

Great Bookham School Newsletter

Issue 35 2025/26

Dear Parents and Carers,

Wow! What an incredible week it has been.

Whilst we knew it was going to be hot, we could never have predicted quite how hot it would become! In true GBS style, we rose to the challenge and found the fun in it. Your children have been phenomenal this week - great sports who have demonstrated resilience and an impressive ability to adapt.

Having a water fight with every child in the school on Wednesday will always remain an absolute highlight of my career and a lasting memory for me and, I hope, for the children too. The teaching team have been incredible, and your children have seen them model positivity, teamwork and a great sense of humour throughout the week.

I would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Lisa and Paul Todd for their generous donation of 10 air conditioning units during the exceptionally hot weather. Their thoughtfulness was greatly appreciated by both pupils and staff. Thank you to all of you for your continued support in ensuring that children attended school despite the challenging temperatures. It was wonderful to see how adaptable they were, and they coped remarkably well throughout.

On Monday, a group of 60 pupils from Years 4, 5 and 6 took part in a knee boarding trip, where they had the chance to challenge themselves by learning an exciting new skill. It was a fantastic day full of laughter, perseverance and achievement - and a few sore muscles reported the following day! We are incredibly proud of how the children conducted themselves and we extend our thanks to the staff and parents who supported and accompanied the trip. I would also like to give a special thanks to Miss Berenson for organising this very special event which sits outside of our normal curriculum offer.

Earlier this week, the hall came alive with energy and enthusiasm during our World Cup-themed dance workshops. Across Monday and Tuesday, pupils had the opportunity to

explore different styles of dance inspired by cultures around the world. The children embraced the experience with great flair, confidence and enjoyment and it was fantastic to see such creativity and teamwork on display.

*We are very much looking forward to welcoming you to our **open afternoon** on **Monday 29th June** from **3.30pm to 4.00pm**. It is always a pleasure to share the children's work and achievements with you.*

*Please also note that **Sports Day** has been rescheduled: **Key Stage 2** will now take place on **9am Monday 29th June**, and **Key Stage 1 and EYFS** will take place on **9am Tuesday 30th June**. All children will need to wear a t-shirt in their house colour.*

With all of the exciting events that have taken place recently, we have accumulated lots of lost property. This will all be displayed during sports day for you to check.

Finally, we recognise that the school holidays can present challenges for some families. In the lead-up to the end of term, we will include a dedicated section in each newsletter with information about local activities, support services and schemes that may be helpful.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support.

Miss Allen

Summer Help and Support

Food banks and Community fridges

- Visit the [Connect to Support Surrey](#) website and search “Food banks” to find local help.
- The Trussell Trust - Over 1,200 food bank centres across the UK offer at least three days of emergency food and support. Visit the [Trussell Trust](#) website for details.

Free bus travel for every child in August <https://costoflivinghelp.campaign.gov.uk/summer-savings/>

Budget-friendly family days out

Surrey’s countryside offers [free outdoor adventures](#), from play trails to accessible walking routes. [Visit Surrey](#) lists free and low-cost events and activities happening across the county.

MoneySavingExpert

A trusted source for up-to-date deals and tips, including:

- Kids eat free or cheap - [Where can kids eat free](#)
- Restaurant vouchers and 2-for-1 deals - [Restaurant vouchers: top deals and 2 for 1 offers](#)
- Low-cost and free family activities - [Things to do with the kids](#)

Surrey Family Information Service

The Surrey Information Service offers free, impartial advice on childcare, services, organisations and local events. Search the [Family Information Dictionary](#) for support in your area.

The Holiday Activity and Food Programme - known as [Club4](#) in Surrey - is also available to families in receipt of Targeted FSM, with bookings going live on Tuesday 30 June.

September Uniform Reminders.....

As we approach the end of term, many families will be starting to think about purchasing new uniform items in preparation for the new academic year. I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents and carers of a few key expectations:

PE Kit: From September we ask that all children should have a pair of blue PE shorts, either purchased from our school shop or a similar plain style.

School Shoes: Footwear should be plain black, unbranded, and ideally without laces (especially for younger pupils who cannot yet tie them independently). Shoes should not be in the style of boots or sports trainers.

Bags for EYFS and KS1: Due to limited cloakroom space in EYFS and KS1, we ask that children in these year groups use a GBS bookbag rather than a rucksack. There is only space for a coat and PE kit, and rucksacks make storage particularly challenging.

Earrings: If you are considering having your child's ears pierced over the summer, please do so at the **beginning of the holidays**. All children must be able to remove their earrings themselves when getting changed for PE, in line with health and safety guidance. Earrings worn to school should be simple, plain stud earrings only.

Hair Accessories: Hair accessories should be in our school colours – black, blue, or grey and should be of a modest size.

Pencil Cases: All stationery is supplied to the children so there is no need for any child to have a pencil case in school.

Thank you for your continued support in maintaining our uniform standards.



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.

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

29th June - KS2 Sports day - **Starting shortly after 9am straight after registration - parents to enter and exit via our Lower Road gate only.**

30th June - KS1/EYFS Sports day - **Starting shortly after 9am straight after registration - parents to enter and exit via our Lower Road gate only.**

29th June - Open Afternoon - 3.30pm-4.00pm

1st July - Bump up day

3rd July - EYFS Parent lunch

3rd July - KS2 Rock Bottom Theatre performance

10th July - Yr6 French cafe

16th July - Year 6 Leavers assembly

17th July - Last day of term



Headteacher Awards

George in Year 4 produced a fantastic diagram of a Viking longboat. He had thought incredibly carefully about the features of the boat and represented them in impressive detail, clearly and accurately labelling each part.

