

# Great Bookham School Newsletter

## Issue 30 2025/26

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*Dear Parents and Carers,*

*It has been another busy and exciting week across the school, with many wonderful opportunities for our children to learn, grow and celebrate success together.*

*Our Year 6 pupils completed their SATs assessments this week and we are incredibly proud of the resilience, determination and maturity they demonstrated throughout. They approached each test with positivity and perseverance, showing just how much they have grown during their time at primary school. A huge well done to all of the children and thank you to staff and families for their continued encouragement and support. The children celebrated all of their hard work with an exciting SATs party, which ended with a fantastic water fight on the school field! Thank you to all parents and carers who donated food, drinks and decorations, and special thanks to Mrs Spence, who provided a wonderful range of party accessories, including a popcorn machine and giant light-up letters spelling out '2026'. Next week, our Year 6 children head off on their residential, marking the start of many exciting events as they prepare to conclude their time at Great Bookham School.*

*This week our Pre-school, EYFS and Year 1 children took part in a fantastic Balance Bike Workshop. The session provided a wonderful opportunity for children to develop their confidence, coordination and balance skills in a fun and engaging environment. It was lovely to see so many smiling faces and growing confidence throughout the day.*

*Today, Year 3 enjoyed an exciting educational visit to Nower Wood, where the children immersed themselves in outdoor learning and nature-based activities. From minibeast hunts and woodland exploration to learning about habitats and wildlife, the day was filled with curiosity and discovery. Experiences such as these bring classroom learning to life and create lasting memories for our pupils. Thank you to the Year 3 team for organising such a valuable trip and to the parents who supported the visit and helped make the day so memorable for the children.*

*Congratulations to Rabbits Class for their fantastic assembly. The children confidently showcased their learning and should be extremely proud of their performance. It was wonderful to see them sharing their many talents, including playing instruments, singing, sporting achievements, teamwork and much more. Thank you to Mrs Jupp and Miss Williams for organising such a wonderful assembly, and to all of the parents and family members who attended to support the children.*

*We are thrilled that Leatherhead Theatre have made it to the finals of this years Muddy Stiletto's award. Once again all junior children will be performing there on **3rd July** (more details to follow soon). The team at the Theatre work so hard behind the scenes and it's a fantastic local facility that many of us use and need to continue to use.*

*Please click [here](#), select Best Arts, Culture and Theatre and select The Leatherhead Theatre. Press vote and make sure you verify the email you receive.*

*Just a note for your diaries – on **Saturday 20th June**, Bookham Village Day will take place. Great Bookham School, including our wonderful pre-school, is warmly invited to join the parade alongside other local schools. It's always a fantastic day out, so it would be wonderful to see lots of you there celebrating with us!*

*I hope you all have restful weekends ready for the last week of this half term.*

*Miss Allen*

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## Attendance reminder

Just to remind parents/carers that if they take their children out of school without authorisation 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

### Group Chats

Is your child part of any group chats? This could be on social media, for example, on WhatsApp or within games such as Fortnite. If so, it is important that you are aware of the potential risks, which include:

- Inappropriate content – there is often a lack of moderation within chat facilities, so users could be exposed to content/language that is not suitable for their age.
- Bullying – there are many instances where inappropriate/hurtful comments are shared within groups, this could take the form of name-calling or body shaming. Bullying can also be in the form of excluding others from the group. These issues often overspill into ‘real life’.
- Strangers – your child could be added to groups with people they do not know or even with someone that they have previously blocked.
- Conversations can be shared/screenshot – make sure your child is aware that anything they share within a group can be shared with others.
- Sharing personal information – remind your child to be aware of the information they share with others, including images and location.

How can I help make group chats safer?

- Check the recommended age rating and adhere to it.
- Set up age-appropriate parental controls, suitable privacy settings, and set screen time limits.
- On WhatsApp, you can do a privacy check by going to settings, privacy and privacy checkup.
- Show your child how to use any reporting and blocking tools.

What else can I do?

- It is crucial to have regular conversations with your child about the risks outlined above and about what they are doing online.
- Talk about who they are chatting with, encourage them to think carefully about what they send and how it could be perceived by others. Talk about positivity and not saying anything hurtful. Ask them to think about whether they would say what they are messaging, face-to-face.
- Devices should be used in family rooms so you can monitor what they are doing and who they are interacting with.
- Finally, make sure to model good digital behaviour yourself, as children often learn by observing the adults around them.

Further information: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/socialmedia/chat-apps/>

## 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*

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

**20th June - Bookham Village Day - more information to follow**

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**

5th June 2026 - Butterflies

19th June 2026 - Ladybirds



### *Headteacher Awards*

Rhys in Year R brightened my day by coming to sing a song he had created himself, he had such creativity and confidence at such a young age!

