

Great Bookham School Newsletter

Welcome to Issue 10 - 15th November 2024

Dear Parents and carers,

Pupil Voice is really important to us here at Great Bookham School and our Junior Pupils have been indicating they would like more choice of play equipment on the Junior playground (just like our Infants have on theirs). I'm delighted to share that we have now introduced a range of new equipment, guided by our pupils' wishes. We now have a scooter track, a creative station with board games, floor games and chalk, an active zone with space hoppers and sports equipment and a den building zone with crates. We still have more equipment on its way to be added to these zones and look forward to also introducing some music outside on a daily basis. It has been wonderful today to see the children's excitement at play and to see so many children engaging in active and creative play during their break times. We hope they make the most of it and look after these resources so they last as long as possible. We want to thank the Friends of GBS for their donation towards buying the equipment.

We are reaching out for donations of trainers for our infant children in a range of sizes, to be used as spares for PE lessons. This will ensure that all children can fully participate in physical education even if they forget their kit. If you have any to donate, please see the school office.

As always, we want to maintain the same high standard for PE uniform as we do for our school uniform, so we appreciate your support in this area.

Last Friday, 9 of our Year 5 and 6 girls took part in a girls Tag Rugby festival at Dorking Rugby Club. They enjoyed practising their skills in several activities before playing some games against the other local schools taking part. Faith received a medal for her excellent effort throughout the afternoon.

On Thursday afternoon, to enhance their learning in RE, Year 5 were delighted to welcome Mr Stone into their classes to talk about Judaism. He spoke about his faith and culture and the children were very interested to hear about what Jewish people do on the Sabbath as well as how they celebrate festivals. They also enjoyed tasting some grape juice, unleavened bread and joining in with a traditional Jewish song.

This week, we acknowledge Children in Need, reflecting on its importance and the impact of supporting those in need. We celebrated Anti-Bullying Week with a special assembly led by our Wellbeing Ambassadors, reinforcing our school's commitment to kindness, inclusion and respect. As part of our approach to fundraising, we alternate each year between Children in Need and Comic Relief to help keep contributions manageable for all families. This year we will be supporting Comic Relief and further details about the charities we are working with this year can be found in the Charities section below.

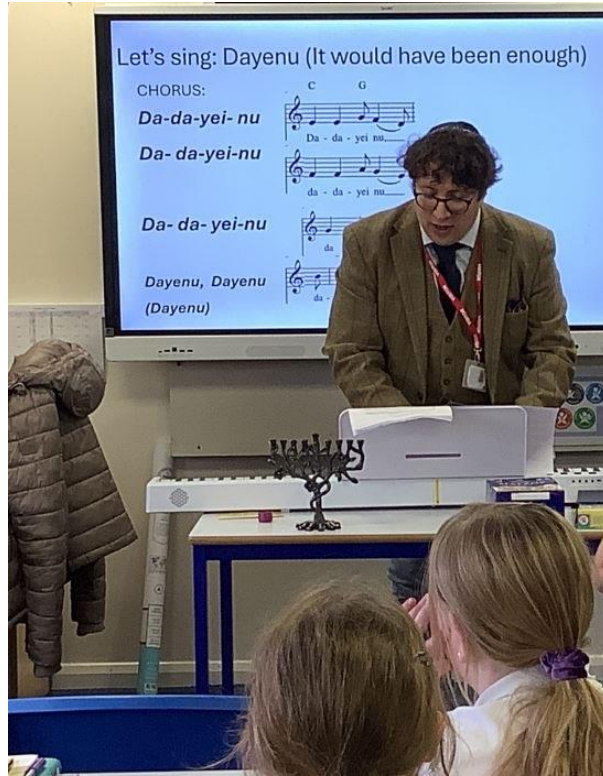
Finally, if you have older children from age 18 onwards who are considering a future career working with children or who would like to gain some experience working with children, we are looking for flexible workers to join our wrap around care team and help provide before school and after school care for our wonderful children. If you think your child may be interested, please contact the school office and we can arrange a conversation.

Thank you as always for your continued support.

