

Great Bookham School Newsletter

Welcome to Issue 15 - 20th December 2024

Dear Parents/carers,

As we approach the Christmas holidays, it's a great time to reflect on all that we've accomplished together this term. We as a staff team are so proud of our school and its community and all that our children do to make it the fabulous place that it is. The news of the Department for Education publication that we are now ranked the 8th best school in Surrey is further validation of the hard work that goes into making our school excellent each and every day.

On Tuesday 17th, we were all treated to a fantastic trip to Leatherhead Theatre to enjoy the Pantomime production of Dick Whittington. A huge thank you to the Friends of GBS for funding this magical experience. It was wonderful to see the whole school gathered together, enjoying the performance. For many of our children, this experience contributes to their cultural capital, broadening their understanding of the arts in a fun and memorable way. For some, this was their first experience of a live production and we know this will be a cherished memory from their childhoods.

Our girls and boys football teams also had a brilliant time at the recent tournament, showing excellent teamwork and determination. They performed admirably, and we are incredibly proud of how well they represented the school. Well done to those who participated!

We also celebrated the results of the Patrick Gardener colouring competition in assembly yesterday. Congratulations to our talented winners – they've all done an amazing job, and we're proud to showcase their creativity.

Yesterday's Christmas lunch was a joyous occasion, with children pulling crackers (donated by The Friends of GBS), wearing crowns, and sharing lots of smiles. It was a lovely moment of festive cheer for everyone.

Miss Macdougall is looking for some enthusiastic parent volunteers to help sort out non-fiction books in our school library. Any hours in the first two weeks of term that you can offer- please let the school office know. Thank you very much!

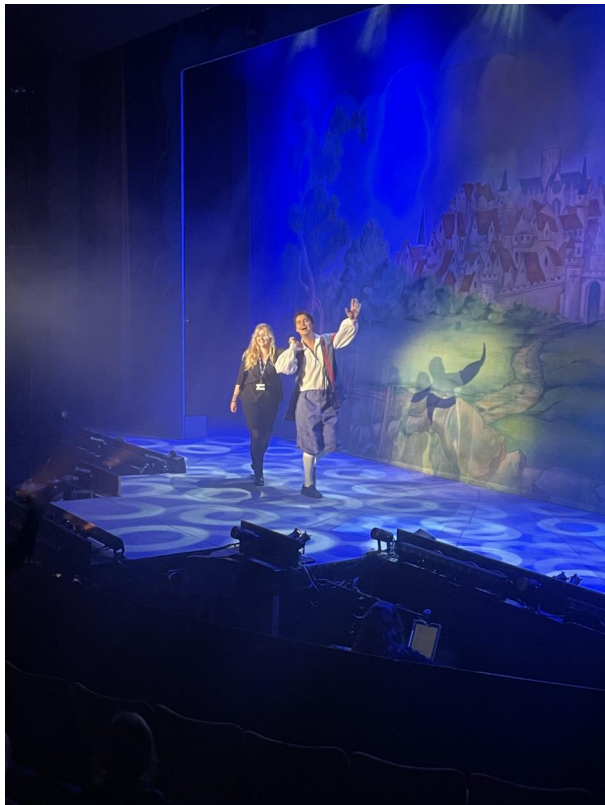
As we head into the break, I would like to take a moment to wish everyone a wonderful holiday, whatever that may look like for you. We understand that this time of year can be different for each of us, and we wish all our families peace and happiness. Whether you celebrate Christmas or not, we hope you enjoy a restful and joyful time with your loved ones.

