

Great Bookham School Newsletter

Issue 18 2025/26

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had another happy and exciting week here at Great Bookham School.

Year 3 pupils all arrived at school on Wednesday looking fabulous for their Egyptian Day, which really brought their history learning to life. The children took part in a range of exciting activities linked to Ancient Egypt, including some food tasting! It was a memorable and enriching experience for all involved, and a big thank you to the Year 3 team for organising this. I would also like to say thank you to parents for the time and effort put into organising and providing the children with such wonderful costumes.

Our Reception and Pre-School children enjoyed a visit from Little City, an interactive role-play experience that supports early learning through imaginative play. This was a wonderful opportunity for the children to develop social skills, confidence, and communication in a fun and engaging environment, learning all about the people who help us.

On Thursday 5th March, we will be dressing up together and joining in the celebrations for World Book Day! This year, we have decided to celebrate World Book Day as a whole week of fun. We will also be focusing much of our learning and activities around the classic stories written by Roald Dahl.

During the week, there will be a variety of activities happening across the school, such as:

- Bringing George's Marvellous Medicine to life by making real potions and writing recipes for them.*
- Designing and making chocolate packaging for a new chocolate bar inspired by Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.*
- Writing a recount of their dream after a visit from the BFG.*

- *Cooking with James's giant peaches to create a crumble or muffin, then writing about the taste as a food critic.*
 - *Writing non-fiction texts about The Enormous Crocodile.*
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-

To add to the excitement of World Book Day, we have also booked a drama workshop for all children in school based on Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. We look forward to seeing the children take part in such an exciting event.

Reading is an important part of the curriculum, and we are keen for our children to practise reading as often as possible. We already have volunteers who come into school to listen to children read, and we would love to welcome more. Any time that you can offer would be greatly appreciated. If you have any capacity to help, please contact the school office, who will begin the DBS process.

Please see below some general notices and reminders:

- *You may be aware of the recent flooding on Lower Road following heavy rainfall. Please take extra care when travelling to and from school, particularly at drop-off and pick-up times. We are continuing to monitor the situation and are working with the Local Authority to assess the drainage of our school site. Thank you for your patience and cooperation in helping to keep everyone safe.*
- *Please may I remind parents to park considerately and not use the local GPs' car park. We have reached out to the local police enforcement team to support us in reminding all drivers to adhere to our local parking regulations, and we would really value your support with this.*
- *Children in Reception, Year 1, and Year 2 do not need to bring in a snack, as they are all entitled to a free piece of fruit or veg supplied by the school. During morning breaktime, if Key Stage 2 children bring in a snack, we ask that it is a whole piece of fruit or veg. Please do not send in sweets, snack bars, chocolate, or crisps, as these do not support our healthy eating ethos, and they will be returned home at the end of the day.*
- *Please note that information regarding the Raleigh consultation can be found at the bottom of this newsletter. We encourage parents and carers to take the time to read through the details and share any feedback as outlined.*

- *We kindly remind parents to check their children's hair regularly for head lice. Early detection and prompt treatment help prevent the spread and minimise disruption for children and families. Thank you for your continued support with this.*
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-

I hope that you have a happy weekend.

Miss Allen

Stars of the week

Our stars for last week are:

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Ladybirds | Hugo & Vienna |
| Butterflies | Grace & Jennifer |
| Bumblebees | Finley & Stanley |
| Dragonflies | George & India |
| Foxes | Ben & Maisie |
| Squirrels | Olivia & Darcey |
| Hedgehogs | Eloise & Ellie |
| Rabbits | Daisy & Leon |
| Eagles | Mael & Harlow |
| Hawks | Georgina & Alfie |
| Falcons | Cody & Millie |
| Kestrels | Henry & Amy |

Our stars for this week are:

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Ladybirds | Arthur & George |
| Butterflies | Noah & Jacob |
| Bumblebees | Alfie & Archie |
| Dragonflies | Jessica & Cora |
| Foxes | Benji & Vira |

| | |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Squirrels | Bella & Charlie |
| Hedgehogs | Elena & Rosie |
| Rabbits | Archer & Jude |
| Eagles | Matilda & Oliver |
| Hawks | Mudiwa & Riley |
| Falcons | Edith & Ava |
| Kestrels | Jenson & Alice |

STARS OF THE WEEK

Attendance

Congratulations to Foxes for winning the attendance certificate last week with 100% attendance!

