

Great Bookham School Newsletter

Issue 23 2025/26

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week has been British National Science Week and the theme was “Curiosity – What is your question?” Mr Randall started the week with an exciting assembly and set the school a challenge: to think of the most interesting or unusual question and he now has the task of trying to answer the weird and wonderful questions that he received. Every day he has shared a ‘fact of the day’, which the children have loved – did you know that the largest fossilised poo ever discovered is over 30cm long and more than 2 litres in volume? It is thought to have come from a Tyrannosaurus rex!

Early in the week, the children took part in a BBC Horrible Histories science lesson, and today there were live lessons in school led by the Primary Science Teaching Trust. We are excited to share with the children the outcome of the science house competition that also took place this week. Thank you, Mr Randall, for leading such a fun, themed week in school.

On Monday, Year 3 enjoyed an exciting handball taster session, throwing themselves into the fast-paced sport with great enthusiasm. It was wonderful to see so many smiles and so much energy in the sessions.

On Tuesday, Year 4 ventured to the Look Out Discovery Centre, where they spent the day exploring a wide range of interactive science exhibits. Their curiosity and engagement shone through from start to finish. Thank you to the Year 4 staff team and the parents who supported the trip.

Year R, 2 and 6 all took part in online workshops led by our IT provider Eduthing. Year R and 6 focussed on online safety whilst Year 2 were taken back in time to The Great Fire of London! We are looking forward to welcoming Eduthing back to school to provide the other year groups workshops linked to their curriculum.

Year R were extra busy on Tuesday because they also had a visit from the police to talk to the children about how they help to keep Bookham safe and how they help others. The children

were in awe of having real police in school and enjoyed looking at their uniforms and hearing about what they are busy doing each day.

Year 6 visited Leatherhead Theatre on Wednesday afternoon to watch a vibrant production of We Will Rock You, hosted by the Howard of Effingham. The children returned buzzing with excitement, eager to share their favourite moments from the show. Thank you to parents and carers who supported this trip by organising transport for all of the children.

Children from Year 5 & 6 took part in netball matches against Manor House school on Wednesday, they won overall and scored a total of 16 goals. The children played brilliantly and showed great skills. Congratulations to the star players Lily and Layla.

On Thursday 14 Year 5 and 6 children took part in a tag rugby tournament at St Peter's school. The children were determined and successfully won all four of their games, resulting in winning the tournament overall. Well done to everyone who competed.

On Friday afternoon, KS1 partook in the TCS mini marathon. Inspired by Joe Wicks, they started with a warm-up and ran for a mile around the field, dancing as they went. It was lovely to see so many children building their resilience and cheering their friends on.

Thank you to Eagles Class for putting on a brilliant showcase of their learning in their class assembly on Friday morning. It is always a delight seeing you speak with pride and sing with gusto and thank you to Miss Newark and Miss Mandry for helping this come together. Thank you to all families who were able to attend this event.

Next week, we are looking forward to taking part in Sign Language Week, and we ask that on Monday the children wear something blue - either an accessory or socks - to show their support. It is also absolutely fine for them to simply wear their GBS jumpers and cardigans!

On Friday, it will be a non-uniform day in exchange for a £1 donation to support comic relief - red noses are also welcome. Online donations can be made [here](#)

Have a wonderful weekend.

Miss Allen

Online Safety

YouTube Safety Update: New Parental Controls

YouTube have published their latest update on how parents can support their child on YouTube. YouTube will now allow parents to set the amount of time viewing Shorts – this can even be set to zero. YouTube Shorts are short videos, usually less than 60 seconds long, which, when continuously watched, can lead to excessive screentime. Furthermore, parents will also be able to set bedtime and ‘take a break’ reminders.

You can find out more here: <https://blog.youtube/news-and-events/updates-youtube-supervised-accounts-teens/>

If you would like to find out more about supervised accounts on YouTube, then this article explains the different settings available:

https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/10315420?hl=en-GB&ref_topic=15279060&sjid=15225282118002181205-EU

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 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

24th April 2026 - Dragonflies
1st May 2026 - Bumblebees
15th May 2026 - Rabbits
5th June 2026 - Butterflies

Important Dates

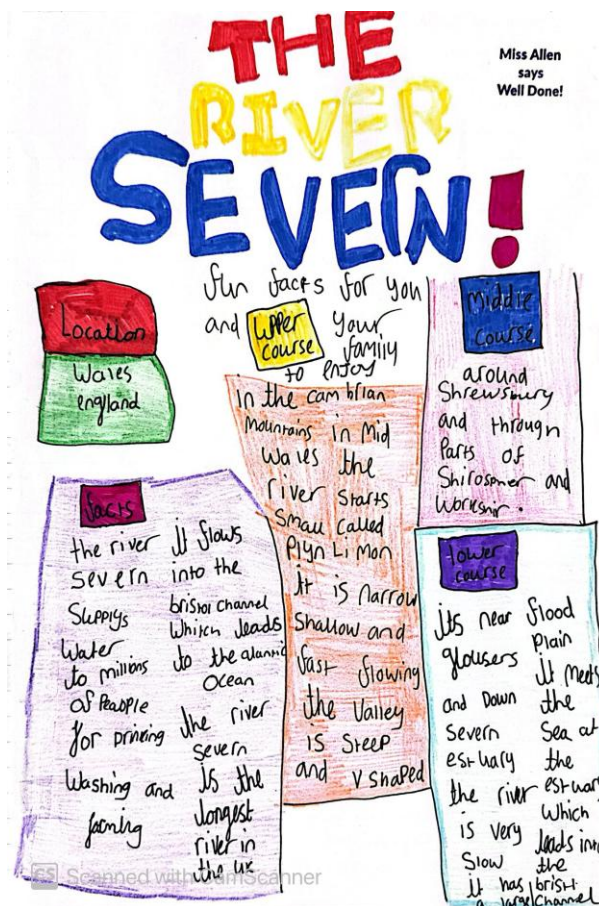




Headteacher Awards

Skyla in Year 5 produced an excellent information poster all about The River Severn.

Isla in Year 4 has been busy writing her very own chapter book.

Emily in Year 4 came to see me to share that she had been awarded a medal for swimming 1 mile!



  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!

RATTLES, TOMMOCAS PRIZES!!!
LEATHERHEAD FIRE TRUCK, MARIO, LUIGI,
STITCH, SUPERHEROES & MAGICIANS, SHARKY
& GEORGE, LIVE BANDS & GAMES, SWEETS &
CUPCAKES, CRAFTS & 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