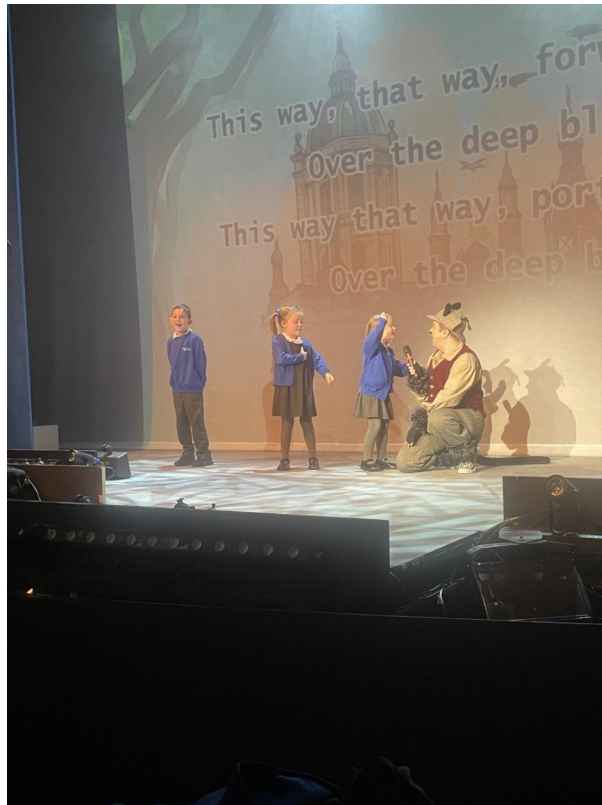
Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from all of us at GBS!

Warm regards,

Miss J. Allen







Upcoming key dates

20th December - Last day of term 3.25pm finish

6th January - Spring term starts



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

Termly Sport and Star Awards

Congratulations to all of the children who were chosen to receive the termly Sports Award.

In September, our very active School Council expressed a wish to have an additional termly award for academic and all round achievement. We thought that this was a fantastic idea so have introduced the Great Bookham School Star Awards.

Congratulations to all of the children chosen for this award.





Stars of the week

Our stars of the week are:

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Ladybirds | Cecily & Vesuvien |
| Bumblebees | Alfie & Zoe |
| Dragonflies | Archie & Molly |
| Foxes | The whole class |
| Squirrels | River & Sofia |
| Hedgehogs | Beau & Harlow |
| Rabbits | Henry & Maël |
| Eagles | Chloe & Henry |
| Hawks | Izzy & Sam |
| Falcons | Evie C-M & Imogen |

STARS OF THE WEEK

Attendance

Congratulations to Foxes for winning the attendance certificate this week!

MAC the attendance bear will live in Foxes until the New Year.



Headteacher Awards

Cara and Elsie in Year 3 came to share their learning about time in maths.

Olivia in Year 2 was able to beautifully describe key vocabulary that she had learned in history this term.

Otilie in Year 1 wrote a fantastic letter to Father Christmas in which she had asked for all things relating to giraffes!

Mabel, Thomas G and Ellie in Year 3 shared their very creative and thoughtful Christmas shape poems. They included wonderful language and worked hard on their presentation too!

Cody in Year 5 proudly showed me his aboriginal artwork of an octopus.

Isla in Year 2 worked so hard with her handwriting when planning a letter to Father Christmas.

Thursday 19th December 2024

✓ Writing a Letter to Father Christmas

Dear Father Christmas
my name is Ottilie

I am six years old.

This year I have been very good. ✗ For Christmas

I would like a grasse
sawismalor with his Brown
and yellow and a grasse
costom and a LOL doll that
can walk and talk and a
soft grasse teddy

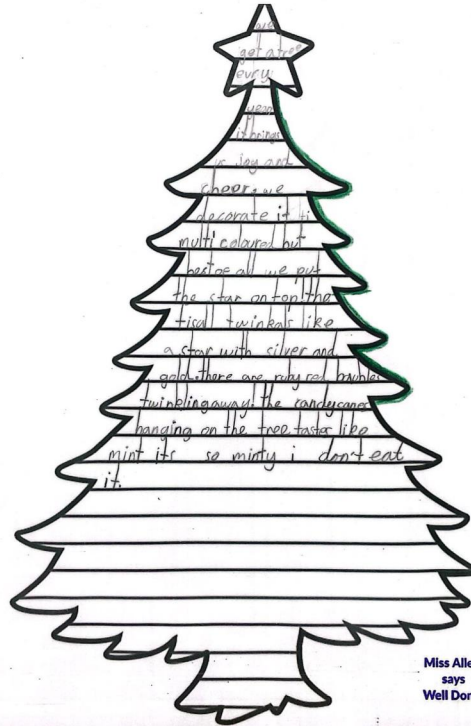
Love from Ottilie
Merry Christmas

Love from ✓
Ottilie

Miss Allen
says
Well Done!

