

# Great Bookham School Newsletter

## Issue 21 2025/26

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*Dear Parents and Carers,*

*It has been an incredibly busy and exciting first week back in school after the break, with so many opportunities for our children to shine.*

*On Wednesday our Young Voices choir performed at the O2 which was a truly unforgettable experience. Performing in such a prestigious auditorium in front of thousands is no small feat and we are so proud of every child who represented the school with such enthusiasm and confidence. I was astounded at how impeccably behaved all children were during what was a 14 hour school trip and hope that they cherish the memories that were made. Thank you to our wonderful parents who made the journey up to The O2 to watch the children perform - the children's excitement when you arrived was palpable! Thank you to our dedicated staff who accompanied the trip and supported the children throughout the event. A special thank you must go to Mrs Morriss for co-ordinating and preparing the children for this event.*

*On Thursday, Year 5 visited Therfield School to watch their school performance of High School Musical, which was a brilliant opportunity for our pupils to experience a secondary school production. Seeing older students perform gave our children a real insight into what lies ahead and we are very grateful to Therfield for hosting and inspiring our pupils in this way. Thank you to all the parents and carers who helped with lifts.*

*Also on Thursday, 8 children from Years 3 and 4 took part in a Panathlon festival at St Johns school in Dorking with Mrs Pitcher and Mrs Kendall. The children participated in different activities including curling, skittles, football and bean bag toss. It was a lot of fun and the children showed great sportsmanship, also learning new skills. They are very proud of their medals.*

*Today has been an action packed one with so many events taking place:*

*Year 4 enjoyed their Saxon Day, which brought their history learning vividly to life. The children embraced the opportunity to take part in a range of hands on activities and many came dressed for the occasion which added to the excitement and immersion of the day.*

*We were also delighted to welcome families to the Squirrels assembly. Thank you to Miss Cox and Mrs Kendall for putting together such a fabulous showcase of Year 3 learning all about The Egyptians. A highlight for me has to be the children making human pyramids! The children spoke and performed with confidence and pride and we are very grateful to parents and carers who came along to support them.*

*Year 6 attended the Junior Citizen event, which provided valuable practical learning experiences to help them stay safe and make informed choices as they grow older. These sessions are always extremely worthwhile and we are pleased the children were able to take part.*

*Our Year 5 and 6 pupils also competed in a tag rugby tournament at Sutton and Epsom RFC. Thank you to Miss Higgins for accompanying the team and well done to all the children for their teamwork determination and excellent sporting behaviour.*

*This afternoon, our Year 3 and 4 pupils are excited to compete in the cross country event at KGV after school. The weather will hopefully be kind and I am sure that our children will show great resilience and sportsmanship throughout the races. Thank you to everyone who takes part and represents the school so well.*

*Looking ahead, next week promises to be just as exciting as we celebrate World Book Week. On Monday 2nd March we will begin with a special introduction assembly followed by a workshop hosted by Michael Rosen which is sure to inspire a love of reading and poetry across the school. On Wednesday, Divergent Drama will be delivering Roald Dahl themed drama workshops for every class bringing some well loved stories to life. On Thursday, children are invited to dress up as their favourite book character and it would be wonderful to see lots of Roald Dahl inspired costumes but all book characters are very welcome!*

*Also next week, on Wednesday 4th March, parents are welcome to attend our IT provider Eduthing's Online Safety workshop at 2:45pm in the main hall. Details can be found on MCAS under announcements 'Tea and Talk Online Safety'. We hope to see lots of you there.*

*On Tuesday 3rd March at 8:00am bookings will open on MCAS for parent evening appointments. Please also check outstanding payments for payments due/owed, if you have any queries please contact the school office.*

*Have a wonderful weekend*

*Miss Allen*

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## Online Safety

### TikTok

You must be over 13 years of age to use TikTok. TikTok is a social media platform for sharing and watching short video clips. If your child is using TikTok, then make sure appropriate security /privacy settings are applied.

### Account set up

Your child must enter their real date of birth as accounts are tailored by age e.g., Direct Messaging is disabled for accounts aged 13-15. In addition, advertisements are tailored by age. By default, accounts for people under 16 are set to private. You can read more about the other settings available, such as switching off comments and restricted mode here:

<https://support.tiktok.com/en/account-and-privacy/account-privacysettings/privacy-and-safety-settings-for-users-under-age-18>

### Family Pairing

Family Pairing allows you to link your own account to your child's account. You can then set controls such as restricted mode or tailor your child's 'For You' feed by selecting keywords that TikTok will use to filter out posts. You can find out more here:

<https://support.tiktok.com/en/safety-hc/accountand-user-safety/family-pairing>

### What do I need to be aware of?

- Inappropriate content and themes: whilst against guidelines, explicit and inappropriate content can be found on this platform, for example, nudity/sexual content and hate speech. Some of the songs available to lip sync to may contain inappropriate lyrics/themes.
- Challenges: We often see viral challenges on social media, some of which can be risky/dangerous. Sadly, there are reports that children have died while attempting online challenges. Children may not yet have developed the skills and ability to critically analyse what they see online is not always safe for them to replicate.
- Stranger contact: chat to your child about how people may not be who they say they are when online.

