

Great Bookham School Newsletter

Welcome to Issue 29 - 3rd May 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Rabbit Class performed the most wonderful class assembly linked to their learning about climate change. They sang, acted and danced with great enthusiasm. There were great moments of comedy and a brilliant showcasing of a song that the children and Miss Duncan wrote together. We were so impressed with their song that we have decided to use it as part of 'Our Oceans, Our Future' exhibition which will be held at our school on Tuesday 4th June. Thank you to all parents and carers who came to support and to the Year 4 teaching team for inspiring the children with their learning.

Ladybird class enjoyed their first Forest School session today as part of their outdoor learning curriculum. They had lots of fun making dens, weaving with wool and even found a giant dinosaur bone out there! They then returned indoors to research which dinosaur it belonged to and wrote all about their ideas.

Yesterday, ten of our Year 4 children attended the Roundnet competition at The Ashcombe School. The children had so much fun learning about this new and exciting sport. The children who went were incredible ambassadors for the school and the sports coach even made a point of commenting on their competence and superb attitude. There were around 40 teams competing and Charlie O and Henry S finished 4th overall which was an incredible achievement. All of our teams won many of their games and some were one place away from getting into the finals. We look forward to playing more Roundnet in the future and introducing it to the school.

On Wednesday, Year 6 walked to and from the Vineries Garden Centre to look at plants as part of their science topic: classification. Fearne commented, "We looked at many species of plants and identified them according to different categories - noticing how the garden centre had laid them out. My favourite part was meeting the parrot, Jackie, and drawing the flower from a giant daisy plant".

On Monday evening, children from Year 5 and the choir took part in the Surrey Arts Music Festival at Dorking Halls along with children from 9 other local primary schools. They performed an incredible 13 songs from memory to a packed house. They looked extremely smart on stage and their behaviour was impeccable. Well done, we are so very proud of you all.

Last week, ten members of Year 6 took part in the UK Maths Trust, Junior Mathematical Challenge. The questions were extremely stretching but all those that took part enjoyed the challenge. Jacob earned Silver and the top score of 73, Jesse also earned Silver, Henry earned Bronze and Freya also a Bronze. Well done mathematicians!

Congratulations to Jacob C in Year 6 for gaining the junior runner-up prize in the Bookham & Horsley Rotary Young Artist Competition. We were very proud of every child that entered the competition and grateful that The Rotary Club took the time to write a comment about every entry.

Please be reminded that we do have bike/scooter racks for your child to leave their vehicles safely at school during the day. They are located at the top of the school field. Bikes/scooters must not be left in between the sheds at the bottom of the KS1 playground.

I hope that you have a lovely bank holiday weekend.

Miss J. Allen









Upcoming key dates

Monday 6th May - Bank Holiday (school closed)

Wednesday 8th May - Y5 trip to The Look Out Discovery Centre

Thursday 9th May - Y5 parent information meeting re Hooke Court

Friday 10th May - The Friends of GBS School Disco



Headteacher award

Jesse in Year 6 shared the most wonderful piece of independent creative writing which was inspired by an image of a polar bear sleeping with a penguin sitting on its back holding cymbals ready to chime.

A good range of adjectives

Just a few months ago, in the harsh weather of north Antarctica, there was a polar bear that wanted a child. He knew trying to survive himself was hard enough, but he thought having a child might disrupt the boringness of the winter months. So, he started training for the child.

On the first day, he made an ice sculpture of a child. He played with it, looked after it, and even tried to feed it. A few days later, he invited some friends (who had cubs) over. He played with the cubs all day long. Eventually, after a lot of hard work and many days, he asked to have the cubs over alone – whilst his friends, the parents, went away.

After the weekend with the cubs, he felt ready to adopt a child. With a lot of courage, he trotted over to the adoption center, and asked "May I please have one cub?", the adoption agency responded, "We're out of cubs today, but can I interest you in a walrus, a snow fox, or a very cute, special penguin?"

"A penguin, you say?" he asked anxiously.

"We have 1 very special penguin left, looking for his perfect home," the agency replied.