Entry 18.12.24

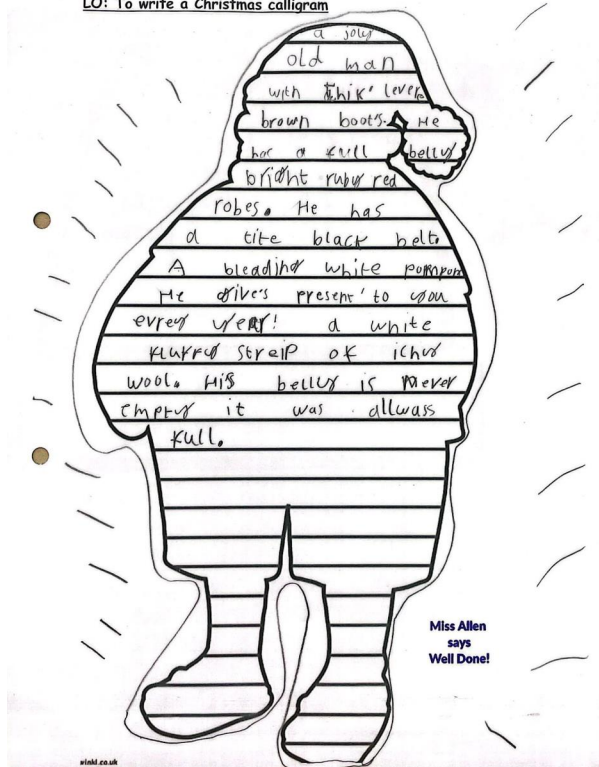
LO: To write a Christmas calligram



Miss Allen
says
Well Done!

