

Great Bookham School Newsletter

Issue 22 2025/26

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic week it has been at school, with so many exciting activities celebrating World Book Day. The week began with a brilliant assembly launching The Golden Bookmark Reading Challenge, in which children were set the challenge to read three specific books from their age-range category to qualify for a golden bookmark. The children were totally gripped by this, and many have been spotted reading on the playground, in the lunch hall and even whilst walking along the corridor!

We are so grateful to The Friends of Great Bookham School, who have purchased 100 new books to mark the National Year of Reading. These very special books have been beautifully displayed along the corridor in our main entrance and children will be able to temporarily use this space as an additional library. Thank you to Mrs Gomm and Mrs Welch for decorating the windows with chalk pens - it has made the space feel extra special.

KS2 children had the incredible opportunity to take part in a live lesson with Michael Rosen, the Chocolate Cake poet, which left everyone buzzing with excitement and ideas. On Wednesday, Divergent Drama workshops brought the Roald Dahl theme to life for every year group, giving children the chance to explore the story of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory through performance and imagination. All of the children thoroughly enjoyed these workshops, and it was wonderful to see their creativity shine.

Thursday, World Book Day, was a highlight of the week, with children arriving in a brilliant array of costumes and eager to talk about their favourite characters and books. It was a joy to hear the enthusiasm for reading throughout the school. Thank you to parents for all your help with providing your children with the most wonderful costumes – they looked fabulous. A huge thank you also goes to Mrs Morriss for taking the lead on this fantastic week and making it so memorable for everyone.

Parents had the chance to attend the Eduthing presentation on Wednesday, which focused on the importance of online safety for our children. This is such a vital and relevant topic in

today's world, and we are grateful to all the parents who were able to join and engage in the discussion. I am aware that there are a number of parents who support the Smartphone-Free Childhood Movement and, as a school, we are working with them to create and send out a survey to gather parental views on this topic. Colleagues from the Surrey Secondary Phase Council have asked that primary settings forward a letter to families of pupils approaching the transition to secondary school (Years 4, 5 and 6), which encourages parents to consider delaying smartphone ownership for their children until at least age 14. Secondary schools across Surrey are increasingly seeing the impact that early smartphone use can have on pupils' wellbeing, sleep and readiness to learn. This letter has been attached to this announcement.

The week concluded with more sporting action for our older pupils. The Year 5 and 6 Indoor Athletics competition between all local schools took place on Thursday, and I am delighted to share that Great Bookham School secured first place and will now take place in the County Finals in 3 weeks time! We are incredibly proud of all the children who represented GBS and the excellent sportsmanship and determination they demonstrated.

Today, the Under-11 girls Primary Fitness Games took place and the energy and determination of the children were fantastic to witness and they finished in 3rd place. An incredible achievement as it was the first time we have taken part in this event.

And finally a HUGE well done to the children who took part in today's extremely wet and slippery cross country races at KGV. A big thank you goes to all the staff who supported these events, including Mrs Jupp, Miss Jupp and Mrs Johnston.

Tomorrow, a number of our children will be attending a football match at Leatherhead FC. They will be lucky enough to meet the players before the game and then walk out on the pitch as the players' mascots!

Have a wonderful weekend.

Miss Allen

Stars of the week

Our stars for this week are:

Ladybirds	Abi & Hallie
Butterflies	Elora & Oliver
Bumblebees	Alfie & Ronni
Dragonflies	Goutham & Giorgia
Foxes	Lewie & Jess
Squirrels	Ellis & Poppy
Hedgehogs	Rosie & Eli
Rabbits	Abigail & Harry
Eagles	Toby & Flynn
Hawks	Evie & Louie
Falcons	Sam & Kaine
Kestrels	Niamh & Charlie

**STARS
OF THE
WEEK**

Attendance

Congratulations to Dragonflies for winning the attendance certificate this week with 100% attendance!

MAC the attendance bear will visit their classrooms next week.



Online Safety

Everyone's talking about AI, and with many children and young people hearing about and using AI online, it's important they have the skills and confidence to make safe choices when they are using smart technology.

Next week, we will be celebrating online safety with workshops run by Eduthing and exploring different ways of staying safe online.

