

Great Bookham School Newsletter

Issue 36 2025/26

Dear Parents and carers,

It is hard to believe that we are entering the penultimate week of this academic year and it has been filled to the brim with more exciting events for children and families.

Pre-school have enjoyed their very special sports week with all children taking part in a range of different sporting activities. They have followed instructions to play particular games and have enjoyed some of the competitive races using the race track and trying to run in a straight line!

Our Key Stage two sports day was held on Monday, where the sunshine was certainly on our side and the children demonstrated fantastic determination, resilience and sportsmanship.

On Tuesday, despite slightly wetter weather, our Key Stage 1 and Reception children took part in their Sports Day events with just as much enthusiasm and energy. We are incredibly proud of every child who took part and gave their very best. Thank you to all parents and carers who came to support the event, it means so much to have you all in school encouraging the children. Thank you to the Friends for running the bottle tombola stall and to all the staff who helped organise and run the events.

On Wednesday, children across the school enjoyed their Bump Up Day, spending time in their new classrooms and getting to know the teacher they will be with next year. It was lovely to see how quickly the children settled into their new environments and to hear their excitement about the year ahead. We were also delighted to welcome the children joining us in year 3 and our new Reception children back into school for another transition morning. I was really taken by hearing how excited our current Year 4 children are about becoming Year 5 'Special Friends' to the new Reception children as they begin their journey with us in September.

Toady, Butterfly and Ladybird Class parents were invited into school to have lunch with their children. This is always such a special occasion as we celebrate the end of the children's first year at school and reflect on how much they have grown. It was very sweet to see the children showing their grown ups what to do in the lunch hall and seeing the pride that they

had taken in decorating the hall and creating place cards for their guests. Thank you to the Reception team for organising such a memorable event for our families.

On Friday we concluded the week with a truly spectacular performance of Rock Bottom at Leatherhead Theatre. Following two full days of preparations and rehearsals at the theatre, our KS2 children performed a fantastic show to a 'sold out' audience. A production of this scale relies on the dedication of many people and we would like to thank all the staff who have supported the children through sound, technology, lighting, costumes, make-up, backstage organisation and countless other behind-the-scenes roles. Special thanks must go to Miss Jupp and Miss Goodchild, who have spent many weeks rehearsing with the children and creating props that helped make the stage look truly spectacular. Finally, an enormous thank you to Mrs Johnston, whose tireless commitment through Drama Club over the past term ensured the children were thoroughly prepared and ready to deliver a truly show-stopping performance. Thank you also to all of the parents who have helped drive children to and from the theatre - we are really grateful and your help makes this production possible.

I have written to you all separately to share that we will be showing the England Vs Mexico match at 9am on Monday morning to any children who wish to watch the game. Please try not to tell your child the result so it can be a surprise!

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. From September, we ask that all pupils wear the standard PE shorts as sold in the school shop or an equivalent in both style and colour.

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

6th July - England game catch up at 9am

10th July - Yr6 French cafe 2.30pm

10th July - Jolly jars and Childrens stall after school

16th July - Year 6 Leavers assembly - 9am

17th July - Last day of term



Headteacher Awards

Asher, Matilda, Elsie and Aubrey in Year 4 were an amazing help to me in assembly, showing the entire school actions to go with our favourite songs.

Friends of Great Bookham School

Raffle announcement

Thank you for your incredible bottle and jolly jar donations and for supporting the sports day tombola - raising £420 for school projects. The raffle was drawn on Friday morning and winners notified by email. This raised over £1000!

Please collect prizes from the office on Monday.

Jolly Jars & Children's Stalls – Friday 10th July

We were unable to run the jolly jar stall on Friday as originally planned due to the junior theatre production, so please join us after school on Friday 10th July for some jolly jar fun as well as other stalls and a uniform sale.

Colour run announcement

We were all devastated to have to cancel the colour run due to the reported extreme weather but we are pleased to announce it will be held on Friday 25th September after school. More details will be sent nearer the time.

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