Have a lovely weekend,

Miss J. Allen









Upcoming key dates

19th November - Y4 trip to Fishbourne Roman Palace

20th November - EYFS and Y1 Owl workshop

26th November - Y5 trip to North West Synagogue

26th November - Parents evening

27th November - Y3 to Butser Ancient Farm

28th November - Non uniform day (bring in a bottle donation for the bottle tombola at the Christmas Fair)

28th November - Parents evening

29th November - 3:30-6pm Christmas Fair

3rd December - 9am Y1 & Y2 Nativity

3rd December - Y4 Surrey Police visit

5th December - Y5 European Christmas Day

9th December - School Flu vaccinations

10th December - 9:15am EYFS Nativity

11th December - Christingle performance
12th December - Christmas Jumper day
17th December - School pantomime visit
18th December - Christingle performance
19th December - School Christmas Dinner
20th December - Last day of term 3.25pm finish



Class Assembly Dates

Parents and carers are invited to attend and these will take place in the junior hall 9-9:15am

January 31st - Falcons

February 7th - Foxes

February 28th - Hawks

March 7th - Hedgehogs

March 21st - Rabbits

March 28th - Dragonflies

May 2nd - Ladybirds

May 16th- Eagles

May 23rd - Squirrels

July 4th - Bumblebees

Parents Evening

Parents' Evening will be held on 26th or 28th November and we look forward to welcoming all parents.

The online appointment booking system allows you to choose your own appointment times with teachers and you will receive an email confirming your appointments.

Appointment times are open now and bookings can be made.

Please visit <https://gbs.schoolcloud.co.uk> to book your appointments.

Christmas Lunch

On the 19th December school will be hosting their Christmas Lunch menu.

Please see ParentPay to pre book your meal for this day.

England Rocks competition on TTRS

All classes took part in the England Rocks competition on TTRS this week and after many hours of feverishly calculating, Eagles beat the others to victory with the highest class average! Sam Kyte, from Hawks class, was placed 47th out of the 384, 506 students that took part in the competition - which is incredible - well done Sam!

The top 3 classes are:

1st Eagles

2nd Hawks

3rd Rabbits

Well done to everyone who took part - we are very proud of you.



Charities

There are so many wonderful charities, and each year we look to support 3 charities. This year we will be supporting:

Comic Relief -on 21st March 2025, raises money and awareness for good causes all around the world. Donations help us fill the shelves of baby banks, community food centres, fund

vital community-led services like health workers, local youth safe-spaces, and ensure safe passage for people escaping danger.

Rainbow Trust who are charity providing emotional and practical support to families who have a child with a life threatening or terminal illness.

Chloe's and Sophie's Special Ear Fund (CSSEF) is a local charity which helps raise Deaf Awareness, and provide resources and equipment to deaf children to support their emotional wellbeing. Within our school and local community there are children that benefit from this wonderful charity and we are keen to recognise and support them too.

Stars of the week

Our stars of the week are:

Ladybirds	Bonnie & Mishitha
Bumblebees	Freddie S & Winnie
Dragonflies	Isla & Isabella-May
Foxes	Edward & Lara
Squirrels	Cara & Isla
Hedgehogs	Kaydee & Ned
Rabbits	Alfie & Beau
Eagles	Emma & Lily
Hawks	Ava & Jessica
Falcons	Aya & Willow

**STARS
OF THE
WEEK**

Attendance

For the first time in GBS history three classes achieved 100% attendance in one week! Congratulations to **Ladybirds, Bubblebees and Foxes** for winning the attendance certificate **this week with 100% attendance!**

MAC the attendance bear will live in all their classrooms for the week.



Headteacher Awards

Isla in Year 3 shared her fantastic story writing in the style of a fairy tale. I was very impressed that she had used commas correctly.

Orla and Alfie in Reception have been busy learning phonic sounds and used this to help them write some fantastic sentences.

Friday 15th November 2024

To write a fairy tale

Once upon a time
there were seven squirrels,
Isla, Elsie, Cara, Emily,
Aubrey, Rocco, Judd and Leo but
worse of all there was a
wicked teacher.

All five squirrels found a
dog that could talk. A week
past. The dog was there again.
Luckily they found out why
because Mr Perins the evil teacher
was spying on us.

They helped him because he
didn't have any friends and
he became nice and they
lived happily ever after.

The end

Miss Allen
says
Well Done!



Name Orla



Week 10 - WB: 11/1/24
CLL: To begin to write a short caption or sentence.

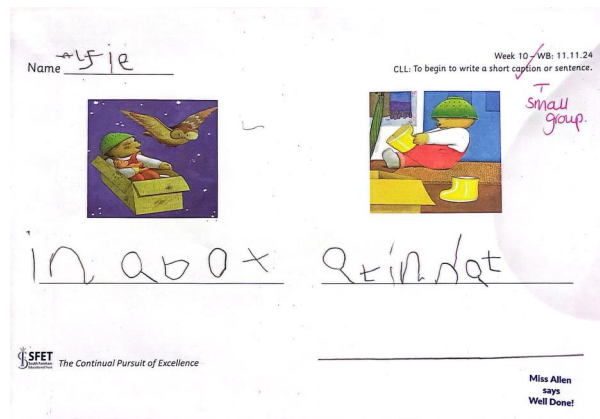
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SFET The Continual Pursuit of Excellence

Miss Allen
says
Well Done!



