

Great Bookham School Newsletter

Issue 37 2025/26

Dear Parents and carers,

We have enjoyed another busy and memorable week at school, with lots of exciting learning and events taking place.

We started the week strong with some sporting excitement, as we screened the England match for the children. It was wonderful to see pupils coming together to enjoy the game, sharing in the excitement, supporting their team and celebrating a fantastic result! The atmosphere was wonderful and I hope that memories were made for the children.

On Monday, we also welcomed Eileen from Bookham Library, who led a whole-school assembly introducing this year's Summer Reading Challenge. This year's theme is 'Read to the Beat' and the children were inspired to continue their reading journeys throughout the summer holidays. They learned how taking part in the challenge can help them discover new books, authors and adventures and we hope many of our pupils will get involved and make reading a key part of their summer break.

We were also delighted to welcome Reverend Alan and Charlotte from St Nicholas' Church on Wednesday. Their visits have been a valued part of school life, helping children to reflect on important messages throughout the year. We are grateful for the strong relationship we share with St Nicolas' Church and look forward to continuing this partnership in the new academic year. We are always keen to share with the children learning from other cultures and religions so would encourage any members of our school community to let us know if you would be happy to share parts of your religion and culture with our children.

On Thursday, our Pre-School Leavers' Party provided a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the achievements of our youngest learners and we are incredibly proud of how much each child has grown and developed over the past year. During the party, we welcomed families to come and join in with the celebrations, they were treated to some fantastic singing from the children and listened to what each of them has loved the most during their time in pre-school. Whilst a beautifully simple event, it was quite emotional listening to the children.

Each child received a small gift to mark how far they have come and even Mrs Harding received a leavers certificate. They are undoubtedly ready to begin the next stage of their educational journey as they move into Reception in September.

We were delighted to welcome a very special visitor to Great Bookham School this week.

Miss Berenson brought in her pet python, Brian, to meet the children! As Miss Berenson often shares stories about Brian, the children were incredibly excited to finally see him in real life. It was a wonderful opportunity for them to learn more about snakes, ask lots of questions and get a closer look at this fascinating animal. Brian was certainly the star of the show and made a lasting impression on everyone who met him!

Friday was an especially busy and exciting day, with a number of events taking place across the school, including our special picnic for the families of our new Reception cohort. It was wonderful to see so many new faces and provided a fantastic opportunity for families to mingle ahead of the new academic year in September. We are already seeing new friendships begin to form amongst both children and parents and there was a real sense of excitement about joining our school community. We are very much looking forward to officially welcoming our newest pupils and their families to Great Bookham School in September and cannot wait to see them begin their journey with us.

Our Year 6 pupils hosted a 'fantastique' French Café for parents and carers. The children treated their guests to delicious French cupcakes while proudly showcasing their French language skills through their meet and greet and serving and sharing some of their learning.

The children also sang French songs and even treated their guests to some of their favourite songs from their recent 'Rock Bottom' performance. Thank you to parents and carers for taking the time to come and join the children.

Finally, a huge thank you goes to the Friends of GBS, who were once again hard at work after school on Friday selling Jolly Jars and other treats to raise funds for our exciting new school library project. We are incredibly grateful for the time, energy and commitment of our volunteer team, as well as the generosity of everyone who contributed. Your support is helping us move closer to creating a wonderful new reading space for all of our children to enjoy.

With the warm weather expected next week, children are welcome to continue wearing their PE kit to school if they would prefer to. We also understand that some children may prefer to wear their usual summer uniform and that is absolutely fine too. Our priority is that children are comfortable and ready to learn, so families are welcome to choose whichever option works best for their child.

Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to seeing you all for our final week of this academic year!

Miss Allen

End of term preparation

As we enter the final week of the academic year, please could all children bring a strong, named carrier bag into school by Wednesday. This will be used to help them bring home their school books, work and other belongings at the end of term.

We would also be grateful if families could have a thorough look at home for any school reading books or library books. We will be collecting in all books from Wednesday, so please return any that you find as soon as possible.

Please also check if you have any GBS sports kits at home in cupboards, drawers or wash baskets as we are missing several tops and football socks.

