

# Great Bookham School Newsletter

## Issue 31 2025/26

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*Dear Parents and Carers,*

*On Monday, we waved our fabulous Year 6 cohort and their teachers off to enjoy their residential school trip at Lower Grange Farm. Nell in Year 6 has written the following recount of their adventures:*

At Lower Grange Farm, our Year 6 residential trip, we stayed in yurts for three nights and four days. The fun activities included quad bikes, paddle sports, frisbee golf, caving in the cave bus and many more. We participated in various activities each day from 9:30am until 4:30pm and had dinner at 5pm. After dinner, in our free time, we played football or relaxed in our yurts. On the first night, we had a bonfire with Rhys (an instructor) and sung different songs, such as 'I've been bitten by a boa constrictor'. We also had smores that we cooked on the fire. On the second evening we played a range of games and on the last night we watched a film in the barn. Everyone really enjoyed their time there and the teachers were very proud of us!

*We are incredibly proud of all of our Year 6 pupils for the enthusiasm, resilience and excellent behaviour they demonstrated throughout the trip. Thank you to all of the wonderful staff that took such good care of the children.*

*Today, Year 5 enjoyed an engaging river walk to the River Mole as part of their geography learning. They explored how rivers shape the landscape, using key geographical terms such as erosion and deposition, and considered the environmental impact of pollution. Simon, a representative from River Mole River Watch, delivered an informative talk, deepening the children's understanding. He inspired lots of thoughtful questions and helped to further their appreciation of their local environment.*

*10 children from Year 4 took part in a cricket festival today at Chipstead Cricket club where they practised their batting and bowling skills before playing a match against West Ashtead School. Everyone was brilliantly behaved on what was a very hot and sunny afternoon. Thank you to Mrs Jupp and the parent and grandparent supporters.*

*On Thursday, we welcomed Year 2 children from local primary schools for their first 'settle' session ahead of joining us in Year 3. Our current Year 2 children were delighted to meet them and it was lovely to see them spending the afternoon playing so beautifully together. It is incredibly exciting to be welcoming so many new children to our school, and we are very much looking forward to seeing them again at their next 'Play and Stay' session, and then once more on our 'Bump Up Day' on 1st July.*

*The Trust are committed to listening carefully to the voiced within our trust community and are launching the **SFET Big Listen Survey** from **8th June** to **19th June**. The **Big Listen** is a vital opportunity to gather meaningful feedback from staff, pupils, parents, and carers. The insights gained will play an important role in shaping future priorities and strengthening the experience of everyone within our Trust. Full details will be sent after half term and we will be encouraging as many people within our school community to complete the survey to ensure that your voice matters.*

*I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support and to wish you a happy and restful half term. Enjoy the sunshine, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back for an exciting final half term of the academic year on Monday 1st June.*

*Warm regards*

*Miss Allen*

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## *Stars of the week*

Our stars for last week are:

<b>Ladybirds</b>	<b>Casper &amp; Evie</b>
<b>Butterflies</b>	<b>Melissa &amp; Luke</b>
<b>Bumblebees</b>	<b>Alfie &amp; Arthur</b>
<b>Dragonflies</b>	<b>Amayah &amp; Alfie</b>
<b>Foxes</b>	<b>Tabitha &amp; Benji</b>
<b>Squirrels</b>	<b>Squirrels Class &amp; Amelia</b>
<b>Rabbits</b>	<b>Maddie &amp; Emily</b>
<b>Eagles</b>	<b>Noah &amp; Kai</b>
<b>Hawks</b>	<b>Matthew &amp; Lily</b>

Our stars for this week are:

<b>Ladybirds</b>	<b>Vienna &amp; Lily</b>
<b>Butterflies</b>	<b>Sonny &amp; Teddy B</b>
<b>Bumblebees</b>	<b>Zachary &amp; Isaac</b>
<b>Dragonflies</b>	<b>Ayda &amp; Cora</b>
<b>Foxes</b>	<b>Yahya &amp; Maisie</b>
<b>Squirrels</b>	<b>Squirrels &amp; Archie</b>
<b>Hedgehogs</b>	<b>Noah, Grace, Eloise &amp; Aubrey</b>
<b>Rabbits</b>	<b>Olive &amp; Ava</b>
<b>Falcons</b>	<b>Sofia &amp; Kaine</b>
<b>Kestrels</b>	<b>Henry S &amp; Niamh</b>

# STARS OF THE WEEK

## *Attendance*

Congratulations to Falcons for winning the attendance certificate last week with 100% attendance!

Congratulations to Dragonflies for winning the attendance certificate this week with 99.3% attendance!