Amelia in Year 3 has shown fantastic independence by continuing her maths learning at home. She proudly shared a book she has created, full of her own calculations — a brilliant example of self-motivation.

A group of pupils in Year 4 — Luna, Sophie, Darcie, Ned, Evie, Maël, Kaydee and Beau — produced outstanding setting descriptions. They rose to the challenge of using all of the senses except sight, demonstrating impressive imagination and writing skills.

Jess in Year 2 also came to share the excellent progress she has been making in her writing. It was wonderful to see how her hard work is paying off.

Ellie in Year 4 has been learning about Sikhism and wrote a thoughtful diary entry from the perspective of a Sikh. Her work showed great understanding, and her presentation was exceptional.

Cecily produced an excellent story, demonstrating accurate use of exclamation marks. Her handwriting was exceptional — a fantastic effort!

Thursday 7th May 2026

To know that the the three main duties of a Sikh are to 'pray, work and give'

I woke up this morning to a bright beautiful Sun light streaming through my window. The first thing I did was have a bath to be clean then I pray/meditate on God. I do this because it is important to keep God at the front of our minds all day.

After getting dressed I went to work, I work at a care home. As a Sikh I am not permitted to work in a shop with alcohol or cigeretts and vapes because it could cause real harm to lots of people.

I was paid today, I have decided to give some of my money to charity because Sikhs believe its kind/helpfull to other people.

When I got home, I decided to spend some time reading my holy book. This is called the Guru Granth Sahib. It is very special to me and I store it carefully. I treat it like it is my very precious book.

Wow! Absolutely incredible work!

Miss Allen says Well Done!

CS Scanned with CamScanner

Thursday 14th May 2026

LO: To draft and edit an ending using exclamation marks

The Little Wolf



| Capital letter | Finger spaces | Full stop | Letter formation | Writing on the line |
|----------------|---------------|-----------|------------------|---------------------|
| Aa             |               | .         |                  | dag                 |

Oh no! Little Wolf is stuck  
how are we going to get him  
blown. Little Wolf is stuck on the  
sparkly, big moon.  
One ~~wolves~~ of the  
wolves ~~se~~ saw a  
hot air balloon.

CS Scanned with CamScanner

\* So they ~~was~~ started  
it they ~~gl~~ up up  
and up but the hot air  
balloon hit a ~~re~~ nail  
so little wolf was st  
stuck. One of the  
wolves had a <sup>staked</sup> billing  
idea or they scared ~~to~~  
\* some trees in to a  
ladder one of the  
wolves started to climb  
the trees ladder  
don't look down! So  
he didn't look down and  
he got little wolf

now, <sup>or</sup> cum down" and  
he looked down. No!  
\* Said one of the ~~w~~  
wolves so and he  
came down and ~~ki~~  
Little Wolf lived  
happy ever after.

sp. come come come

VF. Speech marks

## To write a setting description

As a blind man, many people often assume that I don't get to enjoy the beauty of nature around me. Although, I can't by using my other four senses (hear, touch, smell and taste), the forest has a place in my heart that I can connect to when I'm feeling down. You see the forest allows me to 'see' in ways that everyone else can.

As I step into the forest, the beautiful noise of chirping birds filled my ears with happiness. Every step I took, crunching leaves snapped beneath me like chocolate bars. The swaying wind scribbled like they were whispering through the trees. The sticky, sticky sap, stuck to my fingers as I was done. Bees were buzzing by my ears. The wet, dripping waterfall satisfied my ears. As I slowly dipped my hand in the water, it was cold like grazing me.

As I breathed in deeply, the forest filled my nose with a rich earthy smell. When I tasted the sour berries, it was like a tangy explosion in my mouth. My nose tingled with a scent of sweet flowers. My mouth had a taste of cold water from the forest runs.

Although many people think that I do not embrace the beauty around me, I do take in every second of it. The forest helps me see and I can enjoy it in different ways to you...

Miss Allen  
says  
Well Done!

Scanner

## To write a setting description

I don't need sight to appreciate the beauty of the forest and everything else around me. Every sound, every scent and every texture has helped me to learn me to value nature even if I can't see it. It's still like my second family. Even if I can't see the trees and the birds it's still my comfort.

Every step I take I can feel my boots sink into the moss as slippery as a wet fish. I can hear the birds wings flap gracefully through the air as they sang like a beautiful orchestra pouring the air as I reached out to the stream as fast as light internal coldness took over my hand. I could feel the tree trunk with bark as hard as armor.

The forest seemed to speak to me, through whistling wind and humming crickets. As I took a deep breath, my lungs were consumed with cold air. The wind felt as strong as ruthless waves, right above the stampede of tiny elegant birds with wings as free as air.

