

Great Bookham School Newsletter

Issue 20 2025/26

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderful end to the half term we have had this week.

*On Monday, 4 boys from years 5 and 6 attended an Active Surrey Introduction to **Judo** event. They worked alongside boys from 4 other Surrey schools and played several warm-up games followed by learning various Judo instructions and moves. The event took place at a dedicated Judo centre and all of their instructors had represented Team GB at international Judo events so a great experience for the boys. They thoroughly enjoyed their day and were a credit to our school.*

*Our **bake sale** was a wonderful success with children baking to raise money for the school and star bakers were awarded a specially engraved spoon and certificates for some fabulous creations that showed real effort and creativity. Thank you to the Friends of GBS for organising this event.*

*Year 6 enjoyed their **Victorian Day**, where they experienced a taste of life as a Victorian child, including writing with ink and fountain pens, using the dunce hat, learning about strict school discipline, and practising drill. A big thank you to all parents and carers for providing such excellent costumes — the children looked fantastic and it really helped bring the day to life.*

*Reception were so excited to welcome the **fire service** on Friday, a fire engine arrived to show the children how a team of firefighters help our community and keep people safe. The sounds of the children giggling and squealing with laughter as they used the fire hose and explored the engine was heart warming.*

*The **open afternoon** on Wednesday was a huge success and it was lovely to see so many parents coming in to celebrate their children's progress and share in their learning.*

*During the open afternoon, you may have noticed washing lines of artwork displayed in the corridors as part of **The Rotary Art competition** with the theme 'happiness in nature' where children showed what this meant to them through their own creative ideas. The children in KS2 have all submitted their artwork to be judge so we look forward to finding out if we have any winning entries.*

*This week has been **Children's Mental Health Week**, and our Wellbeing Ambassadors have organised and led lots of thoughtful activities across the school, along with there being purposeful learning linked to the theme of 'belonging' in class, ending with children wearing a unique accessory to celebrate what makes them special.*

*Mr Perrin's **Chinese New Year** assembly was a real highlight as he introduced the Year of the Horse. The children enjoyed listening to Mr Perrin's speak to them in Mandarin and learning about Chinese traditions and singing a popular Chinese song together.*

We have experienced some issues with a new MCAS update- this includes parents not being able to click on links we are sending out. We have been informed that this will be rectified during the half term so please bear with us if you notice something is not working as usual with the app.

*Please check **notifications** and **announcements** on MCAS for the latest communications and **outstanding payments** for any payments that are due. Please can you pre-select meals for your child and ensure breakfast club and after school club sessions have been booked for after half term.*

*Further in the newsletter we have added **key dates** up to the end of the summer term. Details for events will be sent nearer the time but please put the dates in your diaries.*

Thank you so much for all of your support this half term. I look forward to seeing you all again for the 2nd half of the spring term - hopefully with less rain!

Miss Allen

Stars of the week

Our stars for last week are:

Ladybirds	Joseph & Alba
Butterflies	George & Melissa
Bumblebees	Thomas & Arthur
Dragonflies	Esmee & Winnie
Foxes	Seren & Evelyn
Squirrels	Willoughby & Gian
Hedgehogs	Alayah & Leo
Rabbits	Sofia & Jay
Eagles	Skyla & Hugo
Hawks	Hazel & Kira
Falcons	Sofia & Jasper
Kestrels	Finn & Jess

Our stars for this week are:

Ladybirds	Dylan & Charlie
Butterflies	Lexi & Raya
Bumblebees	Charlotte & Henry
Dragonflies	Bonnie & Giorgia
Foxes	Max & George
Squirrels	Annabel & Harriet
Hedgehogs	Lucas & Lara
Rabbits	Isla & Sophia
Eagles	Darcie & Freddy
Hawks	Nam & Keelia
Falcons	Izzy & Zaki
Kestrels	Henry & Kenzie

STARS OF THE WEEK

Attendance

Congratulations to Foxes for winning the attendance certificate last week with 99% attendance!

MAC the attendance bear will visit the classroom this week.

Congratulations to Foxes and Eagles for winning the attendance certificate this week with 98.3% attendance!

MAC the attendance bear will visit their classrooms next week.