Please read these top tips on how to support your children at home with being safe online:

Enjoy going online together and talk regularly about your family's online lives

The internet is amazing and can help us all to access information and entertainment. Spend time online with your child to understand how they are using technology and talk together about the good and the bad parts of being online. Talk about your own experiences and find other opportunities to get the conversation started, like stories in the news. Make sure your child knows they can talk to you about anything that they see or experience online.

Understand where AI technology is being used and the impact it can have

From summaries on search engines, to voice assistants and photo editing tools, AI powered features are being added to many of the apps and devices we use day-to-day. Look out for information and warnings notifying you where AI technology is in use or where content has been created using AI. Help your child to recognise these too. Remember, AI can make some tasks simpler but may also collect data about you and your family, or share unreliable information, so consider how to use it safely and responsibly.

Recognise what safe and responsible use of technology looks like

To use technology, including AI, safely and responsibly, it's important to reflect on the potential impact it can have on yourself and others. How does your use of technology make you feel? How can you use technology with kindness and respect for others? Does your use of technology benefit you or help you build skills? How might it affect you now, and in the future? Ask these questions of your own internet use, as well as your family's.

Stay informed with free resources

Young people have told us about the incredible ways they're using AI, but also about their worries for what it means for the future. Issues such as the environmental impact of AI, what it means for job prospects, and the threat of deepfakes can seem scary but remember, you don't need to have all the answers. Stay informed using free resources like those produced for Safer Internet Day and talk to your child about their concerns about new technology – you can always work together to find more information.

Know where to go for help if something goes wrong

Like any technology, using AI comes with risks. Some AI tools, like ChatGPT, have built-in reporting features where you can raise issues such as inappropriate or harmful content. Many social media platforms also allow you to report content you suspect has been created with AI. Additionally, AI generated content can break the law. If you see illegal images that show child sexual abuse (including AI generated images), you should report these to the IWF and on the platform where they are being shared. If someone creates an image of you or your child using AI these can also be reported on the platform where they are being shared, and AI generated nude images can be reported to Stop NCII (for images of adults) and Report Remove or Take It Down (for images of under 18s).

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 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 - please bring cash or donate here

<https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=20689>

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

Harlow in Year 5 was proud to share with me his excellent maths work about adding decimals. He completed his work independently and carefully.

Jess, Maisie, Maddie, Mason, Josh and Theo in Year 3 were giddy with excitement to show me their own version of medicine recipes based on the story George's Marvelous Medicine. They were keen to tell me about all of the gross ingredients that they would add and the effect of their medicine!

Nam, Mudiwa, Georgina, Georgia and Kira in Year 5 had all worked so hard in geography to create their own and individualised fact page about The River Severn

TO add numbers with and without place.

2.3.16

1000

a 0.8 ✓
 b 0.9 ✓
 c 0.9 ✓
 d 1.2 ✓
 e 1.4 ✓
 f 1.5 ✓
 g 1.4 ✓
 h 1.7 ✓

cn 1 p 2

a 0.57 ✓
 b 0.53 ✓
 c 0.73 ✓
 d 0.83 ✓
 e 0.88 ✓
 f 0.92 ✓
 g 0.87 ✓
 h 0.89 ✓

cn 2 p 2

a 1.19 ✓
 b 1.13 ✓
 c 1.05 ✓
 d 1.12 ✓
 e 1 ✓
 f 1.85 ✓
 g 1.91 ✓
 h 1.39 ✓

Miss Allen says Well Done!

cn 3 part 2

a $1.00 + 0.76 = 1.76$
 $1.70 + 0.06 = 1.76$
 b $1.00 + 0.82 = 1.82$
 $0.91 + 0.91 = 1.82$
 c $1.40 + 0.05 = 1.45$
 $1.00 + 0.45 = 1.45$
 d $0.58 + 0.54 = 1.07$
 $1.00 + 0.07 = 1.07$
 e $1.00 + 0.52 = 1.52$
 $1.50 + 0.02 = 1.52$
 f $1.00 + 0.38 = 1.38$
 $1.30 + 0.08 = 1.38$
 g $0.56 + 0.56 = 1.12$
 $1.00 + 0.12 = 1.12$
 h $1.00 + 0.44 = 1.44$
 $1.39 + 0.05 = 1.44$

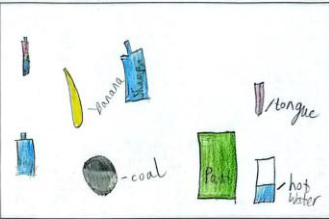
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My Marvellous Medicine

Do you want to make a really dangerous medicine if you do then follow in this recipe.