MAC the attendance bear will visit their classrooms after half term.



## *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

### **Roblox - Update**

### *What is Roblox?*

Roblox is a platform consisting of a collection of games. Players can either create games or play games that other users have created. As a lot of the content is user-generated, not all games will be suitable for your child to view/play. If your child is playing Roblox, it is important to monitor what your child is accessing as well as set up appropriate parental controls. PEGI rates Roblox with a Parental Guidance recommended label. This is because it is a platform of individual, user-generated games.

### *New Age-Based Accounts*

From next month, Roblox will introduce two new age-based accounts: Roblox Kids for users ages 5 to 8 and Roblox Select for users ages 9 to 15.

Roblox Kids Accounts (ages 5–8) will be limited to games with a ‘Minimal or Mild’ content maturity label, and all communication is disabled by default.

Roblox Select accounts (ages 9 to 15) will be limited to games with content maturity labels up to and including ‘Moderate’. By default, Experience Chat is ON, and Direct Experience Chat is OFF.

The differences in chat are outlined here: <https://about.roblox.com/safety-by-age>

### *Parental Controls*

As part of parental controls, you can manage content ratings, communication, screen time, and spending limits, as well as see which games your child is playing on and who their friends are. Roblox is extending these controls to allow you to:

- Block specific individual games (to age 15).
- Manage direct chat settings (to age 15).
- Approve access to specific games.

It is important to regularly monitor what your child is playing on Roblox and who they are interacting with, even if you have parental controls set up.

You can find out more about the new accounts and parental controls here:

<https://about.roblox.com/newsroom/2026/04/introducing-roblox-kidsand-select-accounts>

Further information: <https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/roblox-releases-updated-parental-controlsand-age-appropriate-experiences/>

## 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 - 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*

Teddy B in Year R created a wonderfully detailed pirate map and spoke confidently about the different areas he had designed.

In Year 6, Kai, Hugo, Jackson and Rocco worked brilliantly as a team, using AI to generate images of their dream home. They thought carefully about the language used in their prompts and produced some incredibly detailed results.

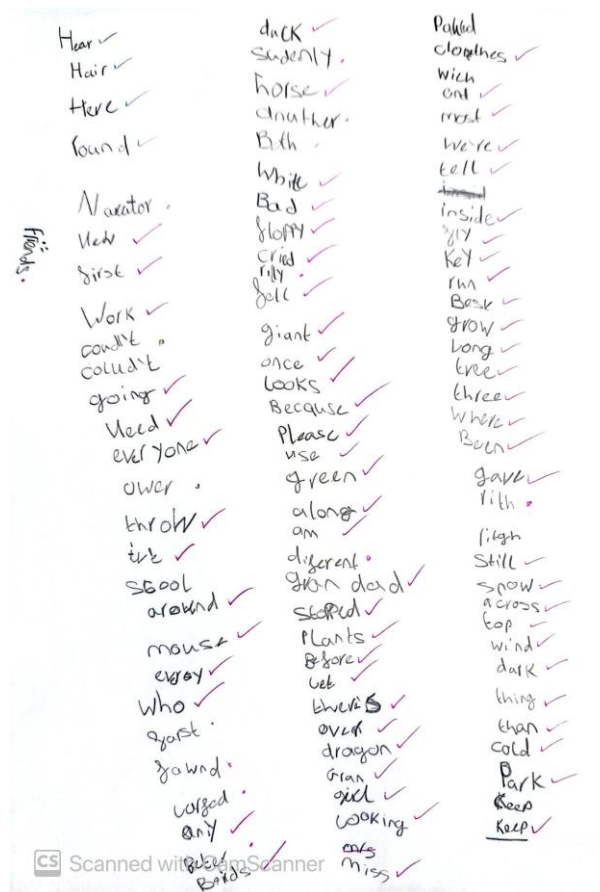
Charlotte in Year 1 has made excellent progress with her writing and was very proud to share her recent piece about a lost pirate.

Elsie in Year 4 has been working incredibly hard across her learning and was keen to share the fantastic progress she has made with her spelling this year.

Cole in Year 4 impressed me with his illustration and comic writing skills in his excellent graphic novel, *The Apple of Doom!*

In Year 5, Flynn and Noah C produced outstanding geography work on The Giant's Causeway. Their presentation was excellent and their writing included a wealth of fascinating facts.

Margot in Year 3 wrote an excellent story and was so happy to read it to me!