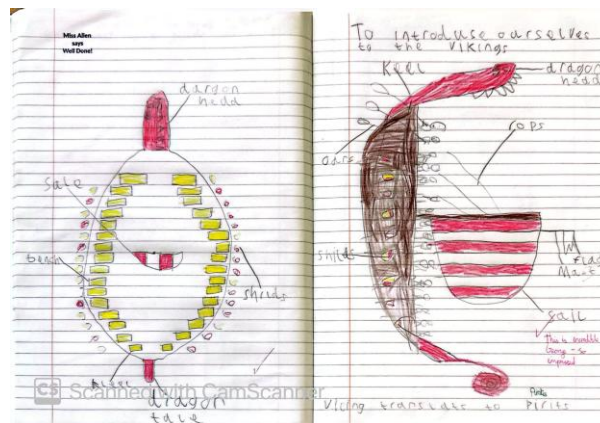
Ronni and Theo in Year 1 were excited to come and share their science work with me, confidently explaining their learning about the lifecycle of a sunflower.

Eli, Grace, Abel and Elena in Year 4 were wonderfully helpful when collecting donated bottles for the bottle tombola. Their enthusiasm and willingness to help was very much appreciated.

Leo and Matilda in Year 4 went above and beyond with their work about Viking warriors and thoroughly impressed both Mr Randall and me with how they extended their learning through 'did you know' facts and beautifully drawn, detailed pictures.

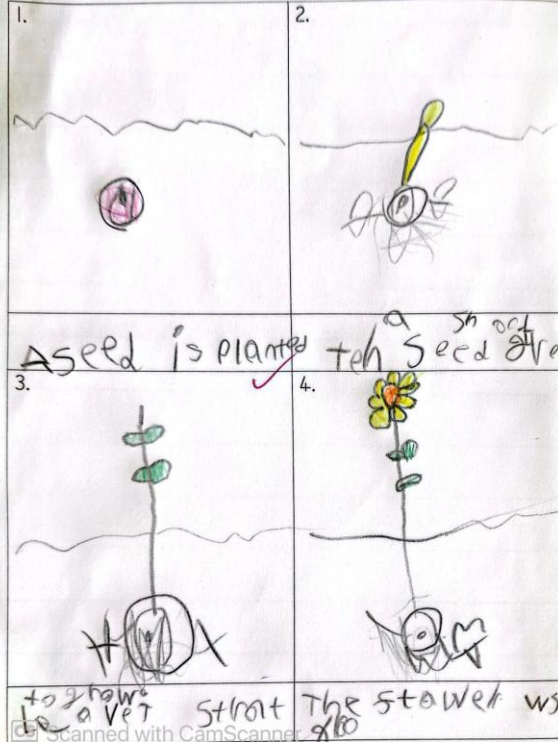
Eli in Year 4 was awarded his second Headteacher's Award of the week for his brilliantly detailed recount of Leif Erikson's life story.

Bonnie and Oscar in Year 2 designed and sewed parts for a baby mobile. I was incredibly impressed by the detail in their designs and the skill they showed when using their sewing techniques to recreate them so beautifully.



Wednesday 23rd July 2026

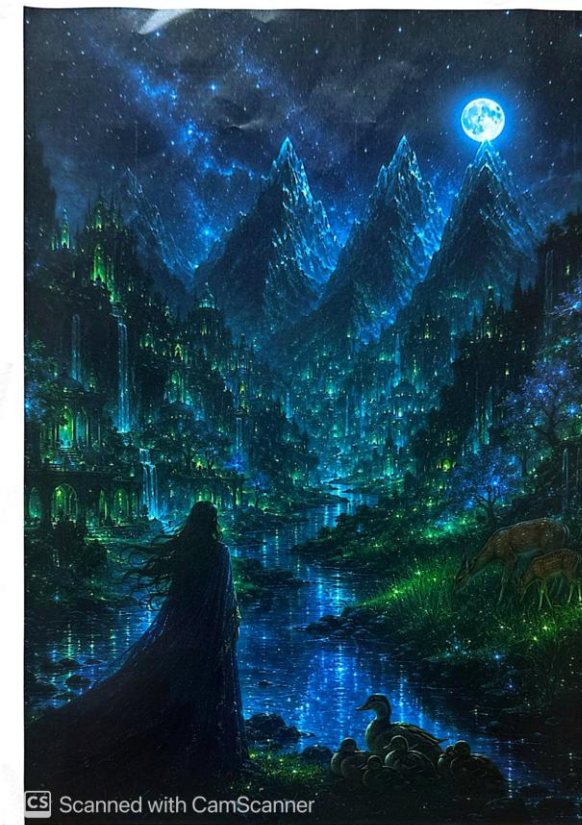
✓ LO: To draw the lifecycle of a Sunflower



Wednesday 23rd July 2026

✓ LO: To draw the lifecycle of a Sunflower





Did you know that a raid would
be used to chop off heads. ~~and~~

Scanned with CamScanner

Wow! You remembered so much!


 ng-people Minds par-people
 and it is less than
 it is the other

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Wednesday 21st June 2026

to know what viking warriors were like.

Spear



they would throw the spears ✓

WEAPON AND DEFENCE



Shield
Soft wood so
there enemies
weapons would
get stuck and
they will have no
defences. ✓

Axe



axes were the cheapest weapons
most of warriors have axes. ✓

Iron coats

Berchers went into battle
wearing bear skin for they
would be safe. The
middle of the shield is a skull, rough or
wealthy warrior would have
swords and chainmail. ✓

Excellent work ✓

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

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