

Great Bookham School Newsletter

Welcome to Issue 20 - 9th February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have finished this half term with a jam packed week of exciting learning opportunities.

To mark the start of Schools' Football Week some of our children were incredibly lucky to take part in an amazing experience at Leatherhead Football Club. They were treated to a tour of the stadium, were able to meet the team in the dressing room and even got to walk onto the pitch with the players. Community Officer Dave, who works for Leatherhead Football Club, ran a skills session with the children before the big game and then allowed them to have a penalty shoot out on the pitch at half time. The children proved to be great ambassadors for Great Bookham School and they thoroughly enjoyed every moment of their day. A huge thank you goes to Leatherhead Football Club and Mrs Swazey for organising this opportunity, Mrs Dunk for representing the staff team and also to Mr Bradford for giving up his time and capturing some lovely photos for us.

During Children's mental health week, we reflected on strategies that we can use to promote positive mental health. There have been wonderful things happening in school to promote this important aspect of our curriculum including an assembly led by Mrs Brown and the wellbeing ambassadors focussing on our work with Pets As Therapy, not forgetting our reading dog Jasper. It was wonderful to see children dressed as their favourite animal and have Jasper join us during assembly.

Year 6 were privileged to visit Sky Studios on Wednesday. At school they have been planning news reports about de-forestation and this purposeful writing was put to great use. In groups, the children took various roles including debater, director, producer, presenter, voice-over, camera person and auto-cue operator to bring their scripts to life. They were even able to choose appropriate backgrounds and videos to go with their reports. What an amazing experience! Thanks so much to Mrs Johnston for organising this fabulous trip to enhance their learning and to Mrs Leaver, Mrs Kendall, Mrs Townshend and Mrs O'Neill for going along too.

Children across Year 1, Year 4 and Year 5 were very lucky to have the Openbox Theatre Company come and visit to lead them in an in depth exploration of their history topics. Year 1 enjoyed learning about what it was like at the seaside during the Victorian era, Year 4 learned lots about life as a Viking and Year 5 were taken back in time to the Mayan civilization. We will be welcoming the Openbox Theatre Company back next term to transport Year 2, 3 and 6 back in time too.

Today has been a wonderful day of celebration and learning about Chinese New Year and specifically the Year of the Dragon. Our fabulous Mr Perrins has led the school, once again, in learning traditional

Chinese legends of the Dragon. The school was decorated in red with dragon symbols and looked wonderful when filled with children dressed in vibrant reds and gold. The Infants had great fun walking through school banging drums, chanting in Mandarin words to scare away Nian (a fearsome monster) and carrying a large Chinese dragon. I was totally amazed by our Year 1 class who sang word for word a song in Mandarin all about celebrating the Chinese New Year. Children across the school made dragon masks and had great fun taking part in dragon dancing. Thank you Mr Perrins!

Miss J. Allen

Headteacher





















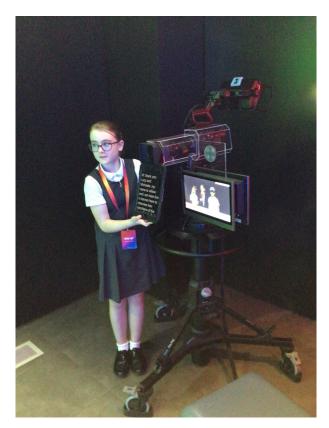
































Opening and Closing of Gates

Please can we remind parents and carers that our gates at both the Lower Road and Griffin Way entrance **open at 8:35am** and **close at 8:45am**. If you arrive after this time, you should bring your child to our main office area which is located via our Griffin Way entrance.

Amended INSET Dates

Please note that the dates that were sent out in last week's newsletter have now changed. Our INSET days for 2024/25 are:

Monday 2nd September 2024

Tuesday 3rd September 2024

Wednesday 4th September 2024

Monday 22nd July 2024

Tuesday 23rd July 2024

New Books!

We are incredibly grateful to The Friends of Great Bookham School for their generous donation of £2,500 to spend on improving our reading provision. So far we have spent £1,800 on books for our book corners. Each class now has access to a range of the latest titles for their year group. This has really created a buzz around reading: children are enthused and the teachers are pleased to have lots of exciting material to share at story time. We are now using the rest of these funds to spruce up our reading corners and library with new furniture and soft furnishings, chosen by the children. We want these spaces to be relaxing and fun places to enjoy. We will update you with pictures of our new spaces after half term!

