

Great Bookham School Newsletter

Issue 19 2025/26

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have enjoyed a busy and enriching week across the school with a number of exciting visitors and activities for our children.

Year 6 welcomed Jocinda Robinson who came in to talk about blood and how it travels around the body. The children had the fantastic opportunity to look at blood under a microscope and asked some thoughtful questions which showed their growing scientific understanding.

Reception were also delighted to welcome PC Goldie who spoke to them about her role in the community and what it means to be a police officer. The children were fascinated to hear about her job and how she helps to keep people safe.

We were also pleased to welcome Leatherhead Women's FC who delivered a PE session aimed at encouraging girls to get involved in football and to show that sport is for everyone. The children took part with great enthusiasm and it was wonderful to see their confidence grow during the session.

We all thoroughly enjoyed Foxes Assembly this Friday where parents and carers were warmly invited to join us. Thank you to Miss Fanthorpe, Mrs Hudson and Miss Hudson for organising such a wonderful showcase of learning which included science work, Egyptians and even some xylophone performances. It was a lovely opportunity to celebrate the children's hard work and achievements.

Next week is Children's Mental Health Week and the theme is "This is my place" which focuses on developing a strong sense of belonging. Throughout the week children will be encouraged to think about what makes them feel that they belong, how they are cared for, what they love and how they feel comfortable being themselves. Belonging is the feeling of being a valued part of the groups and places that are important to us and this message will

be shared with the children during a special Key Stage 2 assembly led by our wellbeing ambassadors.

The wellbeing ambassadors have worked hard to plan a range of activities for the week including playtime sessions with drawing board games and Lego, which will take place for different year groups. They will also help to run a cosmic yoga session at break time and Waka Waka will continue on Friday. Every class will create a gratitude jar where children will write down something they are thankful for each day, so that by the end of the week they have a collection of positive thoughts and moments. Classes will also take part in PSHE activities linked to the theme of belonging with age appropriate tasks for all year groups including Preschool and Reception.

*On **Friday 13th February** children are invited to **wear one bright accessory or a pair of bright socks** to school to show their support for Children's Mental Health Week. This will be a small but meaningful way for everyone to take part and to celebrate the importance of wellbeing across our school community.*

*We look forward to welcoming you into school on **Wednesday 11th February, 3.30–4.00pm**, for our open afternoon. This is an opportunity for children to share their work with parents and carers, and we will also be displaying our art exhibition work in the corridors around school ahead of submitting some pieces for the Rotary competition. I hope that parents and carers enjoy the opportunity to view and appreciate these pieces of art, which have been inspired by the theme 'Happiness in Nature'.*

We would be very grateful for any donations of outgrown PE kit or trainers that families may be able to offer as these help us to ensure all children can fully take part in physical activities.

We have been asked to share important information with you regarding the chickenpox vaccine and full details are provided below for your reference.

*Don't forget to bring in your bakes ready for the GBS Friends bake sale on **Monday 9th February** after school. A reminder that we can not accept bakes which contain nuts or peanut butter. Please also provide a list of ingredients to ensure the safety of pupils, staff and the lucky recipients of the bakes.*

Have a lovely weekend and I look forward to seeing you all for our last week of learning before the half term break next week.

Miss Allen

TUESDAY 10 FEBRUARY, 7PM - 8PM

eduthing.co.uk

CLICKING WITH CONFIDENCE: HELPING CHILDREN STAY SAFE ONLINE

FREE Parent & Carer Online Safety Webinar

eduthing in conversation with
IT Services for Education **SCREENSAFE**

We are excited to again be celebrating the upcoming Safer Internet Day by hosting a virtual parent & carer support session with Anna Sarjantson, ScreenSafe and experts from the eduthing Professional Learning team, and you're invited!

Join us in conversation as we explore the best ways to support our children and young people navigating the online world covering topics such as:

- 🗨 Artificial Intelligence - What to know and how to support your children and young people
- 🗨 Resources to facilitate discussion with children and young people on online safety
- 🗨 Top Tips and Tricks for Parents & Carers
- 🗨 Particular Apps or Features to be aware of!
- 🗨 Interactive Q&A Session



ABOUT SCREENSAFE

I started Screen-Safe to help more parents, carers, teachers and anyone working with children, have access to support, the information they need now and the tools they need for the future when it comes to keeping our children and young people safer online. As a parent myself, I know just how challenging and sometimes, overwhelming it can be to navigate the digital world our children are growing up in. The online world can provide incredible opportunities but also some serious risks, especially where children are concerned.

