

Great Bookham School Newsletter Issue 28 2025/26

Dear Parents and Carers,

I'm sure that many of you will agree that the sunshine has been delightful this week, and the children have thoroughly enjoyed playing on the field during breaktime and taking part in lessons outdoors.

Children in Years 1, 3 and 5 took part in an exciting workshop led by our IT provider, Eduthing. Each workshop was carefully planned to link to the children's learning in geography or history and allowed them to present their learning in a variety of different ways using technology. Year 1 explored images of the landscapes of Japan and then used iPads to create their own pictures. Year 3 visited India and used green screens to create a videoed interview, and Year 5 went back in time to explore Mesoamerica using the VR headsets.

Bumblebees Class showcased their learning with pride and confidence this morning. They sang songs about the properties of shapes and the continents, while making their audience giggle with their re-enactment of what it was like to be a child at school a long time ago. Thank you to Miss Higgins and Mr Wilson for helping the children prepare for their performance.

GBS has been inspired by the National Year of Reading and has invested in new books to allow pre-school children, who will start Reception in September, the opportunity to choose a book from our new book-lending scheme. Each week, they choose a new book to take home with them to share with loved ones. Sharing stories in EYFS supports early reading skills, encourages a love of reading, and forms part of our transition process into Reception. Thank you to Mrs Harding for leading this lovely initiative for our children and families.

We are delighted to be able to host a SEND Coffee Morning on Thursday 7th May, from 8:45am to 10:00am. We will be welcoming Nicola Vivian from Woodlands School, who will be delivering a workshop on sensory regulation. It would be great to see as many parents as possible, and if you would like to attend, please complete the form below.

SEND coffee morning sign up

Today felt extra special for the children, as they were incredibly lucky to have a bouncy castle delivered to school courtesy of The GBS Friends. All children had the opportunity to bounce away some of their energy and play with their friends. Thank you to The Friends for organising this very kind act for our children.

The office staff spend many hours chasing payments. Please can I ask that you check the Balance, Orders and Instalments section under Outstanding Payments on MCAS, as well as your school meal balance. If you do not recognise any payment due on your account, please contact the school office. Please also regularly check Messages and Announcements.

*I hope that you have a relaxing bank holiday weekend and enjoy the sunshine whilst it lasts!
Please remember that there is no school on Monday 4th May.*

Miss Allen



Stars of the week

Our stars for this week are:

Ladybirds	Arlo & Louis
Butterflies	Tom & Noah
Bumblebees	George & Archie
Dragonflies	Jessica & George
Foxes	Maddie & Sophie
Squirrels	Anna & Poppy
Hedgehogs	Jacob & River
Rabbits	Asher & Elsie
Eagles	Mollie & Kaydee
Hawks	Mudiwa & Jay
Falcons	Ben & Lily
Kestrels	Matthew & Tommy

**STARS
OF THE
WEEK**

Attendance

Congratulations to Kestrels for winning the attendance certificate this week with 98.5% attendance!

MAC the attendance bear will visit their classrooms next week.



Attendance reminder

Just to remind parents/carers that if they take their children out of school without authority for 5 or more days (which do not have to be consecutive), then the following will apply:

1. If you have not incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children in a rolling 3 year period since 19 August 2024, then the penalty notice will be charged at the rate of £160.00, per parent/carer per child, if paid within 28 days. This will be reduced to £80.00 if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against you in the Magistrates Court.
2. If you have incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children since 19 August 2024, the rolling 3 year period will be activated from the date of the first penalty notice and the second penalty notice will be charged at the flat rate of £160.00, per parent/carer per child, if paid within 28 days. There will be no reduction for payment within 21 days. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against you in the Magistrates Court.
3. If you have incurred 2 penalty notices relating to this child/children in the rolling 3 year period since the first penalty notice was issued, then you will NOT receive a third penalty notice – Surrey County Council will have no option but to consider a prosecution, per parent/carer per child, in the Magistrates Court under s 444 Education Act 1996.

Surrey County Council is not responsible for authorising pupil absence and therefore cannot withdraw any Penalty Notice requests without the written permission of the Headteacher.

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

WhatsApp update: Parent-Managed Accounts

WhatsApp have announced that they are rolling out the option of Parent-Managed accounts for those under the age of 13. The settings will include allowing you to choose who can contact your child and ensuring only you can add them to groups.

Find out more here: <https://faq.whatsapp.com/894871699629864>

Whilst these features could be useful, it is important to emphasise that just because the option now exists, WhatsApp may still not be an appropriate platform for your child to be on. We often receive reports of issues, particularly with group chats on WhatsApp.

