

Great Bookham School Newsletter

Issue 17 2025/26

Dear Parents and Carers,

As always, it has been a pleasure to see the enthusiasm and commitment our children continue to show in their learning.

Our Year 4 pupils have been taking part in Bikeability sessions where they have been learning how to ride their bikes safely and confidently. The children have been developing vital skills such as road awareness, signalling and understanding how to navigate different environments safely. They have approached the sessions with great focus and maturity and it has been wonderful to see their confidence grow as the week has progressed. These are important life skills that will support them both now and in the future.

Today Hedgehogs class truly wowed both parents and children with their class assembly. They showcased their learning with confidence and enthusiasm, sharing what they have been working on in class through speaking performance and teamwork. Their rap was a particular highlight and demonstrated not only their learning but also their creativity and courage in performing to an audience. Well done to all the children involved as we are very proud of you and thank you to Mr Randall and Miss Hardcastle for putting on such a great show.

This year is the National Year of Reading and we are delighted to be celebrating the joy and importance of reading across the school. Below you will find recommended reads by year group to support and inspire reading at home.

Looking to next week, Year 3 will be enjoying their WOW topic day on Wednesday. This exciting day will give the children the opportunity to immerse themselves in the life of Ancient Egypt bringing their history learning to life through hands-on activities and experiences. We are sure it will be a memorable and engaging day for all involved.

Thank you as always for your continued support. We value the strong partnership we share with our families and appreciate all that you do to support your children's learning.

Warm wishes

Miss Allen

National Year of Reading Booklist

Best Children's Books for the National Year of Reading

The Department for Education has teamed up with the National Literacy Trust to launch a [National Year of Reading in 2026](#) to revitalise reading engagement across the UK. We believe that introducing pupils to fresh, contemporary voices and modern storytelling is one of the most effective ways to build a vibrant Reading for Pleasure culture.

Throughout the year there will be lots of reading focussed events and activities at GBS - watch this space! To help you navigate the National Year of Reading with the latest titles, we have highlighted these standout picks from the 'books for topics' website -

<https://www.booksfortopics.com/reading-for-pleasure/national-year-of-reading-2026/>

- **EYFS & Year 1:** For our youngest learners, the recently published *The Biggest Breakfast* has a timeless and fun appeal. For a barrel of laughs, younger primary children will also love [We Are Definitely Human](#) and [Dotty Doughnut](#).
- **Year 2:** As children move towards independent reading, new adventures with [Luna Grace](#) or [Watts & Whiskerton](#) serve as a brilliant “bridge”. These titles are a core recommendation for readers ready for [early chapter books](#).
- **Year 3:** Visual literacy is a major focus for 2026, and the recently released [Pablo and Splash: Frozen in Time](#) is already a firm favourite. This graphic novel is a highlight of our [Graphic Novel Reading List](#), offering a high-speed, modern entry point for all readers.
- **Year 4:** For laugh-out-loud relatable fiction, we highly recommend the recent release [The Misadventures of Mina Mahmood: School Trip](#). It holds a prominent spot on our [Year 4 Recommended Reads](#) list. Another fun choice is [Traitor Island](#), which offers a choose-your-own-adventure style twist that our review panel described as a ‘an interactive and immersive read.’
- **Year 5:** Developing stamina in upper KS2 is made easier with contemporary hits like [Bobby Bains Plays a Blinder](#). This book is a key part of our [Year 5 Reading for Pleasure list](#), offering inclusive, modern storytelling that resonates with today’s pupils.

- **Year 6:** For older readers who crave high-stakes tension, the latest from Christopher Edge, [Escape Room: Game Zero](#), is an essential pick which combines cutting-edge themes with intense narrative drive.

Beyond fiction, this collection includes recent non-fiction gems that bring subjects to life. [There Was a Roman in Your Garden](#) is a fresh addition to our [Romans Topic Booklist](#), while the new [Hunt for the Golden Scarab](#) offers a thrilling hook for those exploring the [Ancient Egypt theme](#). For budding KS1 scientists, the recently published [The Great Pollination Investigation](#) fits perfectly within our [Science & STEM book recommendations](#).

Upcoming key dates

29th January - Pre-school and EYFS Little City Workshop

9th February - The Friends Bake off event

16th - 20th February - Half term

25th February - Young Voices Choir at the O2

4th March - Tea and Talk session - Online Safety. Please sign up through the MCAS announcement

Class Assembly Dates - 9am start

6th February 2026 - Foxes

27th February 2026 - Squirrels

13th March 2026 - Eagles

24th April 2026 - Dragonflies

1st May 2026 - Bumblebees

15th May 2026 - Rabbits

5th June 2026 - Butterflies

19th June 2026 - Ladybirds



Headteacher Awards

George in Year R proudly showed me his fantastic and independent writing about a parrot.

Seren in Year 3 independently drew up a list of thoughtful ideas about how we can make our playgrounds even better.

Annabel and Jude in Year 4 carefully completed and presented a science investigation which evidenced their findings about melting ice.