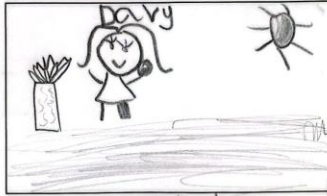






LO: To write a character description  
I did it! Pirates can be honest

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



Davy the  
Pirate is lost!  
Davy has black  
boots. Davy is clumsy  
and, kind last week  
Davy drop  
a candle bowl  
The toilet. Davy  
doesn't like ~~toothpaste~~  
clean. The Bom. <sup>bombs</sup>

### The Giant's causeway!!!

#### Physical Features

1. Basalt columns: Interlocking natural pillars, with many standing up to 39 feet high.
2. Hexagonal Geometry: The majority of the columns are six-sided due to cooling stresses.
3. Giant's foot: A prominent individual column rock formation resembling a massive foot.



#### The fauna and animals

The giant's causeway is a vibrant habitat featuring wildlife such as Irish hares, foxes, badgers and rabbits along with rare seabirds like gulls, terns, and kittiwakes on the cliffs. Marine life includes seals, porpoises, bottlenose dolphins, and dolphins, with rare sightings of killer whales. Rare plants, moths and Pollinators are also protected here.

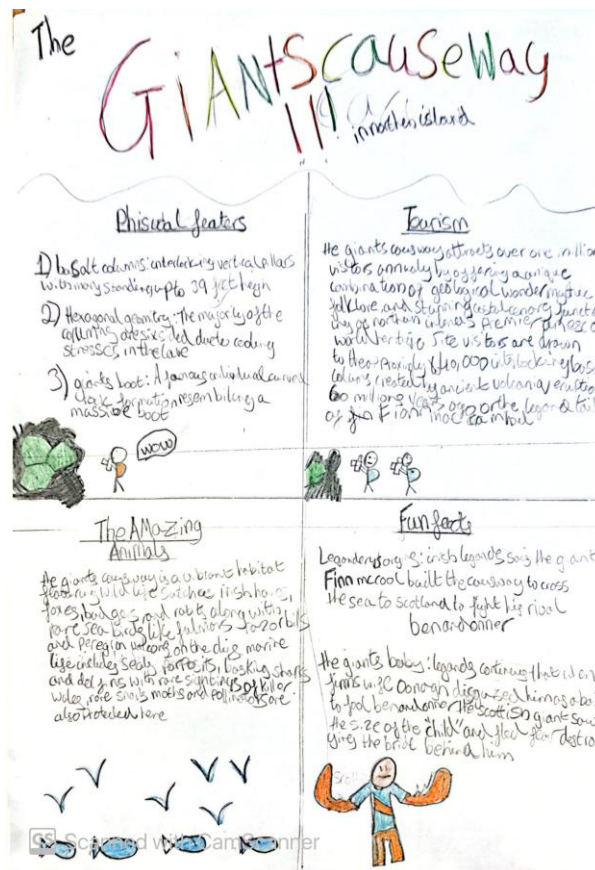


#### Tourism

The giant's causeway attracts over one million visitors annually by offering a unique combination of geological wonder, mythic folklore and stunning coastal scenery. Visitors are drawn to the approximately 10,000 interlocking basalt columns created by ancient volcanic eruptions 60 million years ago or the legendary tale of giant Fionn mac Cumhaill.

#### Fun Facts

- **Legendary origins:** Irish legend says the giant Fionn mac Cumhaill (Fionn mac Cumhaill) built the causeway to cross the sea to Scotland to fight his rival, Benandonner.
- **The Giant's baby:** Legend continues that when Fionn's wife, Connla, disguised him as a baby to fool her husband, the Scottish giant saw the size of the "child" and flew in fear, destroying the bridge.




## 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**

# SUMMER FAIR & COLOUR RUN

27 JUNE 2026 | 13.45 - 17.30

**JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON OF FUN!**

  
**SUMMER FAIR**  
Food, Ice Cream & Bar Games  
Live Entertainment  
Raffle  
Bottle Tombola  
Uniform sales  
Jolly Jars  
External stall

  
**EVENT DETAILS**  
Children £5 incl glasses  
Adults £2  
Under 2s free\*  
White T-shirts available on booking

  
**COLOUR RUN**  
Just buy colour and run!  
Rain or shine – the event will go ahead!

  
**SCHEDULE OF RACES**

	3:00 PM	KS1 CHILDREN
	3:20 PM	KS1 PLUS GUEST
	3:40 PM	KS2 CHILDREN
	4:00 PM	KS2 PLUS GUEST
	4:20 PM	SIBLING RACE
	4:40 PM	TEACHERS AND SUPPORT STAFF
	5:00 PM	FREE RUN

**BOOK NOW**  
[www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofgbs](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofgbs)

 \*Under 2s will not be able to participate in the races

*friends of*  
**GB**

## 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 messages.