MAC the attendance bear will visit the classroom this week.

Congratulations to Hedgehogs for winning the attendance certificate this week with 99% attendance!

MAC the attendance bear will visit the classroom next week.



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

9th February - The Friends Bake off event

12th February - Year 6 Victorian Day

16th - 20th February - Half term

25th February - Young Voices Choir at the O2

4th March - World Book Day

23rd March - Year 5 Dorking Halls Music Festival

24th March - Class photos

26th March - Year 2 trip to Tower of London

27th March - Last day of term (normal collection time)

13th April - Back to School

20th - 21st - Year 4 Residential trip to Henley Fort

4th May - Bank Holiday

11th - 14th May - Year 6 SATS

14th - 15th May - EYFS & Year 1 Balance bike workshops

18th - 21st May - Year 6 Residential to Lower Grange Farm

25th - 29th May - Half term

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

Theo in Year 4 worked hard to practise his acting skills ready for a fantastic performance in his class assembly.

George in Year 4 labelled a diagram of a Saxon warrior using his best handwriting.

Ruah in Year 4 included lots of detail when labelling his diagram of a Saxon warrior.

Ralph in Pre-school came to show me his fantastic cutting skills.

Lily in pre-school made a wonderful attempt to write her name.

Amaanah and Alayah in Year 4 were incredibly kind and caring in their play with others.

Max in Year 3 worked independently to complete his excellent maths work relating to fractions. He also wrote an excellent myth - two excellent pieces of work in one week!

Charlie in Year R worked hard to cut out shapes from The Jolly Postman story, he had also written his name beautifully.

Matilda in Year 5 presented her work about The 5 Ks in Sikhism beautifully and could talk confidently about her learning.

Lucas in Year 4 has worked very hard to improve his presentation in maths and has also shown a great level of maturity in class.

Josie and Evelyn in Year 3 created an Egyptian fact file which they proudly presented to me. Evelyn also drew and painted two spectacular feathers.

Mudiwa in Year 5 was exceptionally kind to another child at swimming.

Archer in Year 4 wrote an excellent version of the story Fox.

Harrison in Year 5 wrote a wonderful magazine article about the story of Rama and Sita. He was also incredibly polite when meeting our CEO, independently shaking her hand and introducing himself.

Jenson in Year 6 wrote a thoughtful and carefully considered letter - I was so impressed with his presentation.

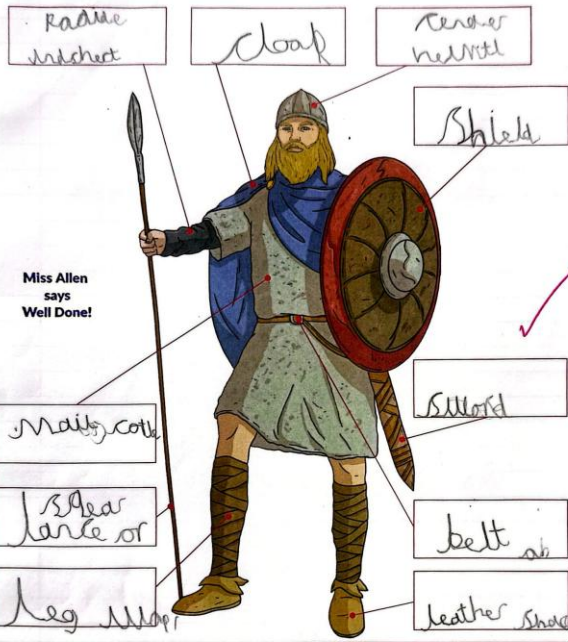
Molly, Amelia and Charlie in Year 3 wrote excellent examples of a myth.

Isabella and Darcey in Year 3 were both inspired by their learning about the Egyptians and created their own hieroglyphics for their names.

Harlow in Year 5 wrote a wonderful version of Jason and the Golden Fleece.

