

# Great Bookham School Newsletter Issue 29 2025/26

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*Dear Parents and Carers,*

*Although this has been a shorter week in school, it has certainly been a busy and action-packed one, with lots of exciting opportunities for our children to learn, reflect and celebrate together.*

*A huge thank you to everyone who attended our SEND coffee morning hosted by Mrs Pitcher. It was wonderful to see so many parents and carers come together to share experiences, ideas and support so openly. These opportunities to work in partnership are incredibly valuable and help us to continue strengthening the support we provide for all of our children.*

*Our Year 6 pupils enjoyed their recent trip to the Vineries for their science topic 'the classification of living things', where they represented the school brilliantly. Educational visits such as these provide valuable opportunities for children to extend their learning beyond the classroom, while also developing independence, confidence and teamwork. We are very proud of the enthusiasm shown throughout the visit.*

*On Tuesday, pupils took part in a Deaf Awareness assembly which helped to promote understanding, inclusion and respect. The children engaged thoughtfully with the message of the assembly and learned more about the experiences of those within the deaf community, as well as the importance of communication and empathy.*

*Today, 10 of our Year 6 girls proudly represented the school at the finals of the Girls Primary Fitness Games. They placed an impressive 4th and 6th out of 16 teams, competing with determination and resilience in a very tough event. The girls demonstrated excellent teamwork throughout, encouraging and supporting one another every step of the way. We are incredibly proud of their positive attitude, effort, and perseverance – they were fantastic ambassadors for our school.*

*We are incredibly proud of our wonderful Year 1 teacher, Miss Higgins. Alongside her amazing work in the classroom, Miss Higgins is an avid rugby player and has recently been awarded Player of the Year for Dorking Rugby Club – a fantastic achievement.*

*We will be celebrating this success with the children next week, as Miss Higgins is such a positive role model, showing our pupils the importance of dedication, teamwork, and perseverance both in and out of school.*

*We also enjoyed celebrating the 100th birthday of Sir David Attenborough, recognising his incredible contribution to the natural world and environmental education. Children spent time reflecting on the importance of caring for our planet and the inspiring work he has carried out over many decades to raise awareness of conservation and wildlife across the globe.*

*A reminder that our special Census Day meal will take place on Thursday 21st May. Children will be able to choose between chicken bites or vegetable goujons. Please remember to select your child's meal choice via MCAS ahead of the day.*

*Finally, we would like to wish all of our Year 6 children the very best of luck as they prepare for their SATs next week. They have worked exceptionally hard and shown great determination in the lead up to the assessments and we are incredibly proud of their efforts.*

*We look forward to welcoming Year 6 pupils into school for breakfast from Monday to Thursday next week from 8:15am, helping them to start each day feeling calm, confident and ready to do their best.*

*Kind regards,*

*Miss Allen*

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## *Stars of the week*

Our stars for this week are:

<b>Ladybirds</b>	<b>George &amp; Saffron</b>
<b>Butterflies</b>	<b>Isaac &amp; Jax</b>
<b>Bumblebees</b>	<b>Cecily &amp; Jack</b>
<b>Dragonflies</b>	<b>Freddie &amp; Zoe</b>
<b>Foxes</b>	<b>Ben &amp; Lizzie</b>
<b>Squirrels</b>	<b>Oscar &amp; Darcey</b>
<b>Hedgehogs</b>	<b>Amaanah &amp; Harry</b>
<b>Rabbits</b>	<b>Edward &amp; Mollie</b>
<b>Eagles</b>	<b>Harrison &amp; Hattie</b>
<b>Hawks</b>	<b>William &amp; Aaron</b>
<b>Falcons</b>	<b>Zaki &amp; Harry</b>
<b>Kestrels</b>	<b>Mya &amp; Charlie</b>

**STARS  
OF THE  
WEEK**

## *Attendance*

Congratulations to Kestrels for winning the attendance certificate this week with 98.9% 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

Real or Fake?

Essex Police have launched a groundbreaking AI Safety Campaign in partnership with BT and EE to tackle the growing risks posed by artificial intelligence (AI) misuse and deepfake technology. This is the first time a UK police force is working directly with a global technology firm to provide practical advice to parents, guardians and young people.

AI technology offers incredible opportunities, but it also introduces serious risks when misused.

Deepfake content – highly convincing, fabricated images or videos – can be used to exploit young people, sometimes without their knowledge. Artificially generated Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) is one of the fastest-emerging crimes that Essex Police is actively investigating.

