

Great Bookham School Newsletter

Issue 15 2025/26

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you all enjoyed a restful and refreshing break and were able to spend some valuable time together as a family. It has been absolutely lovely to welcome all of the children back to school this week and to see the classrooms once again filled with energy, enthusiasm and smiling faces. The children have settled back into routines very well and it has been a pleasure to see them reconnect with friends and staff.

The return to school has coincided with some very cold and icy weather. While this has brought a few frosty mornings and chilly temperatures, it has also given the children the chance to enjoy the beauty of the season, with crisp air, sparkling frost and even some snow falls to admire along the way. We are grateful for your support in ensuring children arrive safely and sensibly prepared for the conditions.

As the colder weather continues, may I please remind families to send children into school each day with a warm coat. Hats, gloves and scarves are also recommended, particularly for playtimes and outdoor learning, as we do try to get the children outside whenever it is safe to do so.

Although this week has been a gentle start to the term, we are very much looking forward to an exciting and busy few weeks ahead, with lots of extra curricular learning opportunities, activities and events planned. Thank you, as always, for your continued support and I look forward to sharing more news with you as the term unfolds.

Warm wishes,

Miss Allen

Stars of the week

Our stars for this week are:

Ladybirds	Saffron & Liana
Butterflies	Nellie & Tom
Bumblebees	Ben & Tabitha
Dragonflies	Phoebe & Layla
Foxes	Layla & Lewie
Squirrels	Isabella & Archie
Hedgehogs	Grace & Toby
Rabbits	Mollie & Max
Eagles	Kai & Rocco
Hawks	William & Henry
Falcons	Aria & Jasper
Kestrels	Nell & Lucy

**STARS
OF THE
WEEK**

Attendance

Congratulations to Kestrels for winning the attendance certificate this week with 100% attendance!

MAC the attendance bear will visit the classroom this week.



Upcoming key dates

12th January - YR2 Cricket festival

19th January - Bikeability Rabbits class

20th January - Bikeability Hedgehogs class

9th February - The Friends Bake off event

16th - 20th February - Half term

25th February - Young Voices Choir at the O2

Class Assembly Dates - 9am start

January 23rd 2026 - Hedgehogs

February 6th 2026 - Foxes

February 27th 2026 - Squirrels

March 13th 2026 - Eagles

April 24th 2026 - Dragonflies

May 1st 2026 - Bumblebees

May 15th 2026 - Rabbits

June 5th 2026 - Butterflies

June 19th 2026 - Ladybirds



Headteacher Awards

Annabelle in Pre-School independently created a beautiful image using paint sticks

Cecily in Yr 1 wrote a fantastic poem all about the colour yellow

Olivia in Yr 3 worked very hard in science to produce excellent work about the winter changes

Margot in Yr 3 was very proud to show me her excellent maths work linked to amounts of money

Taylan and Freya in Yr 2 wrote excellent letters to the dragon from the story George and the Dragon

Jay in Yr 4 was inspired by his learning in English and has worked so hard to improve his handwriting



Thursday 8th January 2026

✓ To begin to write a colour poem.

My colour poem

Capital letter	Finger space	Full stop	Letter formation	Writing on the line
Aa		.		dog

yellow is a sun as
 blue as a moon
 yellow is a sand as
 blue as a sea,
 yellow is a cat as
 purple as a plum, **pearl**
 yellow is a flower
 eye catching as a
 firework,



Thursday 9th January 2026

To draft and edit a letter of invitation using question marks and exclamation marks.

Dear George I hope you
 had a nice time at the
 school sports day.
 I'm writing to invite
 you to the school disco
 on Friday 15th Jan.
 You will love it.
 The party will be
 on Friday 15th Jan.
 You won't want to