After some consideration, he took the penguin home. Little did he realize how much work it would be. The penguin was a lot different to his friends' polar bear cubs: every morning, it was a sharp 5am wake up, or the penguin would start crashing cymbals. He would have to dive into the sea to grab schools and schools of fish, just to feed one tiny, little, but hungry, penguin - the Polar bear really did not know what had hit him.

It drove him so crazy, he even considered taking him back to the adoption agency, but he resisted the urge. Before he knew it, the polar bear could not imagine life without the little penguin. Finally life was definitely no longer boring, it was full of energy and entertainment.

A delightful tale with a very good range of punctuation

(16)



We're recruiting!

We are currently recruiting for an office manager - if you, or anybody you know is interested, you can apply [here](#).

Online safety

TikTok

You must be over 13 years of age to use TikTok.

TikTok is a social media platform for sharing and watching short video clips. Some of the videos may not be appropriate for your child to view and there is also the risk of strangers contacting your child. If your child is using TikTok then make sure appropriate security/privacy settings are applied.

Account set up

As always, it is important that when setting up an account, your child enters their real date of birth as accounts are tailored by age e.g., direct Messaging is disabled for accounts aged 13-15. In addition, advertisements are tailored to their age. By default, accounts for people under 16 are set to private and we would recommend keeping it as this. This means your child must approve follower requests. You can read more about the other settings available, such as switching off comments and switching on restricted mode here:

<https://support.tiktok.com/en/account-and-privacy/account-privacy-settings>.

Family Pairing

This allows you to link your own account to your child's account. You can then set controls such as restricted mode. You can find out more here:

<https://www.tiktok.com/safety/en/guardians-guide/>

Inappropriate content, themes and challenges on TikTok

Whilst against TikTok's guidelines, explicit and inappropriate content can be found on this platform, for example nudity/sexual content and hate speech. We often see viral challenges on social media, some of which can be dangerous. If your child is using TikTok, chat to them regularly about what they are viewing.

Trends and Influencers

We often see trends on social media, for example a latest trend found is around skin care routines, which can lead to children purchasing products that are completely unsuitable/dangerous for their skin. You can find out more here:

<https://www.bark.us/blog/skin-care-tweens/> .

Influencers are people who have a large following on social media who through recommendations and promotions, influence the behaviour or buying habits of others. The NSPCC discuss what we need to be aware of here: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/2023-05-16-the-influence-of-influencers/>

Stranger contact

Talk to your child about who is following them online and ensure that they understand that people may not be who they say they are when online. It is important that children know not to share personal information.

Blocking and Reporting

Ensure your child knows how to use the safety features available to them, including how to report comments, direct messages and another user.

Further information

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/tiktok>

Stars of the week

Our stars of the week are:

Ladybirds	Amelia
Bumblebees	Jack
Dragonflies	Aubrey
Foxes	Gabriel
Squirrels	Kaydee

Hedgehogs	Layla
Rabbits	Alice
Eagles	Joseph
Hawks	William G
Falcons	Freddy A
Kestrels	Jesse

STARS OF THE WEEK

Attendance

Congratulations to **Hawks** for winning the attendance certificate **again this week!**

MAC the attendance bear will continue to live in **Hawks** classroom for the week.



Sponsored bounce results!

Total bounces	36,516
Best bouncer	Mikuzi - 296 bounces
Bounciest class	Ladybirds - 4298 bounces
Bounciest teacher	Mr Perrins - 273 bounces

Bounciest teachers representing a class
bounces

Mrs Bennett and Mr Mandeville - 457

Class winners

Ladybirds

Esmae and Florence

Bumblebees

Theo C, Jack and Josie

Dragonflies

Archer

Foxes

Alfie

Squirrels

Blake

Hedgehogs

Jenson

Rabbits

Henry

Eagles

Joseph

Hawks

William P

Falcons

Jack

Kestrels

Mizuki



The Gallagher Premiership Rugby Final 2024

The Gallagher Premiership Rugby Final 2024 is taking place at Twickenham Stadium on Saturday 8th June. Premiership Rugby are running a competition for a child aged between 6 and 12 to win the chance to be a mascot at the final giving them the unique experience to run out onto the pitch with one of the finalist teams. There are 5 places available and all parents/guardians have to do is complete the form [here](#). The terms and conditions can be found [here](#). The competition is live now and closes on Sunday 19th May.