The campaign is designed to help you understand:

- What deepfakes are and why they matter
- How to protect children from online harm
- What to do if an image is misused

Find out more here, including advice on how to protect your child:

<https://eephonesmart.co.uk/fake-or-real>

## 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*

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



### *Headteacher Awards*

George and Billy-James in Year R produced fantastic paintings of animals to celebrate Sir David Attenborough's 100th birthday. They looked very carefully at the colours and details of each animal and should be very proud of their thoughtful work.

Evie in Year 3 has been working extremely hard in maths, showing great determination and a positive attitude to learning.

Harlow and William in Year 5 also worked hard to draw and paint animals to celebrate Sir David Attenborough's birthday, demonstrating excellent creativity and attention to detail.

Jess in Year 2 continued her science learning at home and produced an excellent poster, showing real curiosity and effort.

Everly and Florence in Year 2 were very proud to share their recounts writing about visiting the Tower of London and attending the ELP music festival. They worked hard to edit and improve their first draft, showing great commitment to developing their writing skills.

Bonnie in Year 1 worked extremely hard to produce excellent writing all about the five senses. I was so impressed by how much she wrote and by her beautiful letter formation.

Rilee, Ada, Vira, Seren, Freya, Mia and Amelie in Year 3 were inspired by their learning about penguins. They produced fabulous information pages, showing great focus, creativity and enthusiasm for the topic.



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### Angles in a Triangle - Missing Angles

1) Calculate the value of angles  $y$  and  $z$  using the given facts.

a) Angles on a straight line sum to  $180^\circ$ .  
Angles in a triangle sum to  $180^\circ$ .

b) Two angles in an isosceles triangle are equal.

c) Vertically opposite angles are equal.

d) Angles around a point sum to  $360^\circ$ .

e) right angles =  $90^\circ$

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e) right angles =  $90^\circ$

Miss Allen says Well Done!



David attempts his birthday



# LIFECYCLE OF different animals



I Love science!



Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2026

To draft and edit a recount using the past tense consistently.

On Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March My class visited The Tower of London for our school trip. We also went to the Howard School of Eppingham for our local, amazing and wonderful E.P.L. Festival on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> of April. Would you like to know all about it? I had an wonderful time and I would love to tell you all about it! Read on because I'm going to tell you the most amazing bits!

Firstly we spent the whole morning in the stony, stone, tall history of the Tower of London! There was a shiny silver armor that chimed in the sunlight. There also was a big bearded soldier and the gems were as

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sparkly as the sunlight armor that sparkled in the bright sunlight.

My favourite was the Tower of London because there was so many things in the past of history that I didn't know about.

I learnt that the guards had to change to protect the King's house. If you ever visited I recommend the Tower of London area.

After that I entered the brilliant singing festival all about colours and patterns.

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Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2026

To draft and edit a recount using the past tense consistently.

On Thursday the 26<sup>th</sup> of March we went to the Tower of London. We had so much fun there! Do you want to hear about it? It started at home. I woke up, I got dressed and got in the car to go to school. I got to school and it was so so busy! I got ready for a big day in London. We went for the coach. Finally we <sup>SAW</sup> it and then we got on. It was so hard! We travelled for ages and then we arrived. We parked then we got out of the coach. We made our way out of the coach car park. When we got to the

dusty, cracked and old tower we went into the basement to eat our delicious lunch.

LO: To write an information page

Capital letter <b>Aa</b>	Finger spaces 	Full stop <b>.</b>	Letter formation <b>a</b>	Writing on the line <u>dog</u>
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Introduction:

The 5 senses are:

sight, hearing, smell, touch, taste

**Sight:**  
We use our eyes to see  
eyes to see  
eyes to see  
eyes to see

**Hearing:**  
We use our ears to hear  
ears to hear  
ears to hear  
ears to hear

Miss Allen says Well Done!

## EMPEROR

### DIET

Emperor penguins eat fish, shrimp, krill and squid. But as winter by their partners would they are all weight and look by their size. penguins are carnivores and mostly eat shell and tiny things.

### HABITAT

Emperor penguins live together in the same Emperor penguins live in Antarctica at the south pole. penguins can live up to 15 to 20 years on the land.

## PENGUIN FACT FILE

### APPEARANCE

Both penguins have white and grey feathers. They have orange on their necks with yellow patches. They have black skin. They have orange beaks that curve and they have black stripes that help them to swim.

### DID YOU KNOW?

There are 17 different penguin species. There are 17 different penguin species. There are 17 different penguin species. There are 17 different penguin species.

## Penguin Fact File!

### Appearance

Emperor penguins are white and black. They have no wings. They have a long neck. They have a long neck. They have a long neck. They have a long neck.

