

# Great Bookham School Newsletter Issue 27 2025/26

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*Dear Parents and Carers,*

*This week we have sent welcome letters to all families of children joining us in Year R and Year 3 in September. We have been overwhelmed by the number of families who chose our school as their first choice and feel very privileged to nurture and educate so many children from our community. To ensure that we continue to build strong relationships with our school community, we will be inviting all these families to a number of settle sessions and PTA events this term.*

*We are pleased to invite parents to take part in the 'DOSE' experience, a virtual event hosted by the Trust, delivered by the author of the bestselling book exploring the science of wellbeing and positive habits. This will take place at 8pm on 16th June and promises to be an engaging and informative session for families. Please sign up using the QR code below to secure your place.*

*On Monday and Tuesday, Year 4 enjoyed their first residential visit to Henley Fort. The children immersed themselves in a range of outdoor learning experiences, including bushcraft activities, team-building challenges, climbing and bouldering. They showed great enthusiasm and resilience throughout and particularly enjoyed the unique experience of sleeping in yurts. Thank you to the staff who accompanied the trip and well done to all the children for representing GBS so positively.*

*On Tuesday, Year 6 visited Sky Studios where they were given a fascinating insight into the world of broadcasting. They observed a live newsroom in action and had the opportunity to take on roles such as reporter, editor and camera operator. The children worked collaboratively to produce their own news reports, demonstrating creativity, confidence and excellent communication skills.*

*Year 2 took part in the ELP Music Festival on Wednesday and represented the school wonderfully. They sang beautifully with great enthusiasm and confidence, making us all very*

*proud. Thank you to Miss Dawson for organising and preparing the children so well for this special event.*

*Thursday was a busy day for sport across the school. The Year 5 and 6 girls took part in a football tournament, where they demonstrated excellent teamwork, determination and sportsmanship, finishing in sixth place. Thank you to Miss Jupp and Mrs Welch for their support. Meanwhile, Year 3 and 4 pupils attended a cricket festival where they developed new skills and enjoyed participating in a range of activities. Thank you to Mr Randall for accompanying them.*

*Today we say goodbye to Miss Wili, who has had her final day with Butterflies class as she prepares to go travelling. We are very grateful for her dedication and support, and we wish her every success and happiness in her future adventures.*

*This Friday, Dragonflies class led their assembly for the school and their families. They delivered a fantastic showcase of their learning, speaking confidently and sharing their achievements. Their singing of well-loved songs was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.*

*We currently have Teaching Assistant vacancies, as well as an advertised position for a Pre-school Lead. If you, or someone you know, may be interested in joining our team, please arrange a conversation with me through the school office or submit an application via Eteach.*

*The children have thoroughly enjoyed the beautiful weather this week and playing on our wonderful school field and it has prompted us to think of a few seasonal reminders:*

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- **Hay fever** - we kindly ask that any required medication is administered before school to help ensure children remain comfortable and ready to learn throughout the day.
  - **Sun tan lotion** - ideally all children will have a long lasting sun cream applied before school. For children who need to reapply, they must bring in their own named lotion and be able to apply it themselves. Please remind your children that they must not share their sun lotion with other children.
  - **Named belongings** - with the warmer weather children are naturally taking off jumpers and cardigans and sometimes leaving them on the school field. Please make sure that they and water bottles are all clearly named so we can return them to their rightful owners - the field is a big place!
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*We hope to see many of you at Billy's Bash tomorrow and look forward to another busy week in school.*

*Warm wishes*

*Miss Allen*

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## 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

### **Age ratings in games**

Age ratings exist to help protect your child, as they show whether the content is suitable for your child's age. Make sure you check the age rating of any game your child is playing.

#### *Why should I check?*

Not all games will be appropriate for your child. Some may appear child-friendly due to fun or cartoon-style graphics, but still include unsuitable content. Age ratings consider factors such as violence, frightening content, bad language and/or in-app purchases.

#### *How can I check?*

Most games are rated by PEGI (Pan European Game Information), which not only states the age you should be to play the game but also provides further content descriptors to give you an indication of the type of content that your child might encounter. Apps are rated by the App Store/Google Play.

*How can I stop my child from accessing a game they are not old enough to play?*

You can set up parental controls to restrict access to games or apps that your child is not old enough to play and set restrictions so any downloads/purchases must be approved by you.