Online Safety

Helping Kids Develop Healthy Technology Habits

So, the risks of having devices – especially phones – in the bedroom at night are startling. But what can families do to ensure they are mindful of the potential dangers? Here are a few ideas:

Establishing a ‘Digital Curfew’

Setting a designated time each night when all devices need to be turned off can be a beneficial strategy. This ‘digital curfew’ can help ensure your child has enough time to wind down without screen stimulation before sleep.

The specific timing can be adjusted based on age, schedule, and family routines, but generally, a good rule of thumb is to turn off devices at least an hour before bedtime.

“Putting the Phone to Bed”

Much like we have a bedtime, so can our devices. Designate a spot outside of the bedroom where the phone can ‘sleep’ for the night.

This can be a charging station in a communal space, such as the living room. This helps reduce the temptation to use the phone late at night or check it first thing upon waking. It may seem odd at first, but when you begin establishing the habit, you will be pleasantly surprised by how much of a difference this “bedtime routine” makes.

It can help improve your child’s sleep quality and quantity and provide an opportunity for creative screen-free activities or even extra snuggle time in the evening!

Promoting Screen-Free Activities Before Sleep

Encourage your child to engage in relaxing, screen-free activities before bed. This could include reading a physical book, drawing, writing in a journal, or any other creative outlet a child can enjoy without needing a screen.

These calming pre-sleep rituals can help signal to the body it's time to wind down and prepare for sleep. And you'll be surprised at how much your child enjoys these activities that don't involve a device!

In addition, you can also use this time to discuss the day with your child or chat about the upcoming day. This is an excellent opportunity for quality bonding and conversation between you and your little one.

Modelling Healthy Digital Behaviour

As parents, our behaviour serves as a powerful model for our kids. It's essential for us also to follow healthy digital habits, such as adhering to the digital curfew, keeping our phones out of the bedroom, and engaging in screen-free activities.

By doing so, we can lead by example and reinforce the importance of balanced tech use. Parents and guardians are a child's first teachers, and this is an opportunity to create a strong foundation for digital well-being.

Making Technology-Free Zones

You could opt to make the bedroom a tech-free zone or plan a regular family walk disconnected entirely from digital media. Scheduling time to be "unplugged" can help everyone to stay focused and maintain balance in their daily lives.

In addition, you could establish ground rules for device use within the household, including limits on total usage times and types of activities allowed. A great way to set this up is with a parental control app that allows parents to monitor and manage their child's device usage. Parents can promote healthy habits around digital media use in the home by setting up rules and guidelines.

Making Informed Decisions About Phones in the Bedroom

Navigating the digital world as a parent is no easy task, and the question of whether to allow phones in the bedroom overnight is just one of many we must grapple with.

Through understanding the potential risks associated with nighttime phone use, from disrupted sleep to potential health issues, we can see the clear benefits of setting boundaries and promoting healthy technology habits in our children.

But it's not just about understanding the risks—it's also about taking practical, effective steps to mitigate them. From establishing a digital curfew to creating technology-free zones in the home, we can employ various strategies to foster a more balanced relationship with technology in our children.

The Friends

We can do it!

Only two more weeks to the Christmas fair The Friends elves are very busy, and this week need help to: **cut Wonka bar wrappers and wrap the bars** (a guillotine can be provided). If you can help please email friends.gbs@sfet.org.uk¹

Please bring in your **Jolly jars** which will be stored in your classroom until the Fair. The class with the most jolly jars will win a prize!

Christmas Jumper donations are now being collected, please bring them to school to be sold at the Christmas Fair.

House colour hamper donations are being collected in the boxes at the lower road school gates.

Bottle tombola donations are to be brought in on 28th November in exchange for wearing non uniform (no football kits).

We are looking to borrow some outdoor fairy lights. If you have some we can borrow please can you hand these in before the 27th November to set up for the Fair. Please clearly label the lights with your child's name.

We need volunteers to help set up on Thursday 27th November from 6:30pm (no children). This will be all hands on deck to make Rudolph's market festive and magical!



¹<mailto:friends.gbs@sfet.org.uk>



Easyfundraising

Please don't forget to sign up to easyfundraising. This is free to set up and helped raise money for the school when you shop online.

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?char=325728&invite=pfr4y5&referral-campaign=c2s&utm_campaign=web-referral

See your favourite brands donate to us whenever you spend with them

Find out more

7,500+ online brands

You can raise FREE donations for Great Bookham School - The Friends EVERY time you shop online. Just use easyfundraising! Over 7,000 brands will donate, including all the big names like eBay, John Lewis & Partners, Argos, ASOS, Expedia, M&S, Just Eat, Uswitch and many more!