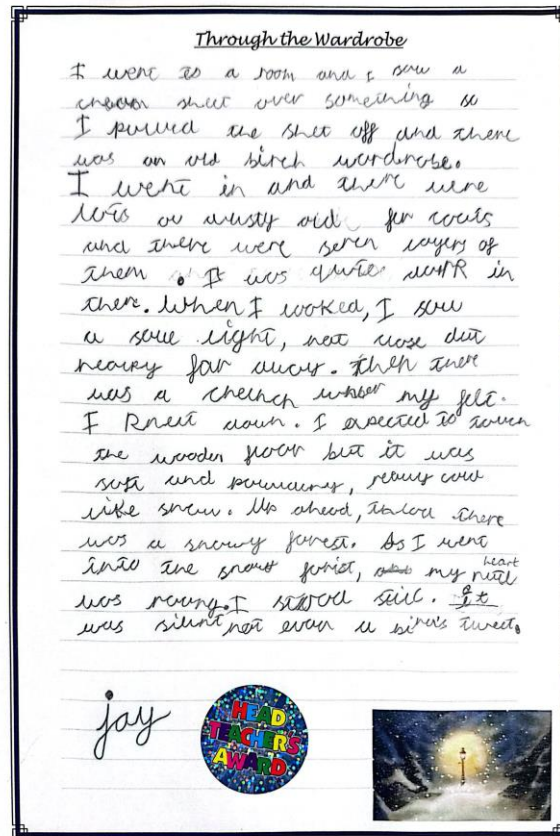
h
a



Thursday 9th January 2026

To draft and edit a letter of invitation using question marks and exclamation marks.

Dear George I thank you so much for
 saving me from that scary dragon.
 I thought he was going
 to eat me! I am writing to
 you because I wanted to invite you
 to the best party ever! Just get
 me and you! Would you like
 to come to the disco? There's lots
 of games, scary cakes with pink
 icing on top and also biscuits.
 There's one more thing
 a raffle draw for you.
 How do you want to come?
 I can't wait to go and see you!



Online Safety

AI Chatbots and companions

A simple search of “AI Chat” within the App store highlights the number of AI apps already available; many are rated as 18+, so it is important to speak to our children about them and the risks associated with them.

Examples of AI chatbots that your child may have heard of are Character.AI (18+) and My AI from Snapchat (13+).

What are the risks?

- Over-reliance on AI companions, for example, they may replace ‘real life’ friendships or over-reliance on using them for homework or problem solving.
- Exposure to inappropriate content.
- Privacy/data risks.
- Misinformation, as not all information shared is correct and can be biased.

How can I protect my child?

- Check age ratings of any apps or websites that your child accesses.
- Discuss the risks of AI chatbots with them and have open conversations about why they may be using them.
- Set up appropriate parental controls on their devices/ broadband.
- Chat to your child regularly and ensure your child knows that they should talk to you or another trusted adult if anything concerns them.

Further information

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/newsroom/blogs/ai-chatbots-and-companions-risks-to-children-and-young-people>

Attendance reminder

Just to remind parents/carers that if they take their children out of school without authority for 5 or more days (which do not have to be consecutive), then the following will apply:

1. If you have not incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children in a rolling 3 year period since 19 August 2024, then the penalty notice will be charged at the rate of £160.00, per parent/carer per child, if paid within 28 days. This will be reduced to £80.00 if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against you in the Magistrates Court.
2. If you have incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children since 19 August 2024, the rolling 3 year period will be activated from the date of the first penalty notice and the second penalty notice will be charged at the flat rate of £160.00, per parent/carer per child, if paid within 28 days. There will be no reduction for payment within 21 days. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against you in the Magistrates Court.
3. If you have incurred 2 penalty notices relating to this child/children in the rolling 3 year period since the first penalty notice was issued, then you will NOT receive a third penalty notice – Surrey County Council will have no option but to consider a prosecution, per parent/carer per child, in the Magistrates Court under s 444 Education Act 1996.

Surrey County Council is not responsible for authorising pupil absence and therefore cannot withdraw any Penalty Notice requests without the written permission of the Headteacher.

Friends of Great Bookham School

🍷 ✨ PTA Meeting – Make a Date! ✨

🍷 Our next PTA meeting is happening at The Crown on 📅 12th January 🕒 7:30pm

We'd love to see some new faces! Out of a school of 330 children, we currently have only around 5 people helping to plan and organise events. 😞

Without more support, we may have to reduce the number of events we can run — and we really don't want to do that!

Even if you can only help a little or just come along to see what it's all about, every bit makes a huge difference ❤️

✨ Calling all Christmas lovers! ✨ 🎄

The PTA are getting a head start on next year's Christmas sale and we need your help! 🎅 📺

We're collecting Christmas jumpers, tops, hats, headbands and any Christmas-themed clothes or fun festive bits you no longer need. 🎄 🧦 🍷

👉 Please send donations in to your child's teacher next week.