Thank you for your support.

Governors

We are delighted to share that Seonaid Chappell will continue in her role as Chair of Governors, following her successful period as Interim Chair.

Seonaid joined the Great Bookham School Local Governing Body in November 2022 and has provided invaluable support to the school during what has been an exciting period of growth and development. Her commitment, insight and dedication have been greatly appreciated by both the governing body and the wider school community.

We are thrilled that Seonaid will be continuing as Chair of Governors and look forward to working with her as we continue to strengthen and develop Great Bookham School. If you need to contact Seonaid in her role as Chair of Governors, please contact the clerk of governors via the following email clerk.gbs@sfet.org.uk.

At the same time, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to Tristan Stone, who has stepped down from his role as Co-opted Governor. Tristan made a significant contribution to the governing body during his time with us, and we are grateful for the time, expertise and commitment he gave to supporting the school over the last academic year.

We thank Tristan for his service and wish him every success for the future.

Goodbyes

As we near the end of the academic year, we are preparing to say goodbye to some of our fabulous Teaching Assistant team and wider support team.

We are excited for Miss Jupp, who will be leaving GBS to begin her studies at university. She will be greatly missed, but we hope to see her back at GBS supporting our wraparound care provision in the future.

Miss Hardcastle is also leaving us to undertake a master's degree at university. She has made a wonderful contribution to our school community and will be missed by both staff and pupils. We wish her every success with her studies and hope they may one day bring her back into the education profession.

Miss Mandry will be leaving us to begin an exciting new role within the Civil Service. We thank her for all that she has contributed during her time at GBS and wish her every success in this new chapter of her career.

Great Bookham School is part of the Effingham Learning Partnership, and through this partnership we have been fortunate to work closely with Annie Lincoln, our Home School Link Worker. After 16 years in this incredibly important role, Annie is embarking on the next exciting chapter of her life: retirement.

Annie has provided invaluable support to countless children and families over the years and has become a much-loved and respected member of our wider school community. We are going to miss her tremendously, and she leaves very big shoes to fill. We thank Annie for her dedication and service and wish her a long, happy, and well-deserved retirement. We look forward to welcoming a new Home School Link Worker to the role next academic year.

MCAS - To dos and an opportunity for a free school lunch!

Please check your MCAS announcements for details of the Autumn term menu offered by our new caterers Edwards and Ward. If your child requires a special diet please ensure you get in touch with them before the end of term.

If you currently receive **universal credits or benefits you may not have to pay for school meals**, please get in touch with the school office for more information.

With the **end of term** approaching please **check your MCAS account to ensure all payments have been cleared**. Please select outstanding payments and check under installments and balances.

Stars of the week

Our stars for this week are:

Ladybirds	Ayla, Frankie, Erin & Jasper
Butterflies	Jessie & Harry
Bumblebees	Humaira & Orla
Dragonflies	Alfie & Amayah
Foxes	Jess & Ivy
Squirrels	Molly & Judah
Hedgehogs	Pierre & Ellie
Rabbits	Daisy & Max
Eagles	Flynn & Gabriel
Hawks	Louie & Samuel
Falcons	Chloe & Jack
Kestrels	Charlie & Nell

**STARS
OF THE
WEEK**

Attendance

Congratulations to Squirrels for winning the attendance certificate this week with 98.6% attendance!

MAC the attendance bear will visit their classrooms next week.



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

16th July - Year 6 Leavers assembly - 9am

17th July - Last day of term - normal finish time.



Friends of Great Bookham School

As we approach the end of the academic year the PTA would like to offer our sincere thanks to every single person who has contributed their time or money to our cause. Every raffle ticket bought, prize donated or entry fee paid is a small step closer to our fundraising goals for the school including the new library. We are very lucky to have had some new members join us this year too, they have brought fantastic skills and ideas to the group.

Our fundraising does not end here. Our last sale of the academic year was today on the field and what an event it was!! We had uniform, wrapping paper and watermelon for sale and even some of our own students selling their hand made items. We had a blast and we hope you all did too. We can't wait to share all the facts and figures with you next week.

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