Online Safety

Using AI to alter images

AI image generator and moderator tools are widely available and often used by children. Whilst these tools can be used for creative purposes, we need to ensure our children are aware of the appropriate way in which to use them and the circumstances when they should not be used, even if harm is not intended.

What are AI image generators and moderator tools?

It is when Artificial Intelligence is used to create or modify images, for example it could be used to swap faces, change expressions or for more sinister reasons, such as to remove clothes. These images are often very realistic and therefore difficult to see that they are fake.

Privacy concerns and consent

If your child is using these tools, they need to be aware of the potential loss of privacy and the importance of consent. They should know that they should only use images of other people with consent.

What does my child need to know about using these tools?

- Children shouldn't use AI tools to manipulate images of others. Even if the child's intention is not malicious, children should not use AI tools to create or edit photos of other people under any circumstances.
- The tools should not be used to create images that can embarrass or hurt others - this is a form of online bullying.
- Copyright issues – who owns the copyright? These images could be reused by others, which can affect their own digital footprint.

What should I do?

- Talk to your child if they are using these tools and find out why. Ask them to show you the images they have created.
- Check the age ratings of any apps or websites your child is using and set up appropriate parental controls.
- Develop your child's digital literacy by teaching them to recognise online risks and to behave responsibly online.

Further information

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/onlinesafety/talking-to-children-about-ai>

<https://oursaferschools.co.uk/2025/02/18/understanding-imageconsent-at-schools/>

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

16th - 20th February - Half term

24th February - Year 4 Residential trip meeting at 2:45pm

25th February - Young Voices Choir at the O2

27th February - Year 4 Saxon day

5th March - World Book Day - all children are encouraged to dress up as their favourite book character

17th March - Year 6 Residential trip & SATs meeting at 2:45pm

18th March - Year 5 Residential trip meeting at 2:45pm

23rd March - Year 5 Dorking Halls Music Festival

24th March - Class photos

24th & 25th March - Parents evening

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

21st April - Year 6 trip to Sky Studios

4th May - Bank Holiday

11th - 14th May - Year 6 SATS

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

15th May - Year 3 trip to Nower Wood

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

25th - 29th May - **Half term**

10th June - Reception trip to Windsor Castle

10th - 12th June - Year 5 Residential trip to Hooke Court

15th - 19th June - Year 6 Bikeability

22nd June - District Sports

24th June - KS1/EYFS Sports day - AM

25th June - KS2 Sports day - AM

29th June - Open afternoon

1st July - Bump up day

3rd July - EYFS Parent lunch

3rd July - KS2 Rock Bottom Theatre performance

17th July - **Last day of term** (normal collection time - no Puffins)

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

Jenson in Pre-School drew the most incredible racing track and was able to tell me all about the cars and people in his picture.

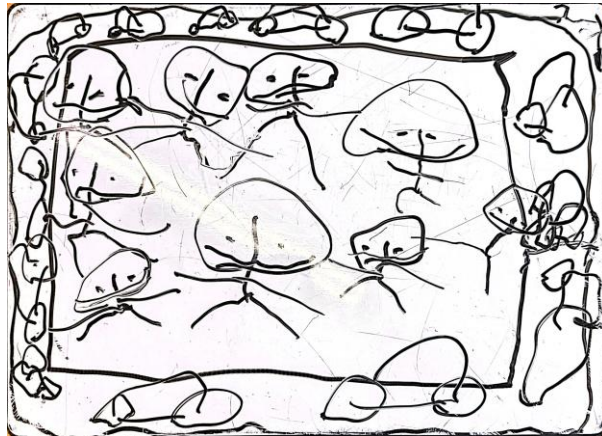
Elena in Year 4 has shown fantastic dedication to improving her handwriting and has made impressive progress.

Jennifer in Year R wrote an excellent sentence about her egg box dragon. She used her sound brilliantly and drew a wonderful picture of her dragon too.

Cora and Everly in Year 2 wrote excellent poems using similes and metaphors.

In assembly today, Chloe in Year 6 articulated beautifully why we were all wearing brightly coloured accessories. She explained that because all children know that they 'belong' at GBS, they are comfortable to wear something bright and a bit silly and show their differences.

Alfie in Year 5 demonstrated excellent improvement with his handwriting when writing a story about diving.



Miss Allen
says
Well Done!