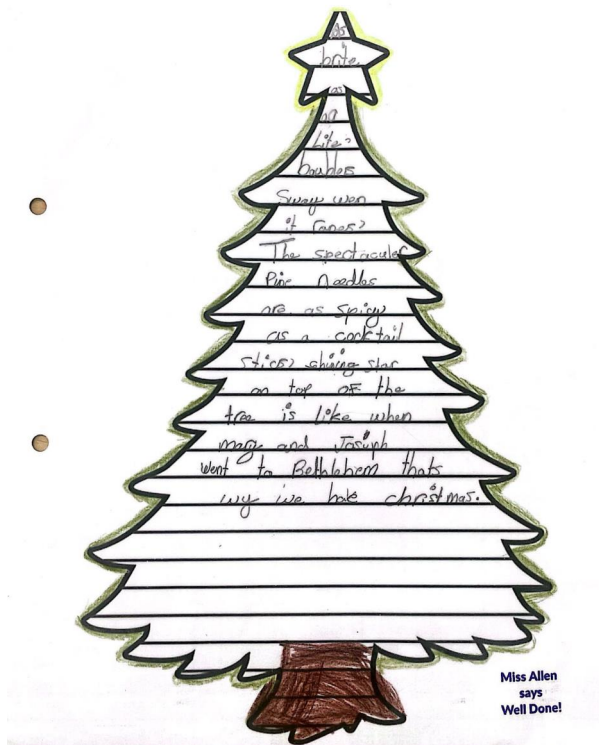
wednesday 17th December 2020

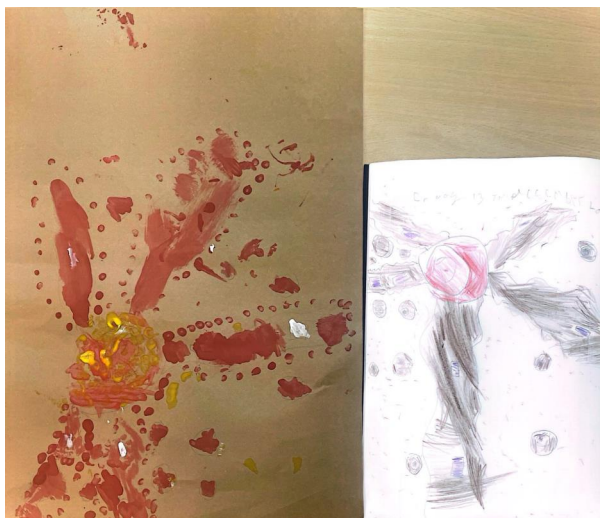
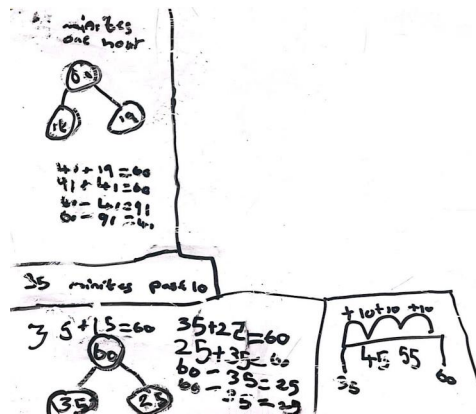
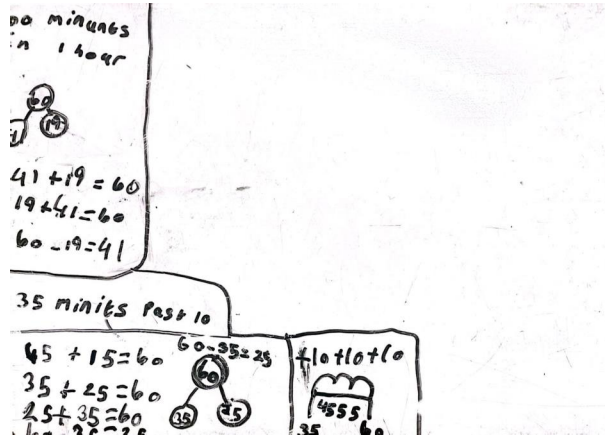
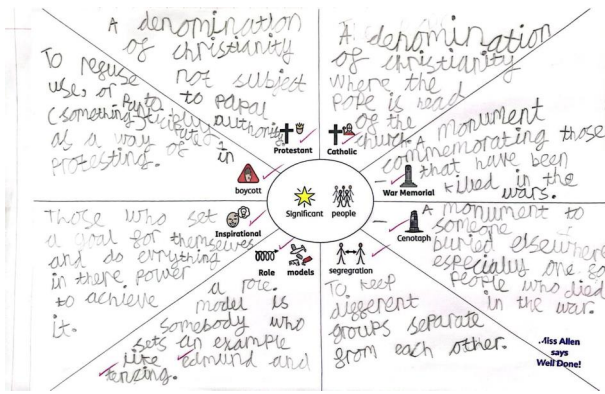
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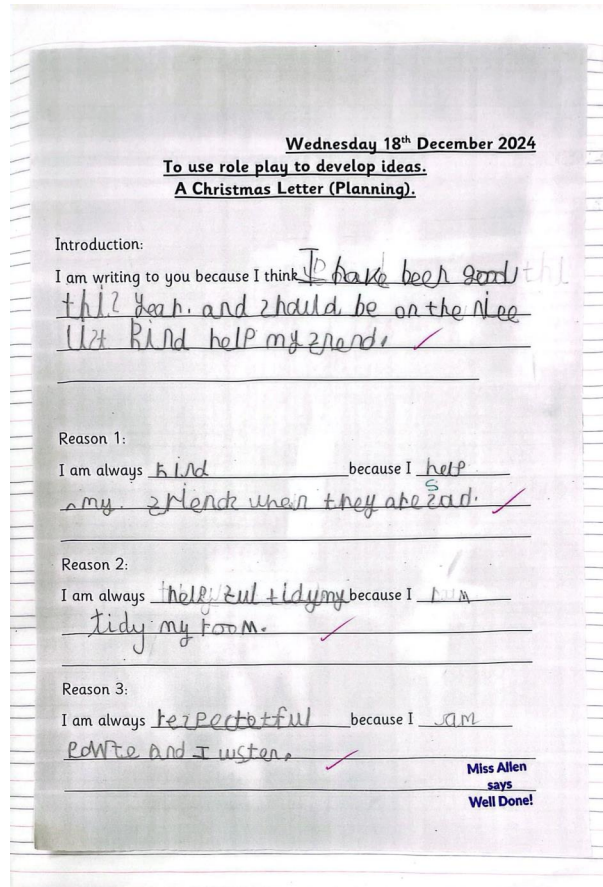


Monday 18.12.21

LO: To write a Christmas calligram







Patrick Gardener colouring competition

Well done to our winners who took part in the Patrick Gardener colouring competition.