We want them to be able to recognise the risks, be able to call out fake profiles or misinformation and have the confidence to say NO and get away from anything or anyone online that doesn't feel right or safe to them.



ABOUT EDUTHING

eduthing are a leading technology provider to schools across the UK. As well as providing technical support to ensure teaching and learning runs smoothly, eduthing work with teachers, parents, carers and students with Computing, EdTech and Online Safety support and workshops.



We are passionate about ensuring the safety of children and young people when they experience the online world and immerse themselves in a safe and measured way.

SESSION REGISTRATION

Click here to register for the upcoming session:

<https://eduthi.ng/SIDW-2026> Please note that this is a live session.



With Safer Internet Day being celebrated nationally next Tuesday, our school's IT company are hosting a free to attend parent & carer webinar, 7 pm - 8 pm, to support you in key areas of online safety, including:

- Parental & Privacy Settings
- Introducing Devices & First Phones
- Screen Time
- Social Media
- Artificial Intelligence

This will be a generalised virtual support session with Anna Sarjantson, ScreenSafe and experts from the eduthing Professional Learning team.

Click here to register for the upcoming session: <https://eduthi.ng/SIDW-2026>

Please note that this is a live session and is in addition to our online safety Tea and Talk, which is being held on Wednesday 4th March at 2.45pm. To book a space at the Tea and Talk please register here: [Tea and Talk - Online Safety – Fill in form](#)

MMRV vaccine (measles, mumps, rubella and varicella/chickenpox)

From 1 January 2026, children started to be offered the MMRV vaccine (measles, mumps, rubella and varicella/chickenpox) instead of the MMR vaccine as part of the routine childhood immunisation schedule. This means children will receive protection against four diseases instead of three.

Why this matters

While many people consider chickenpox to be a mild childhood illness, it can lead to serious complications including bacterial infections such as strep A, brain and lung inflammation, and stroke. In rare cases, it can be fatal. The introduction of this vaccine will help protect children from these serious complications and reduce hospital admissions.

The MMRV vaccine has been safely used for over 10 years in countries including Canada, Australia and Germany, where chickenpox cases and hospital admissions have fallen dramatically. Introducing this vaccine will also reduce missed nursery and school days for children and families.

Who is eligible

- Children born from 1 January 2025: Two doses of MMRV at 12 months and 18 months
- Children born between 1 July 2024 and 31 December 2024: MMRV doses at 18 months and 3 years 4 months

- Children born between 1 September 2022 and 30 June 2024: One MMRV dose at 3 years 4 months
- Selective catch-up programme: Children born between 1 January 2020 and 31 August 2022 will be offered a catch-up dose between November 2026 and March 2028 if they haven't already had chickenpox or two doses of chickenpox vaccine

(MMR vaccine will still be available for older children (and adults) who are ineligible for MMRV but are not yet fully protected against measles, mumps and rubella)

What families need to do

GP practices will contact parents and carers when their child is due for vaccination. They are encouraged to book their appointment when they receive their invitation.

[How the MMRV protects against 4 potentially serious illnesses, including chickenpox – UK Health Security Agency](#)

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

11th February - Open afternoon 3:30pm - 4pm

12th February - Year 6 Victorian Day

13th February - **Wear a bright coloured accessory or socks for Children's Mental Health week**

16th - 20th February - Half term

24th February - Year 4 Residential trip meeting

25th February - Young Voices Choir at the O2

27th February - Year 4 Saxon day

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 - no Puffins)

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

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

Evalyn, Cecily and Elsie in Year 1 were all very proud to come and show me their learning about human and physical features in Japan.

Jay in Year 5 has been awarded two headteacher's awards this week for his fabulous writing. He wrote an excellent magazine article about Rama and Sita and he also wrote a fantastic diary entry.

Mabel and Hattie in Pre-School have been practising writing their names in the right direction and proudly came to show them to me.

Isla in Year 3 has worked so hard this week in both English and maths, she independently completed her work and tried very hard.