### Habitat

They live in Antarctica at the bottom of the world. They live in Antarctica at the bottom of the world. They live in Antarctica at the bottom of the world. They live in Antarctica at the bottom of the world.

### Did you know?

Emperor penguins are very fat. They are very fat. They are very fat. They are very fat.

### Fun Fact!

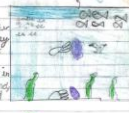
Emperor penguins are very fat. They are very fat. They are very fat. They are very fat.

075%

# PENGUIN


**DIET**  
Emperor penguins eat fish, shrimp and krill that is caught by the MUMS until they grow up they can stay in the water for two to minutes. They don't have teeth so adults swallow their food whole.

**HABITAT**  
Penguins huddle together in deep water. They live in high, grassy coastal regions. Some species live in the Galapagos Islands, New Zealand and South Africa.



**APPEARANCE**  
Chicks, loose fluffy and grow only feathers they can't fly. All depend when you see what type of penguin you see. Black back, white belly and yellow beak. They have patches of orange and yellow around their feet and ears.

Did you know? Emperor penguins can swim up to 20km/h. Penguins can walk, run and hop.



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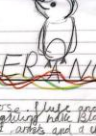
# PENGUIN

**DIET!**  
Emperor penguins kill squid that is caught by their parents until they grow up.

**HABITS**  
Penguins huddle together in deep water. They live in high, grassy coastal regions. Some species live in the Galapagos Islands, New Zealand and South Africa.

**APPEARANCE!**  
Chicks, loose fluffy and grow only feathers they can't fly. All depend when you see what type of penguin you see. Black back, white belly and yellow beak. They have patches of orange and yellow around their feet and ears.

Did you know? Emperor penguins can swim up to 20km/h. Penguins can walk, run and hop.



**FACTS**


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**HEADTEACHER'S AWARD**

**DIET**  
Penguins are carnivores this means they like to eat fish, squid and krill. Adult penguins help to look after and protect their egg.

Adult penguins must huddle in the sea so they can keep warm.



Did you know? Emperor penguins and Adels penguins sometimes prey on Adels penguins.

**APPEARANCE**  
Penguins have...  
black backs  
white bellies  
and a white cap.  
Their beak helps them catch their prey under water. They can walk 20 minutes.

Did you know?  
Emperor penguins can swim very long distances.

Miss Allen  
2023  
Well Done!

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# PENGUINS

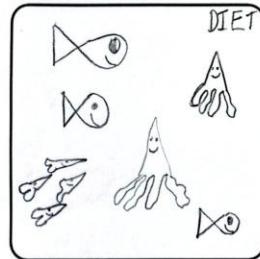
**APPEARANCE**

- Emperor penguins have white tummies, yellow beaks and black cheeks and flippers
- Chicks are normally grey when they hatch from their egg
- Some species have yellow or orange beaks on the top of their heads.



**HABITAT**

- Penguins live on sea and ice in Antarctica.
- Some species live in New Zealand and South Africa.



**DIET**

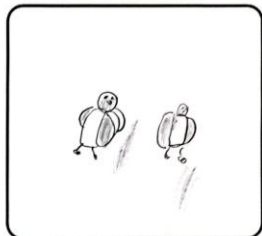
- Penguins eat small fish, squid and krill.
- They can stay under water for over 10 minutes to hunt for their prey.
- Chicks get red from their parents beaks.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

- Penguins don't have teeth they have bristles in their mouths.
- There are four main penguin groups and they hop, waddle, run and toboggan.

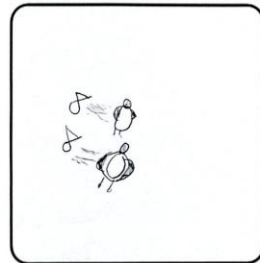
**Appearance**

- Emperor penguins have black heads, beaks and they have black flippers and white tummies.
- They have patches of orange and yellow around their eyes.
- Penguins go bald when they are growing into an adult.
- Chicks are grey when they hatch.



**Diet**

- Emperor penguins dive into the sea to catch fish, squid and krill.



**Habitat**

- Emperor penguins live on ice and in the world of Antarctica in the southern world.
- Very cold places can be over 20.

**Did you know?**

- Emperor penguins can swim very long distances.
- Leopard seals and orcas sometimes prey on penguins.

## 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@sfet.org.uk](mailto:friends.gbs@sfet.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

The Grange Spring Fair

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

**Consultations for Eastwick Infant School and Polesden Lacey Academy can be found on your MCAS account under messages**

### **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.