

# Great Bookham School Newsletter Issue 26 2025/26

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*Dear Parents and Carers,*

*Welcome back to school after the Easter break. I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable time with your families and that the children are returning refreshed and ready for the busy and exciting term ahead.*

*This week, our Year 1 pupils enjoyed a wonderful trip to Chertsey Museum, where they had the opportunity to bring their learning to life through hands-on experiences and looking at toys from the past. The children explored local history, asked thoughtful questions and represented the school beautifully throughout the visit. Trips such as these are invaluable in enriching the curriculum and creating lasting memories. Thank you to Miss Higgins and Mr Wilson for organising and leading the visit, and to the parents who generously gave their time to accompany the children and support the day.*

*Our Year 5 and 6 boys also took part in a football tournament this week. It was fantastic to see such enthusiasm, teamwork and determination on display. The boys represented the school with great sportsmanship and resilience and we are very proud of all who competed. GBS came 2nd out of 9, winning a total of 14 points. Great goals from Henry S, Matthew G, and Ashton C, also very strong in defence.*

*We were delighted to host the SFET Year 2 maths competition, organised by Mrs Johnston. It was a pleasure to welcome so many enthusiastic young mathematicians from across the Trust, all eager to challenge themselves through a variety of engaging and thought-provoking maths activities. The atmosphere was full of excitement and collaboration and it was wonderful to see the children applying their skills with such confidence. Well done to everyone who took part.*

*I have pleasure in sharing the latest edition of **SFET Connect** with you all. It is designed to share stories from across the Trust and celebrate the many successes and experiences taking place across our family of schools. If you would like to read about some of the fabulous work taking place please click [here](#).*

*Looking ahead, next week marks the start of our residential trips, beginning with Year 4. For many children these experiences are a highlight of the school year and provide invaluable opportunities for independence, teamwork and personal growth. I hope the children have a restful weekend in preparation and perhaps take the opportunity to practise making their beds at home!*

*Thank you, as always, for your continued support.*

*Miss Allen*



## *Stars of the week*

Our stars for this week are:

<b>Ladybirds</b>	<b>An &amp; Teddy</b>
<b>Butterflies</b>	<b>Amalia &amp; Grace</b>
<b>Bumblebees</b>	<b>Bonnie &amp; Hattie</b>
<b>Dragonflies</b>	<b>Oscar &amp; Riley</b>
<b>Foxes</b>	<b>Josh &amp; Charlie</b>
<b>Squirrels</b>	<b>Luca &amp; Edward</b>
<b>Hedgehogs</b>	<b>Harry &amp; Cara</b>
<b>Rabbits</b>	<b>Cole &amp; Emilia</b>
<b>Eagles</b>	<b>Harlow &amp; Matilda</b>
<b>Hawks</b>	<b>Blake &amp; Luna</b>
<b>Falcons</b>	<b>Ava &amp; Isobel</b>
<b>Kestrels</b>	<b>Aidan &amp; Leia</b>

**STARS  
OF THE  
WEEK**

## *Attendance*

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

MAC the attendance bear will visit their classrooms next week.



## 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.

## Online Safety

Mobile phones: do you know the risks?

We know that children having access to a smartphone can expose children to risks including:

- Viewing inappropriate content
- Excessive screen time/use, which in turn can affect their mental health and sleep pattern
- Contact from inappropriate people/grooming
- Cyberbullying
- Spending money on in-app purchases/scams

What effects do mobile phones have on children's mental health?

Compass discuss the research around this important topic, outlining the positive and negative effects that mobile phones have: <https://compass-uk.org/services/compass-changing-lives/online-resources/what-effects-do-mobile-phones-have-on-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health/EE>

Online Safety HubEE has published age guidance for smartphone usage to improve children's digital wellbeing. In summary, they recommend that children under 11 should use non-smart devices, for children aged 11-13, they advise that if a smartphone is used, then parental controls should be enabled and access to social media restricted. Finally, for 13-16-year-olds they still recommend that parental controls are implemented and appropriate restrictions set up.

You can read the full guidance here: <https://ee.co.uk/internet-online-safety>

Could you delay when your child is given a smartphone with Smartphone Free Childhood?