Here's what some of the children across the school have said about our new books:

"We now have a huge amount of books for our exciting new book corner which looks great in Kestrels class. We have a wide variety of genres that are suitable for our age group. I feel like they have generated a love of reading in everyone especially me," Freya Y6.

"I am already reading a book from our new selection and I love it. The books are arranged well and we have a good selection for Year 3," Hugo Y3.

"We love our book corner and we all work really hard to keep it tidy. We read Hodgeheg, he was a very clever hedgehog!" Harry Y2.







Upcoming Key Dates

Monday 12th - Friday 16th February - Half Term

Friday 23rd February - Hedgehogs class assembly

Wednesday 28th February - EYFS and Year 1 trip to Brooklands Museum

Friday 1st March - Falcons class assembly



Headteacher Award

Bonnie, Elsie and Evalyn in Pre-school were so excited to show me their fantastic writing of their names. It's always special to see our youngest children making such a confident start to becoming independent writers.

George in Reception proudly showed me his writing which included the use of diagraphs and careful letter formation.

Sasha in Year 3 was inspired by her learning during our Internet Safety Day and created a book cover all to illustrate an important online safety idea.

Ava, Charlie and Finlay in Year 4 shared their learning about famous historical musicians that they have been learning about in music this term.

Fearne, Harriet and Hughie in Year 6 created wonderful pillowcases using the Batique technique. I think that they will look lovely at home on their beds!



Elsie

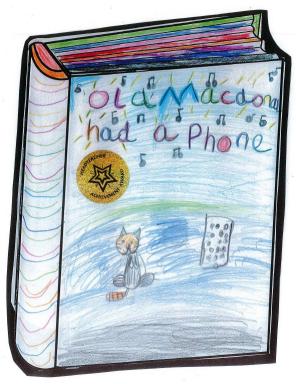


Floie



FVRVJ/S







TNTRODUCTION
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Online Safety

Internet Safety Day

This Tuesday, the children all celebrated Internet Safety Day. We started our day with a whole school assembly focusing on how technology had changed, and what to do if we see something online we do not like. We then introduced our computing worry monster, a special monster in the classroom specifically for online concerns. The children then returned to their classes, designing their own

monsters, reading online safety related books, creating e-safety adverts, interviewing their peers and much more!

A big thank you to all children that entered our online safety competition. We cannot wait to hold another one next year!

Social Media Ban for those under 16?

As the government start to discuss the possibility of a social media ban for under 16 year olds, please do consider the current age ratings and parental controls on your children's personal devices.

Setting up parental controls on your child's mobile

If you do not have the same mobile phone as your child, and therefore are unable to use Google Family link or Apple Family Sharing, then you can set restrictions on your child's device instead.

Apple devices:

To set up restrictions on your child's device directly (rather than using an app) then follow the instructions on the link below:

https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT201304

The instructions will show you how to get to the settings on your child's phone and then how to set restrictions such as restrict content, schedule downtime, set time limits for apps. You will need to set a passcode 'use a screentime passcode' to ensure changes cannot be made after you have set them.

Android devices:

As with the above link, this link shows you how to set up parental controls on the device itself by creating a PIN:

https://support.google.com/googleplay/answer/1075738?hl=en-GB#zippy=%2Cfor-family-members-who-manage-their-own-accounts

At what age can my child start using social networks?

Internet Matters have produced this fantastic resource highlighting the minimum age limits for a variety of social media platforms as well as outlining the risks of being underage on social media. You can find out more here:

https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/what-age-can-my-child-start-social-networking

Mole Valley 2024 out of school activity programme

Mole Valley District Council are planning to run a Summer holiday activity programme for 2024. They would love to hear thoughts of parents and pupils to help them shape what the programme will look like. Please take a few minutes to complete the short survey here.

Mindworks Surrey - Crisis Line

Mindworks Surrey provide a free crisis line, available 24 hours a day, for young people aged 6 years old and over and also for parents and carers who are experiencing emotional and mental health crisis. Please call 0800 915 4644 selecting option 1.

