday 9th October 2026	Year 11 Assembly Blackpool & Fylde College
Monday 12th October 2026	Flu Vaccinations Year 11 Prelim examinations– All Week
Tuesday 13th October 2026	Year 11 Assembly Cardinal Newman
Wednesday 14th October 2026	Careers Fair 12-4pm
Friday 23rd October 2026	Year 11 Prom Fashion Show – more details to be confirmed School closes for October half term at 3pm

Best wishes,

Clare Doherty
Miss C J Doherty

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21 September 2020

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