### Refresh your feed

You can refresh your "For You" feed to update the content recommended:

## Blocking and Reporting

Show your child how to use the safety features available.

Further information

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/tiktok> <https://www.tiktok.com/safety/en/guardians-guide>

## 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*

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

16th March - Wear a blue outfit or blue accessory to show our support for Sign Language week

16th -20th March - Sign Language Week - Children will learn a new sign every day.

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

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

Friday 20th March - Red Nose Day children can wear their own clothes in exchange for a £1

23rd March - Year 5 Dorking Halls Music Festival

24th March - Class photos

24th & 25th March - Parents evening 3.30pm - 6.30pm

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

25th April - Billy's Bash (please see details below)

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

**Class Assembly Dates - 9am start**

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, Tabitha and Bonnie have all worked so hard with their writing about the book Traction Man. Their handwriting was excellent and they could talk to me about the differences between thought and speech bubbles.

Harrison in Year 5 wrote a fantastic piece of suspense writing.

Georgia in Year 2 wrote a beautiful poem all about nature.

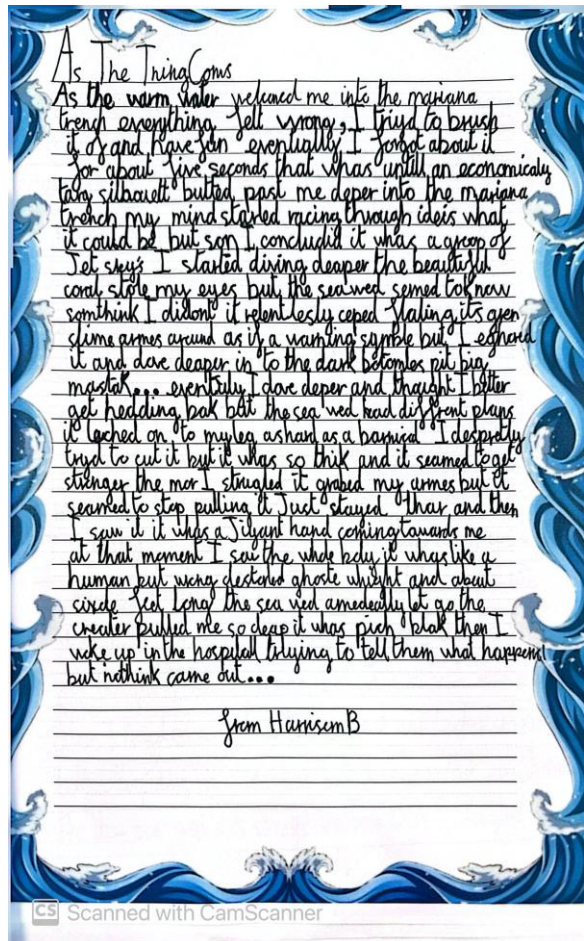
Luke in Year R was very excited to tell me all about how he had used the Rekenreks to help him solve number sentences.

Josh in Year 3 wrote a wonderful story based on The Three Little Pigs. He included adverbs, similes, expanded noun phrases and had tried so hard with his handwriting.

Harry in Year 4 came to show me his fantastic learning in history all about Saxon settlements. He had labelled his diagram carefully and remembered some excellent facts.

Eli in Year 4 has proven himself to be an excellent geographer through his learning about features of the United Kingdom. I was very impressed that he had drawn his own maps!

Arthur and Seren in Year 3 were inspired by their learning about Christian's belief of The Holy Trinity. They thoughtfully considered of how this could be represented using different images.



Friday 11<sup>th</sup> 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 brown and greens,  
In the morning's milky light.


The tall trees are (like) skyscrapers in the city.  
The fresh flowers are (like) colourful little  
rainbow. The lavender leaves are (like) confetti  
sprinkling the ground. In the mountains  
mighty meadows the beautiful blossoms are  
like soft fluffy cotton. The yellow sun  
are like hot hugs. The shimmering river are  
like mermaid shimmer. In the deep blue sea