Every little bit helps us spread the Christmas cheer! Thank you for your support ❤️ ❤️

If you would like to help at any of our events please send us an email to be added to our volunteer WhatsApp group friends.gbs@sfet.org.uk or message Grace House through our Facebook page

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

Stagecoach lesson in Bookham and Leatherhead

1st Bookham Beavers and Cubs who both have spaces

Leatherhead U6-U8 Soccer school

Cookery club in Bookham and Fetcham for children aged 2-11yrs

Bookham Colts football club

Weekly groups for babies - toddlers

Swimming lessons

What's on at the Mole Valley Hub

SEND Families meet up

Bookham Tennis Club

Aerial Tumbling Club

London TKD

Consultation: Westcott Neighbourhood Plan

We wish to inform you that a second consultation on the Draft Westcott Neighbourhood Plan will take place from Monday, 8 December 2025 and end on Monday, 2 February 2026 at 5pm.

The Westcott Village Association held a Regulation 14 consultation in October and November but this Regulation 16 consultation is being hosted by Mole Valley District Council as part its duties under the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

The plan, which has been amended following the Regulation 14 consultation, includes policies on local housing need, infill development, the character and design of new development, parking, connectivity, shops and commercial premises, community assets, sustainability and climate change, heritage assets, biodiversity and landscape. The plan covers an area south of Ranmore Common, west of The Nower, north of High Field and east of Wotton.

To take part in the consultation, please send your comments to: planning.policy@molevalley.gov.uk or post to Planning Policy, Mole Valley District Council, Pippbrook, Dorking, Surrey RH4 1SJ.

Please provide your name and email address (email is preferred to postal addresses). Please state clearly which policies and/or paragraph(s) of the plan you are commenting on. You may also comment on the background documents if you wish.

The draft neighbourhood plan can be viewed online at:

<https://www.molevalley.gov.uk/planning-building/consultations/>

Consultation on admission arrangements for review

Great Bookham School, Great Bookham

In accordance with Department for Education requirements, we are writing to inform you that South Farnham Educational Trust is proposing changes to Great Bookham School Admission Arrangements for the academic year 2027/2028.

As part of our commitment to transparency and meaningful engagement, we are holding a full statutory consultation and would like to invite your views on any aspect of the proposed admission policy.

Please see attached the proposed Admission Arrangements 2027/2028 together with a Supplementary Information Form (SIF) to support children of staff applications.

The consultation will run for a six-week period from noon on Friday 19th December until noon on Friday 30th January 2026. We value your comments and feedback and encourage you to share your views on these proposals. The full draft admissions policy can be read on our school website at <https://www.greatbookhamschool.org.uk>

Responses can be submitted via:

- Email: admissions@sfet.org.uk
- Post: Admission Consultation, c/o South Farnham School, Menin Way, Farnham. GU9 8DY.

Polesden Lacey Infant Academy

Proposed changes to the admissions arrangements for:

- Chandlers Field Primary Academy, High St, West Molesey KT8 2LX
- Furzefield Primary Academy, Delabole Road, Merstham, Redhill RH1 3PA
- Polesden Lacey Infant Academy. Oakdene Close, Great Bookham KT23 4PT
- Shawley Community Primary Academy, Shawley Way, Tattenham Corner, Epsom Downs KT18 5PD

LEO Academy Trust is the Admission Authority for all of the academies in our Trust.

The LEO Academy Board of Trustees are proposing to make changes to those Academy's admissions arrangements for entry in September 2027 and are seeking your feedback in respect of the proposed changes in line with the Admissions Code of Practice 2021 (the 'Code'). The proposed changes will be included in the central LEO Academy Trust Admission Policy 2027-28 for the 12 schools currently in the Trust.

What is this consultation about?

We are consulting on making the following changes to the admissions arrangements for the Academy:

1. Oversubscription Criteria - Children of staff employed by Chandlers Field Primary Academy, Furzefield Primary Academy & Polesden Lacey Infant Academy

We propose to amend the admission arrangements to bring the above schools in line with all other LEO academies using criteria which are fair, reasonable, transparent and easy for parents to understand. This change will involve removing this criteria. The removal will bring the three schools in line with other LEO Academies in the Trust. The reason for the removal is that the School Admissions Code does not allow priority to be given to all staff employed by the Multi Academy Trust (for example children of staff employed by the MAT who work for more than one school in the Trust or centrally).