Ingredients:

- a tube of toothpaste
- a bottle of vinegar
- a Mouldy Banana
- a lump of coal
- 2 kilos of paint
- a bottle of Shampoo
- a Pig's tongue
- a sprinkle of hot water



Method:

1. First, find a massive mixing bowl.
2. Then, add a lump of dark coal.
3. After that, add all the toothpaste.
4. Next, add in a Mouldy banana.
5. Then, add a bottle of vinegar.
6. Next, add 2 bottles of Shampoo.
7. Then, add a sprinkle of hot water.
8. After that, put in a Pig's tongue.
9. Finally, add 2 kilos of paint.

Now Mix it all together.

This potion will make you feel crazy and there is a chance you will explode.
 Try it if you dare.

Miss Allen says Well Done!

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Do you want to make the worlds most dangerous, stinging medicine ever made?
If you do, follow this recipe.

- a pinch of blond hair
- a little piece of rubber
- three macadamias
- then a glass of vinegar
- a hole tube of toothpaste
- a big cup of liquid
- a pip of champagne
- a dip and mix of blue and red paint
- a squirt of soap
- 5 jolly beans
- especially of strawberry jam
- a piece of baking powder. Add jolly snakes.



1. Pick up a ball and water spoon.
 2. Next get a pinch of blond hair.
 3. Then get three macadamias (say color)
 4. Now add bubbling hot water (kiss by a touch)
 5. Then mix in a little piece of rubber
 6. Also squeeze a hole tube of toothpaste.
 7. A pip pour a hole cup of liquid.
 8. After that pip champagne into the bowl and mix it all up.
 9. A dot drop of blue and red paint to add some color.
 10. 5 jolly beans.
 11. Add a handful of jolly snakes.
 12. A big squirt of soap.
 13. A huge spoonful of strawberry jam (extra sweet)
- BANG!**

The medicine will so jump in my tummy. It is more puffy than cola. It makes me want to get out. Power drinkers it is dangerous. I wouldn't use it.

BOOM! POW!

My Revolting Medicine

Do you want to make the worlds most AWFULL seomake churning medicine ever if you do follow these revolting instructions.

- First pour a whole bottle of vinegar.
- Secondly add a cup of baking powder.
- Now you add a whole rotten moldy banana.
- Now add a splash of paint.
- Then you add a cup of slimy snail slime.
- Finally add a splash of worm juice.



1. First, pour a whole bottle of vinegar.
2. Secondly pour a cup of baking powder.
3. Then, chop up a whole moldy rotten banana.
4. Now, add a splash of paint.
5. Next add a cup of slimy snail slime.
6. Finally add a splash of worm juice.

Now watch it all bubble and FIZZ until it is ready. try not to spill any. Try it if you dare it may not go alright.

BEWARE your stomach may feel like it will explode. And you won't feel your stomach for 30 minutes.

My Marvellous Medicine

Do you want Make the world's most powerful medicine?
Have you ever wanted a medicine that can stretch your elbow?

- bubbly soap's gallons
- 8 frog legs
- some chilli powder
- whole green onion juice
- 2 kile of Roast
- bottle of worm Juice
- 1 cup of Slug slime
- 8 Pickled Juice



1. First, get a big mixing Bowl and wear Scarf.
2. Next add in 8 frog legs Now add 8 Pickled soap's
3. Then carefully add in the bottle of worm Juice Next add in some chilli powder.
4. Now add Mix in 1 cup of Slug slime Now pour in 2 kile of Albe parts.
5. stir it 8 times.
6. Finally your medicine is ready to drink!

Make this medicine if you want to stretch any and fly to the sky.

Miss Allen says Well Done!