For example:

- Nintendo – restrict software by age, so if you restrict to 10+, games with that rating or above cannot be played by your child.
- Xbox / PlayStation – set an age limit so anything that exceeds that age rating must be approved.
- Apple / Google (Family Link) – restrict your child from installing apps, allowing you to review before approving all purchases.

*What else do I need to do?*

- Review any additional content descriptors, read reviews and check if the game includes any form of communication or in-app purchases. This will help inform your decision as to whether the game is suitable for your child.
- For any game your child plays, set up appropriate parental controls.
- If you decide a game is not appropriate, explain to your child why.

We know your child might feel peer pressure to play certain games, but explaining your reasoning will help them understand your decision.

*Further information:*

<https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/parents/articles/gaming/>

## 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*

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**

1st May 2026 - Bumblebees

15th May 2026 - Rabbits

5th June 2026 - Butterflies

19th June 2026 - Ladybirds



### *Headteacher Awards*

Arthur in Year 3 independently revisited some of his learning in maths and was very excited to tell me all about his learning and understanding.

Samuel, Riley, Louie, Alfie, and Hazel in Year 5 all wrote excellent diary entries pretending to be a child who was evacuated during WW2.

Elora in Year R wrote excellent sentences to describe dinosaurs. She used her phonic sounds accurately and included ambitious words and phrases.

Seren in Year 3 has been incredibly thoughtful towards her teachers this week and ended the week with writing a very kind and funny poem for them.

Asher in Year 4 wrote an excellent poem about his monster 'Chimo'.

Sofia and Olive in Year 4 designed and created beautiful examples of a pencil case. They were able to tell me that they had learned to do blanket stitch and running stitch.

17.1.26 or 1937

Miss Allen  
says  
Well Done!

Dear Diary,

Today I have been evacuated from London to Wales. It started in the morning when my mum and dad brought me to Paddington train station where I was told Nick and I were being evacuated.

My parents were inconsolable with tears falling from their eyes. It was traumatizing. I was seated on the train and hugged my family one last time. I questioned myself, will I ever see my family again?

After a while, on the train I started to see greenery there's barely any greenery in London, there was green grass, big flowers and it felt very tranquil. It was the solar opposite of London! When the train ride ended everyone walked into a hall where random strangers started taking children. Just then, this person called Miss Evans took me and Nick. She brought us to a grocery shop which led to a giant house. There is big wooden walls like a cosy cabin. Miss Evans brought us upstairs to show us where our room is, she is very kind and caring.

At first I felt sad leaving home but this place is very nice. Although I miss home at least I have a roof over my head still.

Miss Allen  
says  
Well Done!

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 1940

Dear Diary

Today has been one of the most strangest days of my life. I have been evacuated because of the world war 2. I felt a tear drop down my eye because I don't want to leave my parents. Questioning my self will I ever be able to see my mum and dad again?

I got off the train I could feel the nice breeze of fresh air. As all of the children were leaving the hall one by one I was one of the last people to be chosen. I was feeling quite alone. As we finally made it to my new home I was excited to see what it would be like.

It was clean and tidy and all the cushions on the sofa.

17<sup>th</sup> April 1940

Dear Diary,

Saying goodbye was the hardest thing ever. As the train pulled out of Kings cross station, I watched as my parents sobbed and cried while they slowly drifted into the distance. I was more upset than ever.

The strong smell of diesel filled the carriage reminding me of the polluted smell of London. Fields stretched as far as I could see. Nature up all around me like a big cold hug. Compared to London every thing was green though London was a big concrete forest. When we arrived, we got taken into a dimly lighted room jammed with hundreds of other evacuees. I stood here for what felt like hours in a young girl's arms but I had not met her yet. The fear of the unknown terrified me.

If anyone finds this do you think I am safe? I pray one day I can hug my parents again.

Write again soon.

Miss Allen  
says  
Well Done!

Scanned with CamScanner

Miss Allen  
says  
Well Done!

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 1940

Dear Diary,

I would never have thought I would experience such a frantic and scary moment early this morning at Paddington station. Tears were dripping down everyone's eyes whilst the platform gazed scattered around the platform like cats, trying to get everyone on the train. As my mum was saying goodbye in my head I was wondering if I was going to see my parents again. Trying to be brave, I stepped onto the crowded train and watched as my mum waved from the platform.