Miss Allen  
says  
Well Done!

Scanned with Scanner

### To write a setting description.

As a blind man, people assume that I can't accept the beauty of nature around me. However, they could be more wrong. Luckily, I still have four more senses that are smell, touch, hear and taste. The forest allows me to see in a way that people can't.

I stepped into the forest and the beautiful noise of singing birds reached my ears. Every step I took, I could hear the crunching leaves under my feet. The swaying wind surrounded me like a crowd of people. I could hear the crickets humming and the birds chirping around me like they were singing. As I reached out, I could feel the rough bark scratching my fingers like sand paper. Above me, I could feel the leaves falling. The forest filled my nose with all sorts of smells from flowers to fruit. The air smelled rich and fresh. My nose tingled with the smell of flowers. The trees swayed like they were talking to each other. The delicious, sweet berries tasted like tiny droops of sugary juice.

To me the forest means everything from every whispering leaf to every bird song it will always be in my heart. Being blind does not stop me from seeing, it means that I can't see in a way other people can.

Miss Allen  
says  
Well Done!

### To write a setting description.

As a blind man, people assume that I can't appreciate the nature around me. Forest and nature have a special place in my heart. I don't need my sight to see. I can use my other senses.

Every step I took, I heard the sound of crunching leaves and snapping twigs. The swaying wind sounded like soft music, it made me feel as if I could see. I felt the cozy bark covered in moss as if it was almost a basket.

The forest filled my nose with the smell of damp earth and berries. When I tasted it, it tasted like a sweet and sour black berry.

People say I can't look and care for nature but I still can in my own way, being blind does not stop me from seeing the forest.

Miss Allen  
says  
Well Done!

## Dafie

I'm a blind woman. Some people think it's strange that I can see but little do they know, I can see in other unique ways. As I walked into the forest, immediately, I am welcomed by an orchestra of talented Robins. Soft moss rubbed up against my hand like a woolly sheep. I could smell the fresh rain glowing through the air and the rich scent of the damp soil. In the distance, I could taste the scent of wild straw berries hit me like a tornado.

Nature should not only be for people that can see, it should be for blind people as well. Blind people don't need sight to see the forest taught me to see in other unique ways.

Miss Allen  
says  
Well Done!

A lot of people have often told me, that sight is a wonderful thing and that me, as a blind man, is missing out on a lot... but they are wrong, you don't need to see to appreciate the natural world. People think too much about seeing, that they don't taste, feel or hear - Until now!

Every day, I take my morning stride into the magical forest. As I walk, I can feel the rocky ground under my feet and the rough, solid bark of the oak trees as they scrape my hands. I could hear a chorus of birds in the beautiful treetops and a cricket, clicking to the beat of its chattering song. That's when I knew I was where I wanted to be, I could hear water splashing down like a falling being, and taste the morning air, pure perfume upon my tongue. The waterfall was nearby I knew, I could hear its splashing, welcoming sound on my right and the old, rotting smell of a dead tree near the waterfall. Guided by the water, I walked towards the sound, my feet were suddenly filled with cold, running water a lake in my shoes. I was at the waterfall. Near the waterfall I could hear a river, flowing on its way.

Slowly I followed the river downstream, I felt my shoes filling up with water at every possible moment, the gorgeous natural smell of the forest filled my nostrils, waking up from its slumber. Suddenly I felt the river curving.

Miss Allen  
says  
Well Done!

Many People think because I'm blind I can't appreciate Nature. However my daily trips to the forest have taught me to use my other senses. Being blind doesn't mean I can't see the beauty of nature, I see it in my own unique way.

The Pungent smell of lavender calms my mind as the rough, rickety bark blisters my hands, I hear blue birds singing like a choir in an orchestra. I felt berries on a bush and gently put one in my mouth and the sweet sugary taste blooms in my mouth. I feel the flowers tickle my legs as they brush gracefully past me. The smell of a fresh winter morning fills my nose as I stroll across a water fall thrusting down like a heavy rain storm.

This peaceful woodland will forever be my happiness and being blind won't bring me away from my happiness.

Miss Allen  
says  
Well Done!