1 - Preschool - Leo



2 - Ladybirds - Emmie



3 - Year 3 - Ellie



4 - Year 4 - Georgia



5 - Year 5 - Alice



6 - Year 6 - Evie T

Football tournament

Last Friday Mrs Swayze took a girls and boys team to the Primary school football tournament in Leatherhead.

Noah J had some lovely words from the tournament.

The football tournament was great fun but very competitive. We might not have won but our ~~team~~ teamwork was great and we all had fun. I'm sure we will win something at the end of the year but for now we can just keep training.





Thank you

From everyone at Great Bookham School we want to say a special thank you to all our helpers, volunteers and readers. It is so special to have you involved in our school and we really appreciate it.

Thank you for the donations we received on the Christmas Jumper day, we raised £116 for the Save the Children charity.

It has been a magical start to the year and a big thank you to the Friends in their fundraising. We were able to use the money raised through events to fund Christmas crackers for the children at their Christmas lunch. Some lovely highlights this year have been the Christmas Fair and the generous gifts donated to the giving tree for the Rainbow Trust. The Friends would also like to say a special thank you to Joci who kindly baked over 70 cookies for the jolly jar winners!

In December with the help of Evie, William, William (yr 6 school councillors) and Mrs Kendall, 75 gifts were taken to the Rainbow Trusts headquarters in Leatherhead. We were met by Nicki and the CEO Zillah who were extremely grateful to receive such generous donations. We were told all about the amazing work that the Rainbow Trust and their 224 volunteers do, supporting families with children who have life limiting illnesses. They provide practical support to families in the most difficult time including driving them to and supporting them through hospital appointments and caring for siblings. The Rainbow Trust rely solely on fundraising and donations and so the support that the Great Bookham School community have given means a lot. The donated presents will go to the children the Trust support including those who will be in hospital over the Christmas period and to those who

are struggling financially due to parents having to give up work to care for their child. We are extremely grateful for all the support and kind donations.

Consultation on admissions arrangements for entry to Great Bookham School

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the School Admissions Code 2014 that Great Bookham School, (a school within the South Farnham Educational Trust) is formally consulting on its proposed admission arrangements for 2026/27 admission.

This consultation is to add St Matthew's Church of England Infant School in Cobham, as a feeder school and increase the PAN in Year 3 to 30. At the same time, we are consulting to remove the supplementary form for the exceptional social/medical need criteria.

The draft Admissions Policy is attached to this email. These details can also be found on our website here¹.

The consultation period will begin today, Tuesday 17th December 2024 with the closing date for submission of any comments being 28th January 2025.

All comments should be made in writing to Chair of Governors via email to admissions.gbs@sfet.org.uk² or by post to Great Bookham School, Griffin Way, Great Bookham, Surrey KT23 4JJ.

In your response, please include your full name and contact details.

Please share with any other stakeholders who you feel may have an interest in the consultation.

Online Safety

Age ratings

¹<https://www.greatbookhamschool.org.uk/page/?title=Consultation+on+admission+arrangements+for+25%2F26+admission&pid=163>

²<mailto:admissions.gbs@sfet.org.uk>

Age ratings are designed to help users find suitable and appropriate online content and platforms. They can also be hard to understand, especially when they are not always consistent.

Why do age ratings matter?

Age ratings are used across different types of online content and platforms to guide on what is suitable for different ages. Most popular content and platforms – from the films and TV shows you stream, to the games you play and the social media you use – will have an age rating. But things aren't always as simple as you might hope.

Online platforms can be rated differently – depending on where you look. Ironically, this can make things harder when having conversations with a child or young person about what may be suitable for them, and at what age.

While age ratings flag when a user may be suited to specific platforms or content, they don't necessarily reflect what may actually be safe or appropriate – including certain risks and harms that are not so obvious.

Online games

PEGI is the standardised way of providing games with an age rating in the UK and Europe. Here, it is a legal requirement for a game to have a PEGI rating. But note: the age rating provided by PEGI is a recommendation; children under 18, for example, can't legally buy an 18+ game, but it is not illegal to play.