As the train slowly pulled away, I could not stop thinking about the life I was going to have next. During the journey, I noticed the country-side was completely different from London there are no towering buildings just flat green fields as far as I could see. This was nothing like the concrete city, polluted air and crowded streets of London. The train started to slow down and stop at a tiny station with a hut.

As I got out of the train holding Nick's hand, we were guided to a great hall with dirty walls and hundreds of miserable looking children. A few moments later, a dolly started to walk us and started to

17th April 1940

Dear Diary,

Today has been the strangest day of my life. I had to evacuate from London from World War II. I was terrified of what was going to happen next. I was super stressed and panicked because I had to leave my parents. It was sad I even had tears slowly dripping down my eyes. Will my parents ever see me? There was nothing for me to do. I was feeling lonely.

When I got to my new countryside, it was peaceful and beautiful. There was lots of nature and big green fields. The air was fresh and clean. London was polluted and smoky. It was very busy and it had lots of people. I was relieved to be picked up by Miss Evans. It was a bit worrying at first about where would I live but I was feeling ok. The moon and grass felt so bringy in a new house. The countryside looked so different from home. I often was curious to know what my new home would look like. Finally I had reached my new home. It was clean and polished. There was no dust. My room was cozy and warm with tidy rugs.

It was nice to be in a clean house and I was excited. I was worried about my friends and family and I hope the war will end soon. Then I felt upset for Nick because he left his teddy at home struggling to sleep. Finally I hope to see my parents again.

I will write tomorrow

Miss Allen  
says  
Well Done!

Scanned with CamScanner

Handwritten math problems on a grid background. The problems include:

- $34 + 20 = 54$
- $82662 + 625 = 83287$
- $835$  (boxed)
- $1001 + 1001 = 2002$
- $101425 + 111 = 101536$
- $1322 + 2444 = 3766$
- $170$
- $110$

Scanned with CamScanner

**Dinosaur Descriptions**

LO: To use new vocabulary to write simple phrases and sentences.

Miss Allen says Well Done!

hee has long legs.

hee has a small brain.

hee has bite teeth.

Scanned with CamScanner

To miss Ganthorpe, Miss Hudson and Mrs Hudson,

It's finally Friday, the end of the week,

I opened the door, a suitcase and a key, I said to myself,  
It's Friday, at last, so I need to get to school super fast,

I'm here and I'm reading, and as I look up at you,  
I know that today will be great and it's... true!...

It's nearly the end, of this non-fiction letter,  
from maths to English, it just keeps getting better,  
I wish I could know you forever and for ever I wish I could be in the  
school, but that can't happen now, not at all, so good bye for now,  
at least for ever and say thanks to this Wilton.



# Butterfly

Egg  
Caterpillar lay the eggs on leaves in a row it is important you don't touch them as it may harm the eggs.  
Miss Allen says Well Done!

Caterpillars  
After the eggs hatch you get a caterpillar you might see holes in leaves that caterpillars bite marks.

Chrysalis  
This something you might call a cocoon this when the caterpillar transforms into a butterfly.

Butterfly!  
This is what we have a butterfly!

This is the life cycle of a butterfly every breathing thing had a lifecycle

1 egg 2 caterpillar 3 chrysalis 4 butterfly

Friends of Great Bookham School

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  
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

**Notice for the proposed amalgamation of St Michael's CofE Aided Infant School and Newdigate CofE Endowed Aided Infant School**

On behalf of Surrey County Council, the Diocese of Guildford, and the governing body of St Michael's CofE Aided Infant School and Newdigate CofE Endowed Aided Infant School,

please find the link below to the statutory notice for the proposed amalgamation of St Michael's CofE Aided Infant School and Newdigate CofE Endowed Aided Infant School.

[Statutory notice for the proposed amalgamation of St Michael's CofE Aided Infant School and Newdigate CofE Endowed Aided Infant School](#)

On this webpage, you can leave your feedback on the proposal. Alternatively, I have attached long and short versions of the statutory notice, and a response form to this email.

All responses must be received by **5pm on 18th May 2026**.



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