Isobel and Emma in Year 6 sketched beautiful landscape scenes.

Alfie and Phoebe in Year 2 wrote wonderful versions of a story that they had been learning about in English this week.

Seren in Year 3 wrote an excellent story all about bubbles.

Layla in Year 6 wrote a moving and impactful poem titled 'I have a dream...'

Miss Allen says Well Done!

Jay


The Ramayana- Magazine Article

Rama Rightfully Rejoices!

A story of jealousy, survival, trickery, kidnapping and bravery. After 26 years of grief, Rama rightfully reclaims Lanka and rescues Sita.

In a kingdom long ago in a land far from the life saving Rama. "Thanks to Rama's outstanding hunting skills we had deer and fresh berries every night!" she exclaimed.

● ~~one~~ a jealous stepmother forced the king to exile his own child Rama and his wife Sita. They were devastated. Incredibly thanks to Rama's astonishing hunting skills, they lived in the forest for 14 years. Here's what Sita had to say about One day whilst Rama was picking berries a mysterious lady appeared from the shadows and instantly fell in love with him. He knew he had to reject her because of his unwavering love for Sita.



Little did he know, she had just sparked trouble with Ravana (The Evil King of The Demons)...

Cunningly, one night when Rama was hunting, the cruel Ravana kidnapped the hapless Sita. Desperately trembling like a leaf, Rama tried to save Sita. Rama explained this "I would have done anything to rescue my one and only Sita."

Suddenly, an idea sprung to my mind, I could call the monkey king to defeat Ravana."

In a flash, Rama, Hanuman and the monkeys set off.


Ingeniously, the monkeys built a bridge for Sita to cross. Bravely, the courageous hero Rama pulled back his bow and the mystical arrow hit Ravana to death.

"I knew my arrow wouldn't fail me!" reported Rama.


Jay

In a hurry, Rama freed Sita and they happily returned to their kingdom following the bright light of people's lanterns. The couple told us, "For now we would like some privacy away from the public so we can recover from this traumatizing event."


Visit Japan




these ploswa
trees are
butiful



Mount Fuji
is gow
tall




these nodl
looko yum



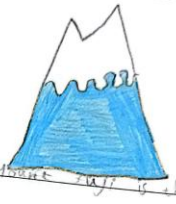
Tokyo tower
is the talist
in Japan

Miss Allen
says
Well Done!


Visit Japan




The cherry blossom
are so picee cum
and vistt the tree.



Mount Fuji is the
anyore mountain.




Tokyo tower is the big
tower in Tokyo you can
see Mount Fuji from the
top.




The falling water is
the best water.


Miss Allen
says
Well Done!

Visit Japan


 Tokyo Tower


 Shinkansen train


 Mount Fuji


 cherry blossom trees

Miss Allen says Well Done!

Hot + Pop

Miss Allen says Well Done!

meal

Miss Allen says Well Done!

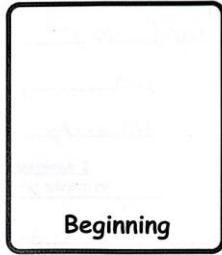
Thursday 5th February 2026

Isla

LO: To draft and edit a retelling of a story.

Miss Allen
says
Well Done!

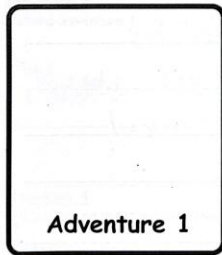
Bubbles



Beginning

one day ^{on} a huge
sunbath beach.
there was a little
boy who was sad.

He was walking slowly.

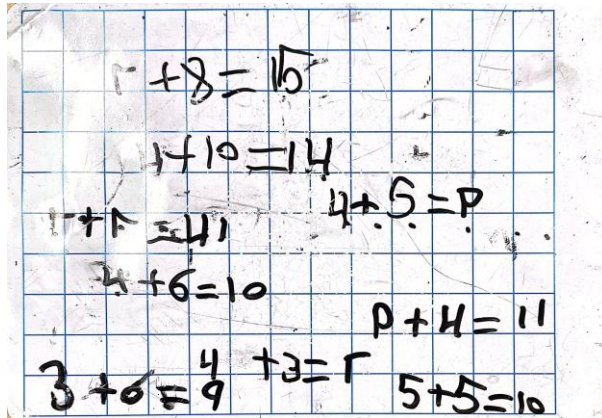


Adventure 1

The boy jumped into
the big bubble.
The bubble took him
to the shiny moon
He saw kind aliens

No
BO on the moon. ✓

They were friendly.



