

Great Bookham School Newsletter Issue 24 2025/26

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am sure you will agree that this week's sunshine has been very welcome after such a wet and cold winter. It has been wonderful to see the children enjoying their time outside during break and lunch. Many of them have even taken the opportunity to do a little "sunbathing" which has certainly brought some smiles to the playground!

On Monday, our Year 3 and Year 5 pupils took part in an exciting maths competition alongside other schools in the Trust supported brilliantly by our Year 6 children. The event was filled with enthusiasm, teamwork and determination and we were delighted to achieve third place overall. Thank you to Mrs Johnston for organising and hosting such a valued event.

On Thursday our Year 6 netball team competed at Manor House in a highly competitive tournament scoring an impressive 40 goals and conceding just 8. The team secured a fantastic second place only losing to the winning team. Well done to all involved and thank you to Miss Jupp, Mrs Townshend and Miss Hardcastle for their support.

Also on Thursday, a group of Year 2 pupils attended the South Farnham Educational Trust sports festival at South Farnham School where they enjoyed a non competitive afternoon of carousel activities led by Year 6 pupils. The children were praised for their enthusiasm, positive attitude and for demonstrating our school values so well. Thank you to Miss Higgins and Mrs Hughes for accompanying them.

On Friday our Year 3 and Year 4 pupils took part in a cross country event at KGV and we congratulate all those who participated for their effort and resilience. It was lovely to see so many new runners coming along to participate. A special mention goes to Emily in Year 4, who secured first place out of over 100 children. She set herself the goal of winning the race and we are delighted for her that she achieved this.

We also marked Red Nose Day as part of our continued support for charitable causes and children came into school wearing an array of their own clothes. Thank you to those who generously donated for this event. They have also enjoyed daily Waka Waka (breaktime dancing routines), a popular Friday club amongst GBS children. Thank you to all the staff who supported this.

Please can I remind parents that if children have had their ears pierced, they should wear plain gold or silver stud earrings only. If a child has more than one piercing in an ear lobe, we ask that only one stud earring is worn in each lobe. All earrings must be removed for PE lessons.

A reminder that there are no clubs after school next week except Drama Club on Monday.

We are currently looking for additional support within our Breakfast Club and Pre School provision and would welcome any interest from our community. If interested, please contact the school office for details.

There are also a range of activities available over the Easter holiday which can be found on our community page.

Thank you as always for your continued support and I hope you all have a wonderful weekend.

Miss Allen

Parking Reminder for Parents and Carers

We continue to experience ongoing challenges with parking around the school, and we have recently received several complaints from our local community and from patients at Fairfield Medical Centre. These concerns relate to some GBS parents parking inconsiderately, as well as using the surgery car park, which is not permitted.

Please can we kindly ask all parents and carers to:

- Park considerately and ensure driveways, pavements and access points are kept clear.
- Do not park in the surgery car park at all times.
- Walk to school where possible, or use a *park and stride* approach by arriving a little earlier and parking further away.

- Refrain from parking in front of the Griffin Way entrance gates, as this forces families to walk in the road, creating a dangerous situation for our children.

Thank you for your continued cooperation in helping us keep all members of our school community safe.

Stars of the week

Our stars for this week are:

Ladybirds	Rebecca & Jackson
Butterflies	George & Jacob
Bumblebees	Michael John & Ben
Dragonflies	Skye & Riley
Foxes	Ada & Amelie
Squirrels	Margot & Evie
Hedgehogs	Marley & Jenson
Rabbits	Tommy & Annabel
Eagles	Sasha & Ibrahim
Hawks	Sophie & Izzie
Falcons	Harry & Ben
Kestrels	Max & Raevynne

**STARS
OF THE
WEEK**

Attendance

Congratulations to Hawks for winning the attendance certificate this week with 98.8% attendance!

MAC the attendance bear will visit their classrooms next week.



Online Safety

Social Media Algorithms

What is an Algorithm?

Algorithms influence what we see on social media platforms and predict what type of content we are most likely to interact with, thereby keeping us online for longer. The algorithm uses information such as who you follow, what you have searched for and what you have watched, liked or shared to determine what it thinks most interests you. It will then show you this content more, for example, in the explore tab on Instagram.

What do I need to know?

Whilst there are benefits to algorithms, for example, it means we tend to see content that does interest us, unfortunately, there are negatives as well. They can lead to increased screentime as we continue to see things that interest us. Secondly, it can lead to users being shown large amounts of inappropriate content, which can, for example, exacerbate negative body image or heighten access to misogynistic content. It can also lead to 'echo chambers' where you are only seeing content that relates to your opinion rather than seeing a balanced viewpoint.