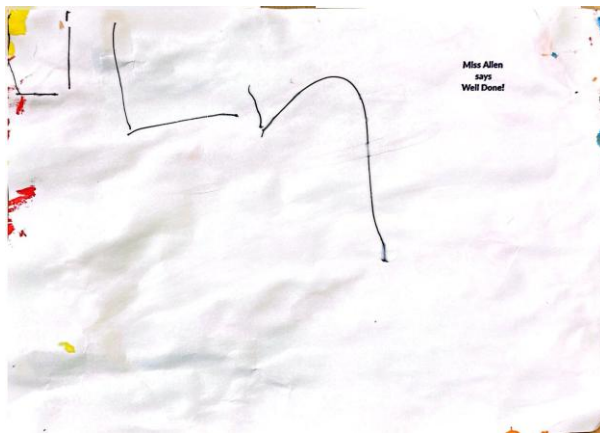


Label the Anglo-Saxon Warrior



Miss Allen says Well Done!

| | | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| tance or spear | padded undershirt | sword and/or axe | leather shoes | leg wraps |
| conical-shaped helmet | shield | mail-coat or shirt | belt | cloak |



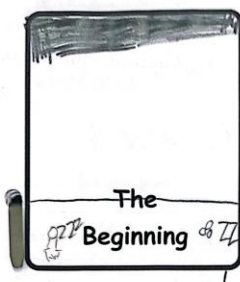
Max
Thursday 22nd January 2026

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



Miss Allen says Well Done!

Dreamtime



At the beginning of the world it was dark. Nothing moved. All the birds slept under the ground. ✓



The Rainbow ^{Serpent} woke up and came to the ~~serpent~~ surface. She was huge she wanted company. ✓





Charlie

| | 1/10/12 | 5/10/12 | snakes |
|-----------------------------|---|--|--------|
| Miss Allen says Well Done! | | | |
| a | $\frac{1}{5}$ yellow $\frac{4}{5}$ green ✓ | $\frac{1}{8}$ green $\frac{7}{8}$ yellow ✓ | |
| b | $\frac{3}{5}$ yellow $\frac{2}{5}$ purple ✓ | $\frac{2}{8}$ green $\frac{6}{8}$ yellow ✓ | |
| c | $\frac{2}{5}$ green $\frac{3}{5}$ yellow ✓ | $\frac{4}{8}$ green $\frac{4}{8}$ yellow ✓ | |
| d | $\frac{3}{5}$ green $\frac{1}{5}$ yellow ✓ | $\frac{6}{8}$ yellow $\frac{2}{8}$ green ✓ | |
| e | $\frac{1}{5}$ yellow $\frac{4}{5}$ green ✓ | $\frac{5}{8}$ green $\frac{3}{8}$ yellow ✓ | |
| f | $\frac{2}{6}$ green $\frac{4}{6}$ yellow ✓ | $\frac{7}{8}$ green $\frac{1}{8}$ yellow ✓ | |
| Brilliant independent work! | | | |
| check your denominators! | | | |

Five KS of Sikhism

Miss Allen says Well Done!



Kara

The bracelet never has a start or a ending. So they are saying god never started but didn't end.



Kesh

Respect for gods creation and exalting yourself as God made you never think your wrong for having different opinions.



Kachera

Self control respect, and moral behaviour to make the right choices not the wrong.



Kirpan

Kirpan is standing for justice and protecting others they are only used for sacrifice or healing of death.



Kangha

Cleaness, care, and self discipline and not being dirty or unhealthy to be clean and fresh.


| | |
|---|---|
| $38 \times 3 = 99$ | $99 \checkmark$ |
| $55 \times 4 = 99$ | $99 \checkmark$ |
| $34 \times 2 = 68$ | $68 \checkmark$ |
| $75 \times 2 = 150$ | $150 \checkmark$ |
| $\begin{array}{r} 42 \\ \times 3 \\ \hline 126 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 53 \\ \times 3 \\ \hline 159 \end{array}$ |
| $\begin{array}{r} 62 \\ \times 3 \\ \hline 186 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 79 \\ \times 9 \\ \hline 711 \end{array}$ |
| $\begin{array}{r} 76 \\ \times 8 \\ \hline 608 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 89 \\ \times 7 \\ \hline 623 \end{array}$ |
| $\begin{array}{r} 89 \\ \times 7 \\ \hline 623 \end{array}$ | |
| $\begin{array}{r} 67 \\ \times 8 \\ \hline 536 \end{array}$ | |

Miss Allen says Well Done!