The premise behind this movement is that all parents/carers of a class all agree not to give their children smartphones (therefore the level of peer pressure is reduced) for a set time or until a specific age: <https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/>

What device?

When you think it is the right time for your child to have a phone, then 'Which?' provide an overview of some options available: <https://www.which.co.uk/reviews/mobile-phones/article/buying-a-first-mobile-phone-best-dumb-phones-and-smartphones-for-kids-aA03C3Y8aTzr>

## 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*

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 - No school

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

11th 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

27th June - Colour run

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

Rhys in Reception carefully looked at the dinosaur picture and wrote what he saw. He used his sounds brilliantly and is worked hard to form lots of letters correctly.

Aaron in pre-school draw a picture of his dad and himself. Aaron was able to talk about the different features that he included in his portraits and purposefully drew himself smaller than his dad.

Romilly in Year 1 wrote an excellent letter to Greenpeace and included some very interesting questions about pigeons.


Arthur and Saffron in Year R create detailed and thoughtful pictures of dinosaurs.

Stanley in Year 1 worked so hard in phonics this week and really pushed himself to read even more than he had been asked to.

CLL: 17/4/26 CI

### Sentence Writing

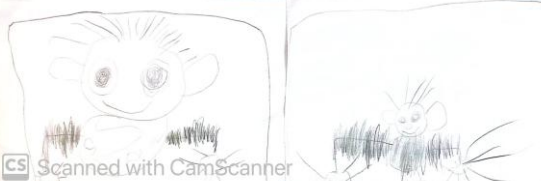
Describe what you can see in the picture.



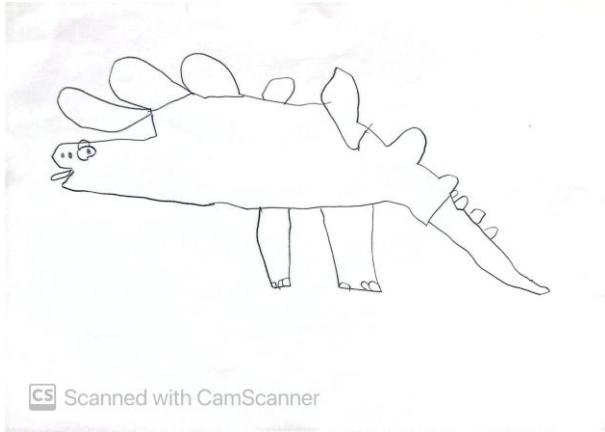
I can see  
I see a  
T-Rex  
T-Rex

Miss Allen  
says  
Well Done!  
Scanned with CamScanner

**SFET**  
South Farnham  
Educational Trust



CS Scanned with CamScanner



CS Scanned with CamScanner

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2026

✓ LO: To write a letter to ask for information.

Capital letter	Finger spaces	Full stop	Letter formation	Writing on the line
Aa		.	a	

Dear Greenpeace,  
 I am writing to  
 learn more  
 about Pigeons.  
 Questions I would  
 like to ask  
 are: How do pigeons  
 drink? How  
 do pigeons eat?  
 Thank you for  
 reading yours sincerely  
 Ranilly.

Miss Allen  
 says  
 Well Done!

CS Scanned with CamScanner



## Friends of Great Bookham School

### Smarties Challenge 2026 – Thank You!

A huge thank you to everyone for your incredible effort and generous donations during this year's Smarties Challenge! Please ensure any remaining forms and contributions are handed in to your child's teacher by **Monday, 20th April**. The winning classes will be revealed on **Monday, 27th April**—we can't wait to celebrate their success together!

### Colour Run Announcement

The Colour Run is returning in just two short months. Mark your calendars for 27th June and get ready for a spectacular celebration filled with colour, energy, and fun.

This year's event promises to be bigger and brighter than ever—a truly fantastical experience for everyone to enjoy. Stay tuned, as more exciting details will be revealed soon.

We can't wait to share this special day with you all!

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

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

Code camp

Decreasing depression

Leatherhead Girls cricket

Fetcham Hawks Netball

Understanding Teens talk

Colin Bull Swimming lessons

Ripley Cricket Club

YMCA transition to secondary



## 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](http://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 \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk) website.