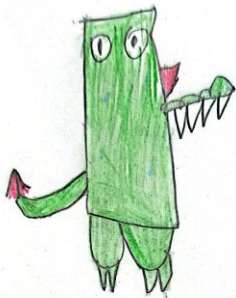
Dear W/WF team,

Feeling shocked and sad, I am writing to you to tell you about destruction in the Amazon Rainforest. Surprisingly, it is happening right now. Understandably, I am feeling like a scarlet burning fire, about it.

In the depths of the rainforest, Orangutan are in danger because people are cutting down trees so they can plant oil trees. Most vitally, because they are killing animals so we need to ^{stop} cutting trees down.

Immediately, I am reaching out to request the urgent assistance and intervention of WWF in this delicate matter. But experience and resources in wild conservation.

Thankyou for reading my letter
From Elena.



Miss Allen
says
Well Done!

He is green. He is
a bit shorter.

Miss Allen
says
Well Done!

Friday 11th February 2026

To improve and complete a poem using similes and metaphors.

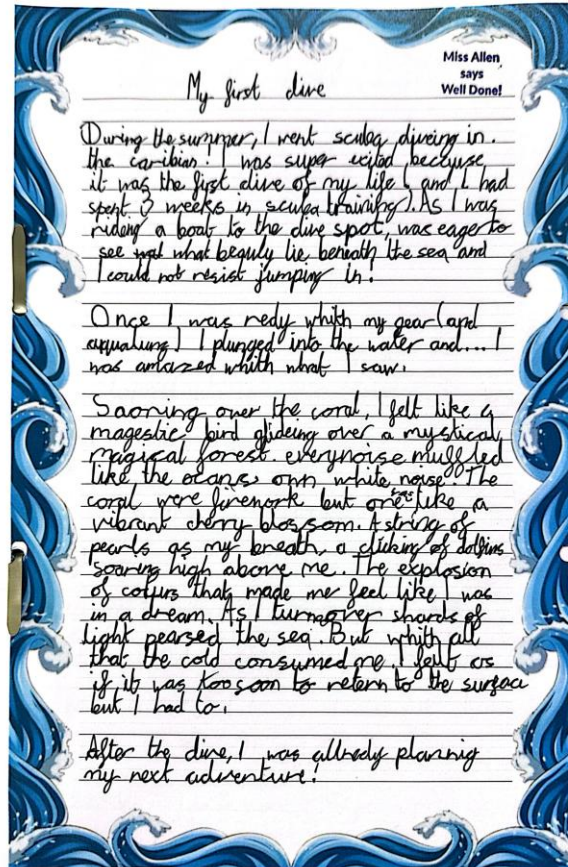
The ~~ros~~ are clouds of coconut ice. The air
is peppermint bright. The fields are terraces
of browns and greens. In the mornings
milky light. The birds are like glowing
glows glittering in the night. The lavender
leaves are like blossom trees glowing in
the light. The fresh flowers are like
tall towers in the milky night. In the
tall towers there are glowing glows rising
in the night. The bounding bunnies are
like tubs of warm honey. The colourful
balloons are like bounding baboons.
The shimmering bugs are like a big
warm hug. In field down the path
where the bunnies all bath.

Miss Allen
says
Well Done!

Friday 11th February 2026

To improve and complete a poem using similes and metaphors.

The trees are clouds of coconut ice.
The air is peppermint bright.
The fields are terraces of browns and greens.
In the morning's milky light.
The bounding bunnies are like cotton candy clouds
jumping in the air.
The fresh flowers are like colourful little
rainbows.
The lavender leaves are like confetti
sprinkling the ground.
In the mighty meadows.
The twinkling wires are like a candy
cob web swaying thru the band.
The silver sun is like a bright lamp
shining in the day light.



Friends of Great Bookham School

What a fantastic bake off and sale! Thank you to all the bakers, volunteers and all shoppers of course! It was so lovely to see all the fabulous bakes and all the eager faces picking out their favourites! We couldn't have done it without every single person who helped. We raised an absolutely fantastic £527.78 for the school!

Congratulations to our winners

KS1

Best bake of all - Hallie

Best tasting bake - Harry

Most original bake - Florence

Best looking bake - Phoebe

KS2

Best bake of all - Theo

Best tasting bake - Kira

Most original bake - Alice

Best looking bake - Niamh





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.

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.