PEGI has five different ratings; 3+, 7+, 12+, 16+ and 18+. Read more about these in our PEGI parent guide. Ratings are assigned based on several factors: including depictions of violence, sex, swearing, discrimination, drugs, gambling – as well as in-game purchases.

So while the App store, which uses the IARC system, may rate a game as 9+ ('unsuitable for children under 9'), platforms that use the PEGI system may rate the same game 7+ ('unsuitable for younger children').

Functionality

Age ratings don't always reflect the evolving nature of online platforms – and the effects of functionalities on children and young people.

For example, Roblox and Minecraft are gaming platforms aimed at – although not exclusively for – younger users. But despite being rated 7+ by PEGI ('possibly frightening for younger children') the user-generated games within can have many similar functionalities to social media.

This includes chat forums, in-game chat, friending and trading with other users – as well as in-game purchases and loot boxes.

These can create social situations that are risky or harmful for younger and even older children – especially when parents are not aware of these functionalities. Note: the Play Store rates Roblox and Minecraft as 10+ and the App Store as 12+.

Media literacy

When considering online social media and games and age ratings, it helps to think about content and functionality in relation to a child's media literacy.

Children and young people will be differently equipped to cope with environments affected by seemingly simple functionalities (for example the 'like button').

Children need the social-emotional and media literacy skills to understand more mature/complex content – as well as potentially disinformation, influencer marketing and 'perfect-life' depictions. These can, for instance influence their world views, pressurise them into spending, or contribute to mental health issues.

It's not easy to understand the complexities of different online social spaces – either for children or adults. The best place to start is to look beyond the age ratings, and try to understand the platforms a child wants or uses. This could be either by exploring it, talking to other parents, or talking to the child about how they use it.

What is YouTube Kids?

YouTube Kids is an app developed by YouTube which aims to deliver age-appropriate content to children. The app is available on Android, iOS and some Smart TVs. You can also access YouTube Kids as a web page, rather than an app, [here](#).

Until recently, the content that appeared on the app was predominantly curated by computer-algorithms and essentially the app was a filtered version of the regular body of videos available on YouTube.

What do parents need to be aware of?

Parental controls

YouTube Kids offers several settings to allow parents to manage content their child can view. Parents can choose which level of content they want to make available for their child, from 'nursery school', 'younger', and 'older'. By progressing through the different age levels, parents can adapt viewing settings as your child grows up.

Parents can also turn off the search function, so that only those videos approved by the YouTube Kids team themselves will appear on children's "Recommendations" list.

Other useful controls to be aware of include the ability to set a timer that limits screen time, disabling the app once a session of a set length has ended, and the ability to pause or to clear watch and search history. Clearing this will reset the videos that appear under the "Recommendations" and "Watch it again".

Parents can also choose specific 'collections' for their child to watch. This will allow parents to reduce the content offered on YouTube Kids to only that on topics or from creators they deem appropriate.

Blocking and reporting

You can block individual videos or entire channels using YouTube Kids' blocking feature. This can be found by going to the 'more' icon at the top of the video. Once there, you'll have the option to either block just the video or the whole channel.

You can also report a video. Whilst reporting won't immediately remove a video, it will flag it and moderators will respond to your concern.

Please do be aware that although YouTube Kids is made for children, there are some videos that may seem innocent, but can have messages not suitable for their age. We urge you to regularly check their browsing history and keep a close eye on what they are doing on their tablet, including talking to your child about what they have been doing and watching.

Community and Local events



Great Bookham School is at the centre of a wonderful community and we are keen to support local events. Many children are members of clubs, associations and take part in activities outside of school.

Please click [here](#)³ to visit our community and local event page on the school website. Some of the information you will find include:

Bookham Colts football club

Weekly groups for babies - toddlers

Swimming lessons

What's on at the Mole Valley Hub

Mega Camps and Barracudas Camps during the Christmas holiday

St Matthew's C of E Infant School, Cobham and The Priory School, Dorking are both consulting on their Admission Arrangements for 2026/2027. For more information please visit their respective websites:

<https://www.stmatthewsschool.co.uk/admissions/>

<https://thepriorycofe.com/>

³<https://www.greatbookhamschool.org.uk/page/?title=Community+and+Events+Page&pid=159>