Wayne Denner (online safety trainer) explains more here:

<https://www.waynedenner.com/whatsapp-parent-managed-accounts-what-parents-need-to-know/>

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

4th May - Bank Holiday - No school

7th May - SEND Coffee morning 8:45am - 10am
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

15th May 2026 - Rabbits
5th June 2026 - Butterflies
19th June 2026 - Ladybirds

Important Dates

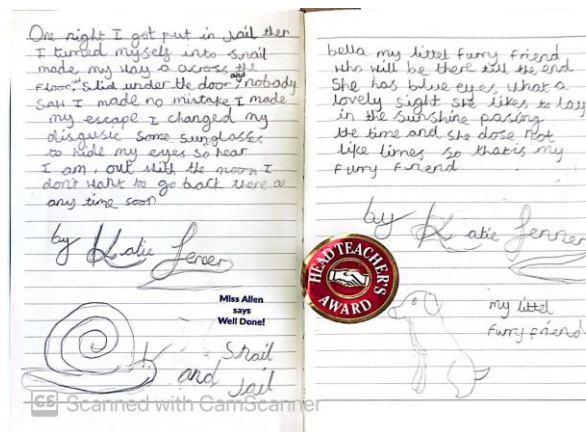


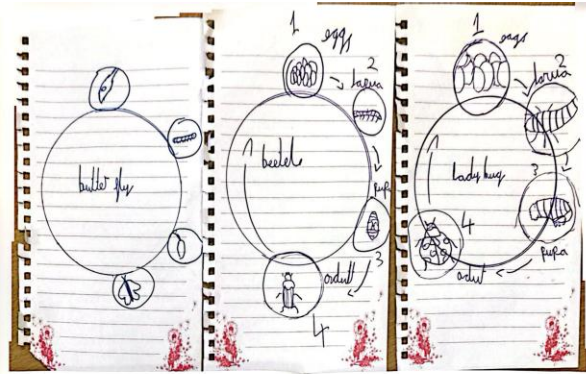
Headteacher Awards

Albert, Josie and Seren in Year 3 were inspired by their class text of *The Penguin Who Wanted to Find Out* by Jill Tomlinson. They each wrote excellent versions of the story and used their wonderful imaginations to keep their reader engaged.

Hattie in Year 5 had enjoyed her science learning so much that she decided to independently research lifecycles at home and bring in her work to share with Miss Newark.

Katie in Year 5 has been enjoying practising her poetry skill and took time at home to write some excellent poems.





Josie ①

The seal who wanted to find out
 fluffy the white-spotted seal ~~child~~
 a kind, gentle, caring personality.
 His body ~~was~~ round with a patch on
 his stomach. His legs ~~were~~ thin
 and skiny with wobbly knees
 and oval-shaped toes. His brown
 tail ~~was~~ thick with strands of
 white every once in a while. His
 mind ~~was~~ curious with ~~lines~~ ^{streaks}
 of his long lost dad making a
 checkered pattern. He lived on a hot
 humid farm, where he could hear
 birds singing, cows mooing, chickens
 clucking and pigs snorting in the
 background. There ~~was~~ green apple trees
 scattered around the farm with

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know much either. After what
felt like years, he finally told his
mother that he wanted to know
more. Out of nowhere, the owner of
the farm walked over to their stable
with another foal right beside him.
Fluffy thought to himself, "that
foal knows less than me!" Fluffy
told him all he knew.

The other foal said she was
called Snowy. Snowy said
thank you to fluffy for telling
her all he knew, and then
said, "You know way more than
I do." You know absolutely

CS Scanned with CamScanner

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loads!" And that was when
Hattie said to fluffy that he
knew as much as his dad
did ^{which} was loads, times
infinity, and Fluffy said she
was right. Fluffy and Snowy
became friends and every day
they played about in the beautiful
fields.

CS Scanned with CamScanner

The Squirrels who wanted to build a yard the squirrel and his twin brother scrabble lived in a beautiful snow white forest in the mids of canada that felt total looked like a winter wonderland to the tiny squirrels. Cyril the older of the two, though only by ten minutes, was a fiery red creature with a long fluffy tail and dagger like claws that were perfect for chopping wood. scrabble was pretty much the same apart from his claws were nowhere near as sharp as cyril's and he had yellow, orange, brown stripes on his back that made him surprisingly

But even though they had this wonderful home the one thing they wanted above all was to build!

One frosty morning they set off on a quest bringing a bag of nuts each with them and happily lept through the trees singing as they went. There as they sat down on a comfortable branch scabble a quick light to eat when suddenly

Thursday 30th of April 2026

To help and edit a story

Once upon a time, there lived a baby panda called Peppa. Peppa is a dirty, white sort of colour with patches of black on her arms, legs and ears.

she is a curious little panda and she wants to find out ~~how big~~ how big the word is and why she is born. ✓

One day at the busy, hot zoo where Peppa lives Chilly (Peppa's mum) was minding her ~~own~~ own business ^{business} when Peppa woke up and rolled onto her tummy to get some food.

"Hey!" screamed Chilly "I was having my breakfast."
"Breakfast is your whole day!" roared the grumpy panda, rolling his eyes. ✓

CS Scanned with CamScanner

Miss Allen
says
Well Done!

Friends of Great Bookham School

Colour Run Announcement - The Colour Run is returning on 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.

We will start planning for this event next week so if anyone would like to help us please do get in touch by emailing friends.gbs@sft.org.uk or on the PTA facebook group. Any amount of time you can give will be valuable as we are such a small and friendly team.

Shed Announcement - Anyone who has helped at one of our events will know that the only storage we currently have are two small a leaky sheds in the infant playground. The PTA are thrilled to announce that we now have approval to build a proper waterproof storage facility near the long jump track. We are hugely grateful for this as it will make it so much easier to run events as we can store everything on site rather than filling PTA member's lofts!!

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.

- 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/government/organisations/office-of-the-schools-adjudicator) website.