All about ancient Egypt

By Evelyn Taylor and Josie Hardie

Josie 



All about ancient Egypt

By Evelyn Taylor and Josie Hardie

Archer

Thursday 29th January

~~Today I will edit my story~~
using adjectives
speech

One day, I was walking
around when... ^{stand} I burst

- up and ~~burst~~ my voice
"HELP!" I screamed "PI!"
but no one came I
felt distressed. When suddenly
I saw a shadow of
a dog it was hunting at
me. Then it picked me up
• I heard muffled words.
I suddenly caught a
glimpse of when he said
"I'll help you." Whilst speaking

Miss Allen
says
Well Done!

somewhat. We finally arrived
at a grand house. I whispered
to this young man's "yes," he
proudly bowed, placing
me down. I sunk into
the corner of his mansion.
As a tear trickled down
my cheek I gently said
"I will never be able to
stop aging," shivering. Dog
could approach to me and said
"I'm blind in one eye but
life is still good." He gently
said for a good week
it was silent.

Dear Luke,
It has been an eventful
few weeks. I am sorry I
haven't written to you sooner;
the time has passed by
so quickly. Currently I am in

Miss Allen
says
Well Done!

the front room of our new home. You will not
believe how different it is here!

I heard a bang, WIZED! So I hid under my
bed. I had butterflies in my tummy. So I fled
and left my cat. My heart thumped like a drum.
We went to a refugee camp for a bit then we went
on a plane to England.

I went to school for the first time. I felt like the
old one out. I couldn't speak English.
What am I going to do without you?
They use decorations that I haven't seen
before. I painted a picture of my old home for
my new teacher, it made me feel relieved.
The next day, a lady came to talk to me in Somali.
Speaking to her made me feel hopeful.

Even though I miss my home I am starting to feel
like it will be a long time here. I hope I
can join a football team and get a
beautiful cat as well. I hope to see you
soon. Your friend, Hassan.

The Ramayana- Magazine Article

RESILIENT RAMA REAPPEARS

after 26 years in the forest and 12 years of painful romances
In a beautiful Kingdom exile his own children because
hear the Himalayas Rama of the Jolisi premas he
and Sita lived a peaceful made years back "what can
life until the evil I say he is a man of his
step mother ordered the words. Rama said in the
children to be exiled intense. life in the forest
into the forest so his was tough but the beloved
own son could be King. couple were inseparable, for
The King now he had 14 years it was life.



Until, a little girl came
and asked Rama out, but
he rejected her. Little did
he know the mistake he

just made... her brother of monkeys, for help. he explained
was King of the monkeys what happened to Hanuman.
When Rama was distracted for 12 years loyal Rama
they kidnaped Sita. when served to find her. Hanuman
Rama came back, he was ordered his monkeys to make a
devastated to find his bridge with their tails so Rama
beloved wife gone. after he could get to the other side of
interviewed Sita she said "I the island. When he got
felt scared because I didn't hear he shot and killed
know what was going to equal Rama and escaped
happen but I still had with Sita after 26 years
high hopes for Rama". of exile they returned home. the
Rama asked Hanuman, King King was overjoyed for their
return the end is.

23/1/2026

Molly

Creation Myth

In the beginning, in a land far far away, where nothing grew, it was dark, damp, barren and dry. All you could see was a long, flat, dry plain of sand. All you could hear was one sound that echoed for miles! All you could smell was the sand beneath your feet and all you could taste was all you could smell. No animals, no birds, no rivers, oceans or lakes were there. Only a deep silence.

Now, you must be wondering who our hero is. Well she is a likable cute ginger tabby cat. Her name was Ginger. And she loved colour and nature. But around here there was no colour or nature to love around here.

Then one day she decided to take a stroll to a far away mountain and find a rainbow ~~at~~ ⁱⁿ the sky. She was very curious like you would be. Ginger wondered what would happen if she threw the



Miss Allen
KAW
Well Done!

bolded down to her earth. So she did and when she went down and saw an amazing sight the world had given her there was colour and nature to love! And then they all lived happily ever after!



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22/1/2026

Miss Allen
says
Well Done!

