

# Great Bookham School Newsletter

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*Welcome to Issue 23 - 8th March 2024*

*Dear Parents and Carers,*

*On Tuesday, children proudly represented our school at a swimming gala. Mizuki and Freya in Year 6 commented, "On Tuesday, KS2 took part in the annual swimming gala at Parkside School. Each swimmer that participated did an excellent job and as a result we came a brilliant 2nd place. There were relays and individual races; everyone did their very best. Well done Great Bookham School!"*

*Thank you to parents and carers who put so much effort into their child's costume for our World Book Day celebration. The children looked truly fabulous and brought an electric energy into school. The staff team came to school with equal enthusiasm so a great day was had by all. Teachers, TAs and members of the admin team shared extracts of their favourite texts in assembly and there were moments in the day where all staff swapped classes to read a story to a different class. We are committed to ensuring that all children are able to read and have a genuine curiosity and love of reading; your support at recent PTA events has enabled us to purchase new books for our class libraries and the children have relished the opportunity to explore and enjoy a range of new texts.*

*Miss Macdougall has done a wonderful job of raising the profile of reading across the school this week by organising a number of exciting events. In addition to World Book Day, the children have enjoyed parents and carers coming into school to be 'mystery readers' and they finished the week with a visit from an author and illustrator called M.P. Robertson. Every child enjoyed an illustration workshop with him and an interactive assembly in which he inspired the children about his love and passion for dragons. The children were dubious at first of the existence of dragons but were convinced after watching a video of Mr Mandeville having to run away from the author's pet dragon (which he keeps in his car) during his morning site walk! Take a look below at some of the dragons that the children have drawn in today's workshop.*

*There was not a dry eye in the house during Ladybird's class assembly this morning. The children celebrated mothers' day in the most heart warming of ways and made us all take a*

*moment to appreciate those who are special in our lives. They told the audience why they loved their mummies, shared beautiful painted portraits of their mummies and sang, 'When I Grow Up' with angelic voices and a photo montage showing how they have grown up so far from when they were babies.*

*India said, 'I love my mummy because she makes me yummy Spaghetti Bolognese.'*

*Layla said, 'I love my mummy because she let's me watch TV!'*

*Riley said, 'I am going to do the washing up for my mummy as I am really good at it.'*

*Oscar said, 'I am going to make mummy breakfast in bed.'*

*Thank you to Mrs Morriss and Mrs Evans for making this such a special and memorable first class assembly for Ladybirds.*

*Finally, I end with the sad news that Mrs Brown will be leaving us at the end of the academic year. Mrs Brown works with a number of children and families across the school in her role as ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) so will be sorely missed. We intend to recruit for this role so I will keep you updated with any news on who will take on the role from September 2024.*

*I hope that you all have a restful weekend.*

Miss J. Allen

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### *Upcoming Key Dates*

Wednesday 13th March - Year 6 to Leatherhead Theatre for The Howard's 'Legally Blonde' production

Friday 15th March - Squirrels class assembly

Monday 18th March - Year 4 Bikeability

Monday 18th March - EYFS only parent information evening

Tuesday 19th March - Year 4 Bikeability

Tuesday 19th March - Class photos and Year 6 friendship photos

Tuesday 19th March - Parent information evening

Wednesday 20th March - Netball tournament

Wednesday 20th March - Parent information evening

Thursday 21st March - Openbox Theatre Workshops for Year 2, Year 3 and Year 6

Friday 22nd March - Dragonflies class assembly

Friday 22nd March - KS2 school councillors trip to Houses of Parliament





## *Big Walk and Wheel*

We are pleased to let you know that we are taking part in the 15th year celebration of Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel, the UK's largest inter-school cycling, walking, wheeling, and scooting challenge. The challenge runs from 11-22 March 2024. It's free to take part and we would love everyone to be involved.

### **What do you need to do?**

Encourage your child(ren) to walk, scoot or cycle to school on as many days as possible during the event.

### **Why we are taking part.**

Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel is a great way to build physical activity in children's daily routine which is important for their physical health and mental wellbeing.

Active school runs also help to reduce congestion and air pollution outside the school gate. [A 2021 YouGov study](#) showed nearly half of UK children worry about air pollution near their school. And that children thought active travel was the best way to bring down these pollution levels. Plus, there are some great prizes to be won every day if we get enough children taking part!

### **Useful resources**

To help you prepare, Sustrans has developed a handy free guide to walking, cycling, or scooting to school. It is packed with advice to help you have a hassle-free journey to school.

Download your free family guide using this link: <https://www.sustrans.org.uk/sign-up-to-receive-your-free-school-run-guide/>

For more information about the event go to [www.bigwalkandwheel.org.uk](http://www.bigwalkandwheel.org.uk) . Enjoy the challenge!



- Chat to your child regularly about what they are doing online and as always, remind your child that if anything is worrying them about what they see online then they should tell you or another trusted adult.

### **What if my child has seen something inappropriate?**

This is a [useful article from Thinkuknow](#) explaining what to do and who to contact if you have any concerns.

## *Barclays Girls' Football School Partnerships and International Women's Day 2024*

As our national game, Barclays believes in the power of football and its ability to speak to the nation and create confidence and opportunities for young people. For example, 80% of girls show more confident behaviour having played football. Yet historically, we know that opportunities to access the game haven't been equal; 76% of men said they played football in PE lessons at school, yet only 19% of women said they had the chance to play.

Today, as part of International Women's Day, our sporty Mrs Swayze encouraged as many girls as possible to get out in the glorious sunshine and play some football! They thoroughly enjoyed it and we hope to inspire them to support the Lionesses in the European Qualifiers and maybe we'll see one of our girl's on the pitch one day!

Football belongs to all of us and it's all to play for. #letgirlsplay







