

Great Bookham School Newsletter

Welcome to Issue 8 - 25th October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was a joy and source of great pride to welcome parents and carers in with their children to our Open Afternoon yesterday. Seeing all the children share their work and excitement for learning was truly heart warming. Thank you for supporting this event and celebrating your children's achievements and milestones, it really helps nurture the children's growth as independent and resilient learners with a love of learning. This event was a wonderful reminder of the strong partnership we have as a school community and how, together, we can support each child on their unique journey.

Year 5 had a fabulous day on Tuesday when they dressed up as Tudors. There was an interesting variety of costumes, including some members of the royal family (Mrs Jupp even grew a beard for the day)! The children enjoyed baking Tudor biscuits and jam tarts (and eating them!), as well as writing riddles, taking part in a Tudor dance and playing Tudor board games.

It was a pleasure to host our first 'Tea&Talk' parent workshop alongside Learning Space this week, to talk about anxiety in children and how to start identifying and supporting this. The children's wellbeing is of the utmost importance to us and we will look forward to hosting more sessions like these moving forward.

This afternoon, members of our school choir joined up with other schools from within the South Farnham Educational Trust to perform at the School Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) graduation ceremony at Guildford Cathedral. This is an impressive event that is organised by our South Farnham Teaching School Hub to celebrate the graduates who achieved Qualified Teacher Status last academic year.

As we head into half term, I want to reflect on what has been a brilliant start to the school year. The energy and enthusiasm from our whole school community (pupils, parents and staff) has made this half term exceptional. Our pupils have settled in wonderfully to their new year groups, embracing new challenges every day and showing remarkable growth already. I hope that you all have a restful and happy half term and we look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 4th November to continue building on this fantastic start.

Miss J. Allen

Upcoming key dates

25th October - Last day before half term

- The Friends: Snail Racing 5pm

28th October - 1st November - Half term

4th November - Back to School



Stars of the week

Our stars of the week are:

Ladybirds	Hattie & Henry
Bumblebees	India & Ayda
Dragonflies	Benji & Arthur
Foxes	Rosie & James
Squirrels	Ava & Stanley
Hedgehogs	Sophie & Harrison
Rabbits	Blake & Matilda

Eagles

Mya & Kaine

Hawks

Izzy N & Jasper

Falcons

Amelia & Aran

STARS OF THE WEEK

Attendance

Congratulations to **Hedgehogs** for winning the attendance certificate **this week!**

MAC the attendance bear will live in **Hedgehogs** classroom for the week.



Online safety

Mobile phones: do you know the risks?

We know that children having access to a smartphone can

expose children to risks including:

- Viewing inappropriate content
- Excessive screen time/use, which in turn can affect their mental health and sleep pattern.
- Contact from inappropriate people/grooming
- Cyberbullying
- Spending money on in-app purchases/scams

What effects do mobile phones have on children's mental health?

Compass discuss the research around this important topic, outlining the positive and negative effects that mobile phones have:

<https://www.compass-uk.org/services/compass-changing-lives/whateffects-Do-mobile-phones-have-on-children-and-young-peoples-mentalhealth/>

EE launches Age Guidance

EE has launched age guidance for smartphone usage to improve children's digital wellbeing. In summary, they recommend that children under 11 should use non-smart devices, for children aged 11-13, they advise that if a smartphone is used, then parental controls should be enabled and access to social media restricted. Finally, for 13-16-year-olds they still recommend that parental controls are implemented and appropriate restrictions set up.

You can read the full guidance here:

<https://newsroom.ee.co.uk/ee-launches-age-guidance-for-smartphoneusage-in-drive-to-improve-childrens-digital-wellbeing/>

Could you delay when your child is given a smartphone with Smartphone Free Childhood?

The premise behind this movement is that all parents/carers of a class all agree not to give their children smartphones (therefore the level of peer pressure is reduced) for a set time or until a specific age: <https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/>

What device?

When you think it is the right time for your child to have a phone, then Which? provide an overview of some options available:

<https://www.which.co.uk/reviews/mobile-phones/article/buying-a-firstmobile-phone-best-dumb-phones-and-smartphones-for-kids-aA03C3Y8aTzr>

The Friends

Giving Tree

The Friends of Great Bookham supported by the school are this year having a Giving Tree. This gives the opportunity for the school community to support a local Charity and shine a little Christmas light on those who are going through a difficult time.

This year we will be donating to the Rainbow Trust who support severely and terminally ill children and their families (based in Leatherhead).

Supporting Children and Families¹[rainbowtrust.org.uk](https://www.rainbowtrust.org.uk)²

If you wish to donate a new and unused gift then tags will be available to collect from the Christmas tree which will be by school office from Monday 18th November. The tags will have various age ranges and genders, you then buy an appropriate gift to correspond with the tag, wrap the gift, stick the tag on it and bring it back to school and put it under the tree.

Donations can be of any value but must not be gift vouchers. Teenagers can be more tricky to buy for but we understand Lego goes down well with teenage boys and make up/smelly/toiletries sets are good for teenage girls. This is just a helpful guide, any gift of any value will be truly appreciated.

Gifts must be donated by **Friday 29th November**. They will be taken to the charity office that weekend ready for distribution to the children and their siblings who the charity also support.

If you have any queries then please message friends.gbs@sfet.org.uk³

¹<https://www.rainbowtrust.org.uk/>

²<https://www.rainbowtrust.org.uk/>

³<mailto:friends.gbs@sfet.org.uk>