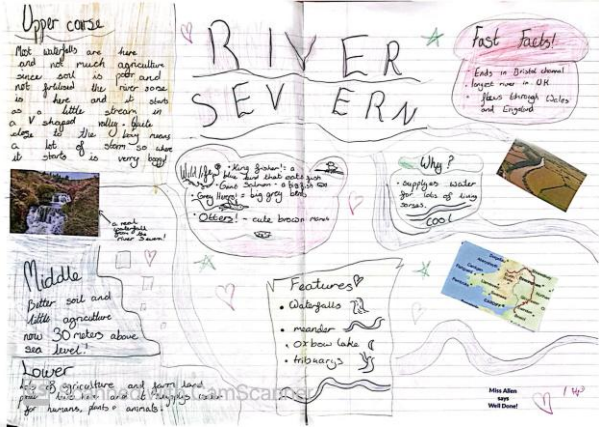
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ALL About the RIVER SEVERN



Miss Allen says Well Done!





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Miss Allen says Well Done!

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FACTS ABOUT RIVER SEVERN

UPPER COURSE FACTS	MIDDLE COURSE FACTS	LOWER COURSE FACTS	COOL FACTS
<p>It starts very steep and not very wide.</p> <p>Starts at a small spring called polynhimon very east of Shrewsbury. It is glacial.</p>	<p>It is flatter than the first course so it is easier to go across and it would also slow down because it is flatter.</p>	<p>It is very flat and wide.</p> <p>It flows very slow.</p> <p>There can be some herons near.</p>	<p>It is the longest river in Britain.</p> <p>It flows into the Bristol channel.</p> <p>When it reaches the mouth it holds 9 billion litres a day.</p>
			


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Miss Allen says Well Done!

Good job

All about the River SEVERN!

Miss Allen says Well Done!





Why is it important?

The river is important because it connects England to Wales - the famous Severn bridge crosses the river and helps thousands of cars cross because if there was no bridge that means cars won't be able to cross.

Middle ground

Watergulls can be seen and...

Upper course


The upper course of a river starts at the high in the mountains and goes under underground springs.

The river severn is the longest river in the UK.

The river is very powerful which means it is very strong and very fast flowing.

Lower course

Lower course is when the water that started from the upper course and made its way through middle course it would soon end up at lower course that is when it enters the mouth and makes its way to sea.



Wild life

- Otters
- Salmon
- Herons
- Kingfishers

Live across the river and if you are lucky you could see one they usually hide away from strangers.

Did you know?

Did you know? that the river is 350 km long and 13 km wide like a mouth and 900 billion litres a day imagine seeing that!


Friends of Great Bookham School

PTA Costume Collection after World Book Day

Now that World Book Day is over, 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.

Smarties Challenge – Friday 27th March

We are excited to launch our Smarties Challenge, a fun and easy way for children to help raise money for the PTA!

Each child will receive a tube of Smarties to take home. The challenge is simple: enjoy the Smarties, then fill the empty tube with coins. Children can do chores over the Easter holidays to see how full they can make their tube..

After the Easter holiday, please return the filled tubes to school. All the money raised will go towards PTA projects that support activities, equipment and experiences for the children.

It's a great way for children to get involved in fundraising while learning that lots of small contributions can add up to make a big difference.

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



COBHAM FREE SCHOOL SENIORS, KT11 1TF

BILLY'S BASH

FAMILY FUNDAY

2-7PM SATURDAY, 25TH APRIL 2026

Hey superheroes,
scan for
tickets!

RATTLER, TOMMOCAS PRIZES!!!
LEATHERHEAD FIRE TRUCK, MARIO, LUIGI,
STITCH, SUPERHEROES & MAGICIANS, SHARKY
& GEORGE, LIVE BANDS & GAMES, SWEETS &
CUPCAKES, CRAFTE & MUSIC, FACEPAINTS
CHAMPION PRO SOCCER, BOUNCY CASTLE, TUG
of WAR, FOOD & DRINK STALLS, LICENSED
BARS, FREE ON-SITE PARKING!

£5 KIDS £10 ADULTS
GET TICKETS NOW!

TICKETS: BILLYSBATTALION.ORG
FUNDRAISING FOR BILLY'S BATTALION, DIPG RESEARCH CHARITY REG NO. 1213415

The poster features a cartoon superhero boy with a red shirt and yellow cape, pointing towards a QR code. The background is a stylized city skyline with various colored buildings. The text is in a playful, bold font.