Further information

- <https://cybersmarties.com/behind-the-screen-how-algorithms-shape-what-kids-see-online/>
- The BBC discuss algorithms in this article about doomscrolling: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zwnk3qt>

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

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

19th June 2026 - Ladybirds



Headteacher Awards

Evelyn in Year 3 wrote a beautiful imaginative story.

Thursday 19th March 2026
The clock tower

One day in an enchanted village stood a shimmering, twisting clock tower surrounded by little, white houses with shimmering, gold roofs. Then below the clock tower was a celebration. Folks called it the spring time celebration. Balloons rose up from the pebbles scattered all over the sandy path. The wind waltzed carrying up the balloons. Right up to where the clock tower window was.

In the clock tower a beautiful, shining

CS Scanned with CamScanner

ballerina lived. Her glowing, ginger hair blew gently while the wind came in through the window. She twisted and turned to ^{make} make the clock tower work but the only thing she longed for was to go down from the clock tower and make some new friends. So one day she jumped off the winding cogs and looked out of the window. She couldn't see balloons of all colours and said to herself "I'm going to go out of this clock tower and make some friends!" So off she went pounding down the steps.

When she got down she looked in

CS Scanned with CamScanner

disbelief. The colour had gone! On the balloons, the houses even the roofs shimmer had gone. The colour didn't just go but all the people and balloons froze in sudden move. The ballerina was so devastated she couldn't speak. She quickly ran up to the clock tower and up the stairs.

Out of breath she jumped into the cog and started spinning. As slow as a snail life started to come back. First the colourful houses started to get their colour back. Secondly the people had their clothes colour but they stood still. The balloons

CS Scanned with CamScanner

came to life but stood still. Then finally it came. Everything unfroze and the sound of the happy people's voices made her feel joy.

And still the cog might still be turning in that very tower.

CS Scanned with CamScanner

Friends of Great Bookham School

🍪🌈🐣 Easter hunt - 27th March! Shhh, keep it a secret, there'll be a surprise Easter trail in the afternoon. A big thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help on the day - if you'd like to get involved, please get in touch.

Smarties Challenge – Friday 27th March

Smarties Challenge 27th March - 17th April Which class will raise the most in 2026? Here are a few ideas to get you started: sponsored parkrun, home art exhibition, lemonade stand, help with the washing-up, learn words in another language...and get sponsored for these by a grown-up! Return all money raised in your empty Smarties tube, or donate online. Every contribution will make a huge difference towards PTA school projects this year, thank you so much!

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 on Saturday 25th April 2pm-7pm

Your Space Therapies

Quiz trail Easter Family Fun

Code camp

Decreasing depression

Bookham Baptist Church Easter family fun

Leatherhead Girls cricket

Fetcham Hawks Netball

Chertsey Museum Easter Holiday activities

Understanding Teens talk

Colin Bull Swimming lessons

Ripley Cricket Club

YMCA transition to secondary

Surrey Football coaching Easter camps

Multisport development centre Easter camps

Platform sports Easter Holiday



Determination of Surrey's admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools - 2027

The admission arrangements for Surrey's community and voluntary controlled schools for 2027 were determined by Surrey's Full Council on 3 February 2026. The following documents, which set out Surrey's arrangements, are available in full on the Surrey County

Council website at www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/admissions/arrangements-and-outcomes/determined-arrangements.

- Admission arrangements for community & voluntary controlled schools
- APPENDIX 1 - Published admission numbers (PANs)
- APPENDIX 2 - Schools which will operate shared sibling priority for admissions
- APPENDIX 3 - Catchment map for Stamford Green Primary School
- APPENDIX 4 – Catchment map for Walton on the Hill Primary School
- APPENDIX 5 - Supplementary form for children applying on the basis of social/medical need
- APPENDIX 6 - Supplementary form for children of staff

As part of the determination the following changes have been applied:

1. Cranmere Primary School – reduction in published admission number for Reception from 60 to 30
2. The Grange Community Infant School – reduction in published admission number for Reception from 90 to 60
3. Chennestone Primary School – reduction in published admission number for Year 3 from 40 to 30
4. Manby Lodge Infant School – introduction of a sibling link with Cleves School
5. Oatlands School – introduction of a sibling link with Cleves School
6. Oakfield Junior School – introduction of a feeder link from Fetcham Village Infant School
7. Fetcham Village Infant School and Oakfield Junior School – introduction of a reciprocal sibling link

Any person or body who considers that any aspect of these admission arrangements are unlawful or not in compliance with the School Admissions Code or relevant law relating to admissions, can make an objection to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator. Objections must be referred by 15 May 2026 and further information on how to make an objection can be obtained from the [Office of the Schools Adjudicator - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk) website.