CS Scanned with CamScanner

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> Feb 2026

 = Holy Trinity  
= God

 = God

Holy spirit  
 = God

father  
 = God

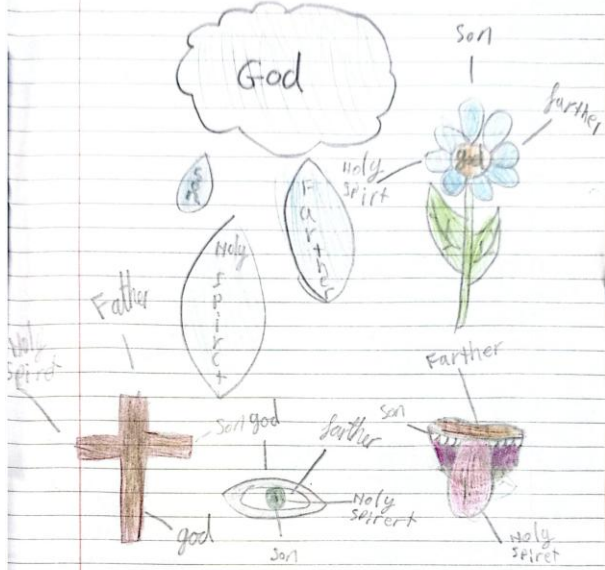
Miss Allen  
says  
Well Done!

The Holy Trinity are 3 people  
that share one God. The Father, Son and  
The Holy Spirit.

CS Scanned with CamScanner

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Holy Trinity

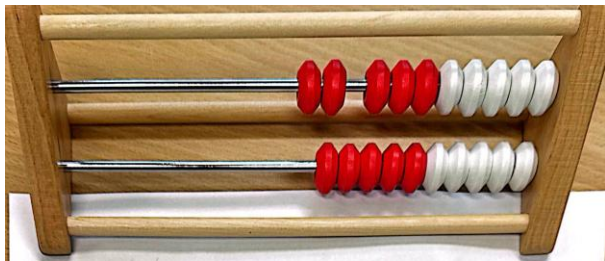


The Holy Trinity are three people and they come together to make God (Father and Holy Spirit)

Amazing representations  
Seren!

Miss Allen says Well Done!

Scanned with CamScanner



5+1=6  
5+2=7  
5+4  
10=1=P

Miss Allen says Well Done!

Scanned with CamScanner



Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Trackson Man Plan

Miss Allen says Well Done!

Add speech and thought bubbles for the different characters in this part of the comic

I am fishing the sieve

I am scuba scuba

I am going to get him

HOHO! You do not get him

I am going to see him

I am going to see him

To write narrative boxes and speech bubbles

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2026

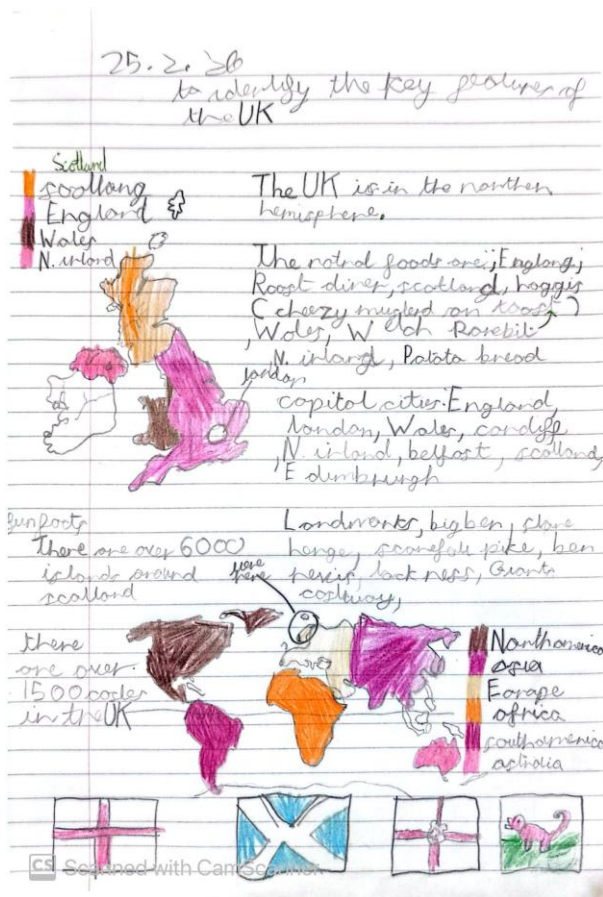
I'm looking for the sieve.

I will get you!

Trackson Man is swimming in the water.

Oh No! It is the evil dish cloth!





## Friends of Great Bookham School

### World Book Day – Thursday 5th March

We are excited to celebrate World Book Day on Thursday 5th March! Children are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite book character and join in the fun and activities planned for the day.

### PTA Costume Collection After World Book Day

The PTA will be collecting any unwanted costumes to help support families next year. Donated costumes will be resold at affordable prices ahead of next year's event. If your child has a costume they no longer need, please consider donating it by handing it in to the school office or giving it to a PTA member between Friday 6th March and Friday 13th March.

### Easter

🐰🥚 on 27th March there will be an Easter Trail/hunt at school. Shhhh keep this a secret for a bit of unexpected fun for the children.

After this we will be running the Smarties Challenge over Easter holidays. More will be revealed in the coming weeks.

Thank you for your continued support.

### *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

Leatherhead Football club open sessions

Billy's Bash

Your Space Therapies