Billy - James in Year R modelled excellent learning behaviour to his friends.

Asher and Harry M in Year 4 proudly shared their brilliant character descriptions which were inspired by the text Fox by Margaret Wild.

Freddie S in Year 2 shared his learning about The Green Cross Code and drew an excellent poster to highlight the main messages.

Rilee in Year 3 wrote an excellent myth, he had thought carefully about the adjectives that he used.

All About Parrots



Miss Allen says Well Done!

What do they eat?

They eat nuts ✓

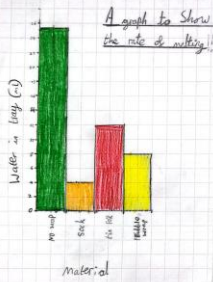
Where do they live?

They live in trees ✓

What do they need?

They need clay ✓

2.1.26



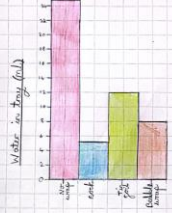
Conclusion:

We have learnt that when an ice cube is wrapped in a material it slows down the rate of melting. The material is an insulator it helps stop the heat from the room getting to the ice cube.

Results

Material	2:20pm	3:20pm
Stick	0 ml	5 ml
tin foil	0 ml	12 ml
Bubble wrap	0 ml	9 ml
Cotton wool	0 ml	25 ml

A graph to show the rate of melting



Conclusion

We have learnt that when an ice cube is wrapped in a material it slows down the rate of melting. The material is an insulator it helps stop the heat from the room getting to the ice cube.

'Fox' by Margaret Wild
Character Description

Miss Allen says
Well Done!

Fox

Fox is a very evil, lonely creature. He has feet that make him spring around like a bouncy ball. His ruby red fur is as shiny as a holly leaf. His oval-shaped eyes are haunted like fire lasers. Finally, his teeth are sharper than a Alligator's fangs.

A stern, tricking magpie that makes him as diabolical as the devil. He is as cunning as a wise man, and as lonely as lonely gets. Finally, he is faster than anything in existence. He is



To draft and edit a character description

Dog...

Dog is blind in one eye.

His eyes are green like grass.

He has soft sand coloured fur.

Dog is smart like a smart kid.

• He is so kind that he helped magpie because she was harmed. Poor magpie had a burnt wing.


Dog always sees the good in everyone even when they are being unkind to

• him. Dog is very patient because he waits for magpie to feel better then takes her to the riverbank with him.

+ covering his very skinny body.

Miss Allen
says
Well Done!

Thursday 29th January 2026
LO: To know what is meant
by road safety.

 Green cross code

1. Think first.
2. Stop.
3. Look and listen.
4. Wait.
5. Look and listen.
6. A little alive.

TWENTY IS
PLENTY

30 IS HURTY

40 IS NAUGHTY

Miss Allen
says
Well Done!

Thursday 22nd January 2026

LO: To draft and edit a myth in the past tense.

Miss Allen
says
Well Done!

Dreamtime

The
Beginning

Rice
At the beginning of the
world it was dark
morning moved
all the animals and
birds crept

under the ground.

The Main
Character

The rainbow serpent
woke up and came to
the surface. She was
huge. She wanted
company.

Online Safety

Family Smart

Family Smart Start is a free toolkit designed to help you and your children navigate the milestone of getting their first phone. The toolkit provides guidance on setting up their new phone, talking to your child about digital safety, and a family agreement template.

Find out more here: <https://familysmartstart.com/>

Cyber security

Cybersecurity is the process of protecting your information and data online against scams and cyberattacks. Cyber-attacks involve maliciously targeting individuals or organisations to disable networks or steal data, for example.

The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) have an area on their website with guidance to help protect you and your family. The guidance includes how to manage your digital footprint online, information about anti-virus software, as well as top tips for staying online, such as:

Using a strong password



Setting up 2-step verification

You can find their sources here: <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/section/advice-guidance/you-your-family>

The NCSC also provides advice on what you should do if you are the target of a scam or cyber-attack.

Find out more here: <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/section/respond-recover/you>

Friends of Great Bookham School

 Crisis averted – Bake Off saved! 

What a response! After our call for help yesterday, volunteers came flooding in and the Bake Off is back on track. Thank you so much to everyone who offered their time—our school community truly is the best. Mote details below:

GBS Bake Off and Sale Monday 9th February 

All contributions are homemade bakes only, either individually portioned or pre-sliced, No shop bought items. NO NUTS and NO CREAM.

Bakes should be brought into school on the morning of Monday 9th February.

Any trays or containers must clearly labelled (top and bottom) with your child's name and class.

The sale will take place straight after school, outdoors if weather permits, or in the hall if it is raining. All items will be priced at £1 each. Thank you for your continued support — we look forward to a fantastic event!

With a small number of volunteers supporting a growing events programme, we are considering how best to balance what we offer with what is realistic and sustainable. This may mean making some thoughtful changes to our events calendar in the future.

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 2025 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 local schools

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.