We have assessed this proposal and consider this amendment to be fair and reasonable in the circumstances. LEO Academy Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales with company number 07543202

LEO Academy Trust

2) Reduction of the PAN for Chandlers Field Primary Academy & Shawley Community Primary Academy

We are proposing to reduce the PAN from 60 to 30 beginning in Academic Year September 2027 for Chandlers Field Primary Academy

We are proposing to reduce the PAN from 45 to 30 beginning in Academic Year September 2027 for Shawley Community Primary Academy

This proposal is a response to significant and sustained changes in the local demographic landscape, specifically a sustained decline in the birth rate in the school's catchment area and a need to ensure the long-term financial stability of both schools.

We have assessed this proposal and consider this amendment to be fair and reasonable in the circumstances.

If the PAN is reduced, it will primarily affect the number of children admitted into the Reception Class from Academic Year September 2027 onwards.

We wish to assure all existing pupils and their families that this proposal will not impact the education, provision, or class sizes of children currently on roll. Our commitment to delivering a high-quality, enriching educational experience remains our top priority. The change is being proposed to ensure we can maintain this standard efficiently and effectively into the future.

Proposed arrangements

The Academy's proposed Admission Policy for entry in September 2027 and accompanying documents are available on the Academy website and on the LEO Academy Trust website: <http://www.leoacademytrust.co.uk/>

For a paper copy of the arrangements or if you have any questions relating to this consultation, please contact the Trust directly - compliance@leoacademytrust.co.uk

Who is involved in the consultation?

We will be consulting with various groups in accordance with the Code; to include:

- parents of children in the locality of the Academy between the ages of two and eighteen;
- other persons in the area who in the opinion of LEO Academy Trust have an interest in the proposed arrangements;
- all other admission authorities within the local area;
- the local authority

When is the consultation?

The consultation period will open on Wednesday 3 December 2025 and will end on Wednesday 7 January 2026. If you would like to comment on the consultation, you must submit your response during this period.

LEO Academy Trust

How to participate in this consultation

Written feedback can be sent in the following ways:

- by email to: compliance@leoacademytrust.co.uk Please note 'Admissions Consultation for 2027/2028' in the subject header;
- by letter addressed to: The Business Director - Governance & Compliance, LEO Academy Trust, 314 Malden Road, Cheam, Sutton SM3 8EQ

All responses received by the end of the consultation period will be carefully considered, further to which, we will:

- decide on the trust's admission arrangements for the school year 2027/2028;
- notify you and all appropriate bodies of the outcome; and
- publish the new admission arrangements on the Academy website by 15 March 2026.

If you would like this document in a different format or if you have a question about any aspect of these arrangements, please contact compliance@leoacademytrust.co.uk or write to: The Business Director -Governance & Compliance, LEO Academy Trust, 314 Malden Road, Cheam, Sutton SM3 8EQ

St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Leatherhead

CONSULTATION ON ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR ST PETER'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR 2027-28 ACADEMIC YEAR

Notice is hereby given in accordance with legislation that the Xavier Catholic Education Trust as the admission authority for St Peter's Catholic Primary School is formally consulting on its proposed admission arrangements for the school year 2027-28.

As an admission authority, the Trust is required to consult the following:

- a) Parents of children between the ages of two and eighteen;
- b) Other persons in the 'relevant area' (set by the Local Authority) who in the opinion of the school have an interest in the proposed admissions (e.g. local priests, other deanery Catholic schools, etc);
- c) All other admission authorities within the 'relevant area';
- d) The Local Authority (LA);
- e) The Education Service of the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton;

In summary the proposed changes being made to admission arrangements are to accommodate new policies that align with the national Catholic Education Service models and wording, including:

- Making criteria clearer and reducing unnecessary criteria
- Ensuring notes are more succinct
- Adding children of staff
- Removing the need for the SIF to be countersigned

The six-week (minimum) consultation will begin on 12/12/2025 with the closing date for submitting comments being 23/01/2026.

The proposed arrangements (admissions policy and supplementary information form (SIF) can be viewed on the school website: www.stpeters-leatherhead.co.uk

Alternatively, if you do not have access to the Internet and you wish to request a printed copy of the admissions arrangements and a response form, please contact Alison Cardy at St Peter's Catholic Primary School.

Comments on the proposed admission arrangements should be sent to St Peter's Catholic Primary School by the closing date (latest midnight on 23/01/2026).

St Paul's Church of England School, Dorking

The Good Shepherd Trust is the Admissions Authority for St Paul's Church of England School, St Paul's Road West, Dorking RH4 2HS.