5/2/2026





Miss Allen
says
Well Done!

1:3

Thursday 5th February 2026

To draft and edit a story using a range of conjunctions.

Katie found herself looking
at a picture with green trees
then she jumped in!
Inside the picture
she met a tiger.

Then there was ^{sp} a problem
The tiger chased Katie but
Katie jumped out the picture

s
j



Miss Allen
says
Well Done!

Thursday 5th February 2026

To draft and edit a story using a range of conjunctions.

Katie found herself looking at a picture of a shimmering blue lake and a kind man.

A kind man was getting ready to go in the blue lake because he wanted a swim.

Then ~~soon~~ the man jumped in, he started to drown! Katie knew she had to help the man. She dived in the lake and rescued the man.

Katie said ~~good~~ to the man and she left.

Name: Iyla Surname: Bennett Age: 11

Teacher's Name: _____

School Name: Great Bookham School

Postcode: _____

POEM TITLE: A different world!

I have a dream where the only boom is the beating of my heart instead of the dropping of bombs.

I have a dream of a different world, no evil, no mean, no people killed.

I have a dream of no deprivation and definitely no world possession.

Do you ever dream of saving the Earth saving us and animals for all we're worth.

My dream is good and true, I know we can do it if we change dream to do!

(Continue on a separate sheet, should you need to)

Details required for competition purposes only and will not be passed to any third parties. Young Writers is an imprint of 'Boracis Ltd' VAT No. 102761343 Reg No. 05368990 | Full competition T&Cs are available at our website.

A Different World by Layla Bennett

I have a dream where the only boom is the beating
of my heart instead of the dropping of bombs,

I have a dream of a different world, no evil, no
mean, no people killed.

I have a dream of no depression and definitely no
world possession,

Do you ever dream of saving the Earth, saving us
and animals for we're worth?

My dream is good and true - I know we can do it
if we change 'dream to do'!

Thursday 5th February 2026

Miss Allen
says
Well Done!

Bubbles

One in a dark forest with tall trees that towered
over the dusty paths that trailed up
and down steep hills, stood a lonely girl
who wanted a friend. ✓

As she walked forward she found a
small bottle high in a tree.

It was mostly blue with a pale yellow
lid and BUBBLES was written on it in
white, bold letters. ✓

She climbed a little bit of the
skinny, windy tree but she couldn't
reach! ✓

When at last she got it, it started to wiggle and ~~swim~~ ^{squirm} and a load of bubbles came out and picked ^{her} her up.

Before she knew it she was

• flying! ✓

she could see the birds, hear the wind, feel the cold air, taste an ice cream that somehow formed ✓ in the bubble and she could

• smell the yummy chips that were being scooped in a chip van below! It felt magical! ✓

An amazing start to your story Seren!
I can imagine the adventures!

Then the bubbles popped and she fell down, down, down she was back where she began, but was she? 😊

• ^{or radically}

• ~~randomly~~ the forest changed into a jungle and now she could see the monkeys swinging, hear the tigers growling, feel the lovely soft flowers, taste taste the honey that the bees gave her and even smell the lovely fruit! ✓ Great senses!

• now it was magical! Beautiful!

Then the bubbles took her to land and she saw a little boy, he looked sad too so the girl hid behind a tree and then said hello!

* The boy looked ^{four} for a lot younger than her but she gave him the bottle and it began to jiggle and move ~~and~~ the boy grabbed the girl's hand ~~like~~ as a bubble formed around them and floated up. The boy looked scared but the girl said...

"DREAM!" ✓ How magical!

And so he shut his eyes ~~like~~ and wished that they were on the beach with the sun shining and fish swimming..

And the ~~to~~ two ^{ew} friends played happily together! ✓



Miss Allen
AYS
Work Done!

Dear Diary,

22.7.26.

This week has been incredible, one of the most unexpected of my life. Suddenly, one night, I heard an ear-bursting roar echo across the shadowy abyss of the Savannah.