Creating myth

Many moons ago before the world was created, there was nothing but dry, red rock and cold, frosty air. There were no birds, no plants, no animals, no water. ^{or streams,} there was nothing. If there was even one small, quite sound, it would have echoed for miles. ✓

There was only pitre ^{silence} ^{silence} ✓

But suddenly a big, furry lion rose up from the red rock. The lion felt very lonely and sorry for ^{the} barren landscape of rock. It wanted some friends or family to have, it wanted life on earth. The lion felt scared, hot, lonely and it was very unhappy.

Check (Sp)

Lovely writing, Charlie!

Amelia

Thursday 22nd January 2026

Paragraph 1 (The Beginning)

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

Many year ago, the Earth was very disgrant. Nothing but darkness everywhere, ^{it} was full of darkness and sadness. The world calling out for light. ✓ Beautiful Amelia

Paragraph 2 (The Main Character)

One day, the powerful, ^{giant} ~~giant~~ horse as big as a river ~~was~~ there was darkness all around him. ✓ He was devastated because there was ~~no~~ light. ✓

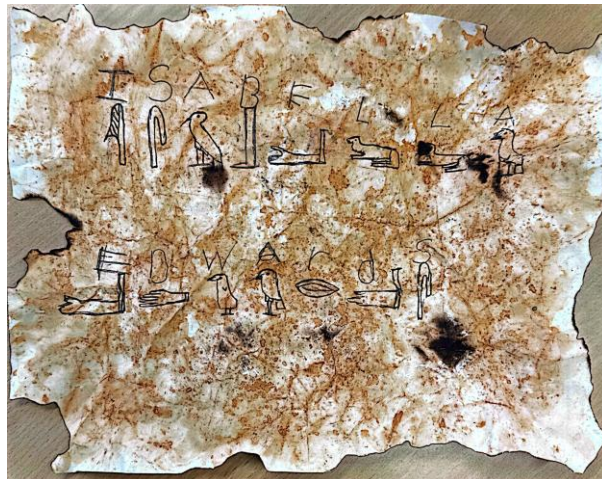
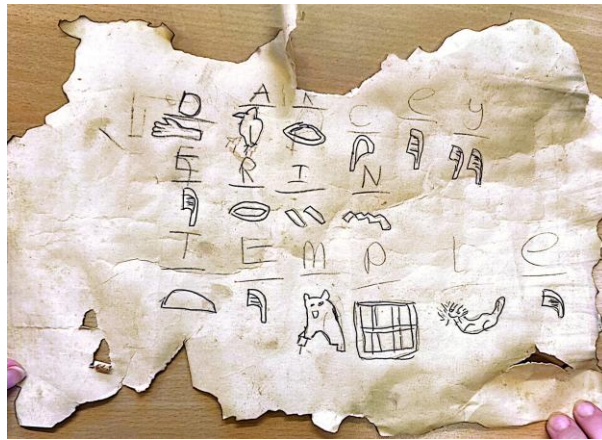
Miss Allen
says
Well Done!

The life or death Quest

In ancient Greece, there lived a young hero named Perseus. Son of Zeus, he was known for his bravery and determination. He went to the king "Can I, Perseus, be king?" said Perseus "Yes, but you must retrieve a glistening golden crown in a hidden cave, far, far away!" said the king. Perseus, after many, many hours on end, then a cave yawned open like a dark mouth. Then he entered the cave. Then it closed quickly behind him. When he noted the eerie whisper of feet, he saw the crown then...

A 3-headed serpent emerged from the darkness. It sprinted toward him. The emissary's ring made Perseus fly back and almost hit his dad Zeus. Help his son defeat

Miss Allen
says
Well Done!



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

Platforms Sports Coaching - February half term camps

Online talk by Jane Keyworth - Supporting a child with ADHD

Parenting puzzle course - Epsom & Ewell Family Centre

Chertsey Museum - February half term activities

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 at The Raleigh School

South Farnham Educational Trust is consulting on a proposal to re-establish pre-school provision at The Raleigh, to be operated directly by the academy trust.

In line with DfE guidance, we are proposing to lower the age range of our pupils from 4 years to 3 years.

Responses can be submitted by completing the online consultation form: [The Raleigh Pre-School -Additional Consultation January 2026 – Fill in form](#)

This additional consultation, following an initial consultation in September 2025, runs from Wednesday 28th January 2026 to Wednesday 18th February 2026. Responses must be received no later than 4pm Wednesday 18th February 2026 to be considered as part of the consultation.