The Trust is consulting on a proposed change to the 2027/8 admissions policy for St Paul's Church of England School and would like to hear your views. The Trust has a statutory duty to consult on admissions arrangements if we intend to make a change.

The consultation period will run from Friday 12th December 2025 to Friday 23rd January 2026

Information about the consultation will be provided on the Trust website

<https://www.goodshepherdtrust.org.uk/our-schools/admissions>

and school website St Paul's C of E Primary School - Consultation, during the consultation period.

What is the proposed change?

The proposed change to the policy is:

Removal of the following criterion

6. Children who with their parent(s) are regular worshippers at St Paul's Church Dorking but are not resident within the parish. (See note c and g)

7. Children who with their parent(s) are regular worshippers at another Christian church (i.e. a member of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland ([click here](#)) and/or the Evangelical Alliance ([click here](#))) but are not resident within the parish. (See note c and g)

Comments are not being sought on any other area of the policy.

Rationale

The Trust seeks to be as inclusive as possible with our admissions policies and procedures. We welcome pupils from all faiths and none and we are keen to make our admissions policy as clear as possible in regard to this. We have, therefore, proposed to remove all church-related criteria from our school admissions policies. Some parents have suggested that these criteria have been a barrier to applying to our schools.

Potential Impact

In the past three years, the number of pupils admitted into the school is as follows:

Only one pupil has been admitted under these criteria in the past three years, we do not foresee and significant impact on the school's admissions.

How can I respond to the consultation?

If you would like to submit a response to the consultation, please email Miss Amanda Johnston on: admissions@goodshepherdtrust.org.uk or write to: Mr Paul Kennedy, The Good Shepherd Trust, Larch Building, Larch Avenue, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 1JY.

Please ensure that your response is entitled: 2027/8 Admissions Policy Consultation.

You are able to submit a free text response.

However, the Trust Board would find it helpful if you could include your name and the name of the school to which you are submitting a response. Also, if you are able to indicate whether you will be affected by the proposed change and if so, in what way.

Further details on the admissions consultation process can be found in the School Admissions

Code: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1001050/School_admissions_code_2021.pdf

What happens next?

Please note that you will not receive an individual response to your submission and no changes to the proposed policies will be made during the consultation period. After the consultation has closed, all responses will be collated and presented to the Trust Board during the first half term of the spring term 2026. The Board will then decide whether to proceed with the proposed change as well as determining the admission arrangements for all other Trust schools for which no changes are proposed. Once determined the final admission arrangements for all schools will be placed on the websites of the individual schools and sent to the Local Authority and Diocese.

St Andrew's Catholic School, Grange Road, Leatherhead, Surrey, KT22 7JP

Notice is hereby given in accordance with legislation that the Xavier Catholic Education Trust as the admission authority for St Andrew's Catholic School is formally consulting on its proposed admission arrangements for the school year 2027-28.

The six-week consultation will begin on 18/12/2025 with the closing date for submitting comments being 30/01/2026.

The proposed arrangements (Admissions Policy and Supplementary Information Form (SIF)) can be found on their website.

In summary the proposed changes being made to admission arrangements are to accommodate new policies that align with the national Catholic Education Service models and wording including:

- Making oversubscription clearer and reducing unnecessary criteria
- Removing reference to the Deanery
- Removing the criteria for exceptional and compelling need
- Removing the need for the SIF to be countersigned and using the nationally recognised Certificate of Catholic Practice

Comments on the proposed admission arrangements should be made using the Microsoft form - <https://forms.office.com/e/hFT88Xh95e> - or in writing to The Admissions Manager by the closing date of 30th January 2026.

The Raleigh School, Horsley

In accordance with Department for Education requirements, we are writing to inform you that South Farnham Educational Trust is proposing changes to The Raleigh School Admission Arrangements for the academic year 2027/2028.

As part of our commitment to transparency and meaningful engagement, we are holding a full statutory consultation and would like to invite your views on any aspect of the proposed admission policy.

Please see attached the proposed Admission Arrangements 2027/2028 together with a Supplementary Information Form (SIF) to support children of staff applications.

The consultation will run for a six-week period from noon on Friday 19th December until noon on Friday 30th January 2026. We value your comments and feedback and encourage you to share your views on these proposals. The full draft admissions policy can be read on our school website at <https://www.theraleigh.org/>

Responses can be submitted via:

- Email: admissions@sfet.org.uk
- Post: Admission Consultation, c/o South Farnham School, Menin Way, Farnham. GU9 8DY.