ROAR! Curious, I went to investigate outside that's when I saw that the shimmering moon glistered like

magic in the glowing night sky. Was this a sign? Deciding

to come back the next morning, I fell asleep eager to meet

the lion. In the morning, I asked my dad if I

could check out the lion. Annoyingly my dad said I

wasn't ready yet. I was furious! Why wouldn't he

let me go?

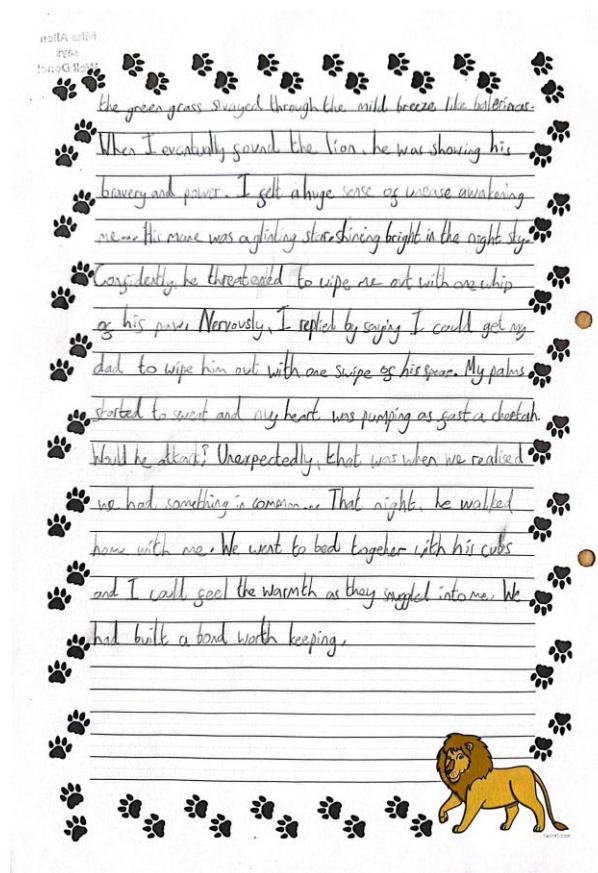
I didn't listen to my father. What does he know? I know

the Savannah like the back of my hand. In my opinion,

I can make my own decisions. I'm 15! One day, I

set off to meet the mysterious lion. Flippantly,





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

GBS Bake Off and Sale (9th February)

We are delighted to announce our next PTA event, the GBS Bake Off and Sale, taking place on 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.

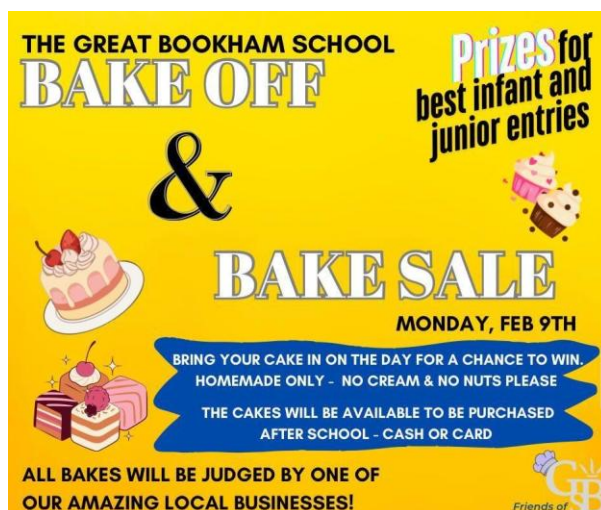
The sale will take place straight after school, outdoors if weather permits, or in the hall if it is raining. All items will be priced at £1 each. Thank you for your continued support — we look forward to a fantastic event!

PTA funds put to good use for your children:

Thanks to your incredible support of our events, we're thrilled to announce that £1,000 has been invested in brand-new books for our school!

This year marks the National Year of Reading, a nationwide initiative led by the Department for Transport, celebrating the joy and power of reading. As part of this, a special "Must Read" book list has been created — and we're delighted to say that we've purchased every single title on the list for our school.

Your generosity is helping to put inspiring, high-quality books directly into the hands of our pupils and to spark a love of reading across the school. Thank you for making this possible!



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 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.