Scanner

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2026

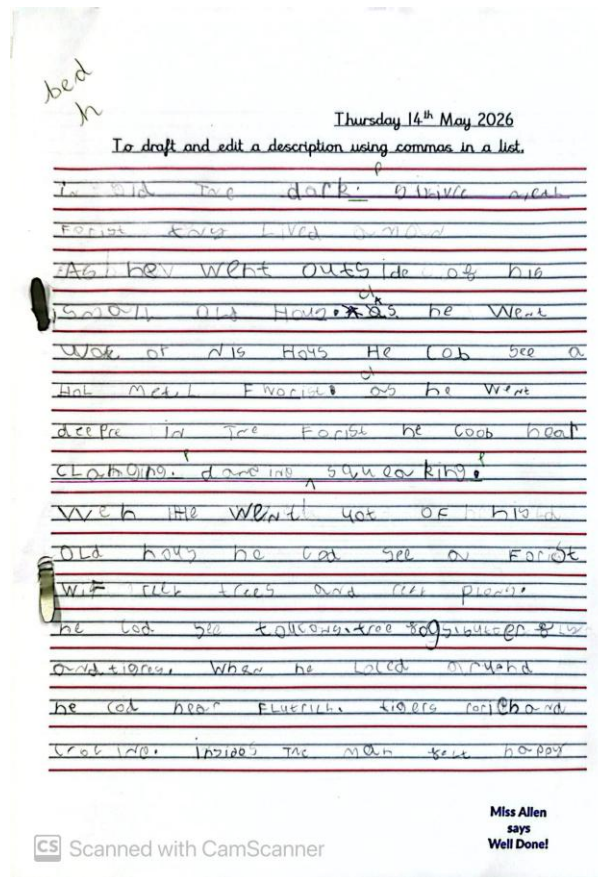
To write a setting description

Many people have often told me that I can't appreciate the world around me and I have no care for nature. However, they couldn't be more wrong. I do not need sight to find beauty to make me feel calm. The forest allows me to 'see' in ways that others cannot.

As I slowly walked into the forest, I immediately heard a chorus of birds singing in a choir. The misty leaves crunched like snapping ~~white~~ chocolate bars as I carefully treaded over them.

Miss Allen  
says  
Well Done!

Scanner




## Friends of Great Bookham School

**Colour Run Helpers** - The Colour Run is returning on 27th June and get ready for a spectacular celebration filled with colour, energy, and fun.

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.

**Expression of interest for stalls at the colour run** - Thank you to everyone who has expressed their interest in having a stall for the fair. We will be in touch with all the successful applicants as soon as possible.

**Raffle Prize Donations Needed** 🎉 At the Colour Run the PTA will be hosting a raffle, and we are kindly asking for donations of prizes. These could include anything from vouchers, gift sets, toys, experiences, or services—big or small, every contribution makes a difference and helps us raise valuable funds for our school. Do you have a business, or know someone who might be able to support us? We would love to hear from you! Email us at: [friends.gbs@sfet.org.uk](mailto:friends.gbs@sfet.org.uk); Or message us via the PTA Facebook group. All donors will be acknowledged and your generosity will directly support activities and resources that benefit all our pupils. Thank you for your continued support—we can't wait to see you at the Colour Run!

 **Fundraising priorities** - Please see the attached poster which outlines our fundraising priorities. This poster is not yet approved by the school so it cannot be shared far and wide, but we just wanted to give you an idea of how our events will benefit your children.



**GREAT BOOKHAM SCHOOL**

# SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL

TOGETHER WE CAN CREATE AMAZING SPACES & EXPERIENCES FOR EVERY CHILD

**FUNDRAISING PRIORITY**

**A NEW LIBRARY SPACE**  
Supporting the creation and furnishing of a welcoming new library for all pupils to enjoy and learn in.

**OUR PROGRESS**  
£6,250 42%

*Thank you for helping us reach our goal!*

**TARGET £15,000**  
**OUR GOAL**

READ DREAM LEARN

**FUTURE PROJECTS**

**PLAYGROUND DEVELOPMENT**  
Helping fund exciting new playground installations to enhance outdoor play and wellbeing.

**FOREST SCHOOL & OUTDOOR LEARNING**  
Creating inspiring outdoor learning spaces, including a potential outdoor classroom and renewed pond area.

**WHOLE SCHOOL ENRICHMENT EXPERIENCES**  
Supporting memorable experiences for every child, including whole-school events and activities such as the panto.

**EVERY CONTRIBUTION MAKES A DIFFERENCE**  
*Thank you for supporting our school community!*

friends of GB

★ ★ ★ ★ QUESTIONS OR OFFERS OF SUPPORT: [friends.gbs@sft.org.uk](mailto:friends.gbs@sft.org.uk) ★ ★ ★ ★

## 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

Weekly groups for babies - toddlers

Swimming lessons

SEND Families meet up

Bookham Tennis Club

Aerial Tumbling Club

London TKD

Leatherhead Football club open sessions

Your Space Therapies

Decreasing depression

Leatherhead Girls cricket

Understanding Teens talk

Colin Bull Swimming lessons

YMCA transition to secondary

Juniper Hall Family Events

Bookham Colts Girls Wildcat Programme

Dance Shack May Half Term

Surrey Football Coaching Centres May Half Term

Multi Sports May Half Term

Action Theatre May Half Term Workshop

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

**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**.