Great Bookham School Newsletter Issue 3 2026/2027

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was another busy and happy week at school.

On Monday evening, we were delighted to welcome our Reception parents into school for our Reception Parent Information Evening. Thank you to everyone who attended and took such an enthusiastic part in the session, particularly during the mini phonics lesson! It was lovely to see parents gaining an insight into the exciting learning journey their children are beginning and the ways we teach early reading and phonics in school. We are looking forward to working closely with all our Reception families throughout the year.

On Wednesday afternoon, we welcomed Woodlands School to GBS to lead a Tea & Talk session focusing on Pathological Demand Avoidance (PDA). Thank you to all the parents who attended. We hope the session provided useful information, practical strategies and opportunities to ask questions.

This week also saw the return of our Scholastic Book Fair. We would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who supported the event by purchasing books. Not only does this help to foster a lifelong love of reading in our children, but every purchase also generates income that can be spent on valuable resources for our school.

Earlier this week, 11 members of our staff team completed paediatric first aid training. There was lots of giggles as they practised creating slings and bandaging each other and it is wonderful to know that nearly every member of staff in school has now completed their paediatric first aid training.

A huge thank you must also go to the Friends of GBS, who hosted a doughnut and uniform sale after school on Friday. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who supported the event. The funds raised will contribute towards the continued development of our exciting new school library, helping us create an engaging and inspiring reading environment for all our children.

Thursday and Friday marked our much-loved Positive Noticing Day. Throughout the day, children took the time to write kind and thoughtful notes to one another, celebrating the positive qualities, talents and kindness they see in their friends. It is always a special event

that reminds us of the caring, supportive community we have at Great Bookham School and highlights the value every child brings to our school family.

Finally, I would like to share some fantastic news and congratulate Mrs Blackwell on an outstanding achievement. In her role as Geography Subject Leader, Mrs Blackwell has spent many months gathering evidence of the rich and engaging geography experiences we provide for our children. From active and practical lessons to local fieldwork opportunities and competitions such as our map-making challenge, she has showcased the many ways we inspire children to become curious and knowledgeable geographers. We are therefore delighted to announce that Great Bookham School has been awarded the Primary Geography Quality Mark (PGQM) Gold Award. This is a significant achievement and a wonderful recognition of the high-quality geography provision across the school. A huge thank you and congratulations to Mrs Blackwell for her hard work, dedication and leadership in achieving this prestigious award.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Miss Allen

Harvest Celebrations

We would also like to remind parents about our upcoming Harvest Festival celebrations.

We look forward to welcoming families from **Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 at 9:00am on Tuesday 6th or Wednesday 7th October f**or our harvest festival in the main hall. To ensure that we keep adults and children safe, we will be limiting the number of **tickets to 2 per family.** Tickets for this event will be released next week.

This year we will be collecting food for Cobham Food Bank so all families are invited to bring in a non-perishable item which we will donate to the charity. Any donation is welcomed and they are currently in need of the following:

- Tinned soup
- Tinned vegetables (not pulses or baked beans as we have plenty!)
- Tinned meat
- Tinned potatoes
- UHT fruit juice and semi skimmed milk
- Tinned fruit
- Hot chocolate
- Tinned fish
- Chocolate spread
- Tinned custard
- Smooth peanut butter
- Tinned rice pudding
- Marmite
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Shower gel
- Adult toothbrushes and Toothpaste
- Deodorant for men & women
- Sanitary pads
- Toilet paper
- Liquid hand soap

Stars of the week

Our stars for this week are:

Bumblebees	**Hallie F & Isaac**
Honeybees	**George & Jennifer**
Dragonflies	**Tabitha & Archie G**
Foxes	**Cora & Finn**
Squirrels	**Rafael & Freddie**
Hedgehogs	**Seren & Evie**
Rabbits	**Ada & Maddie**
Eagles	**Joel & Mabel**
Hawks	**River & James**
Falcons	**Mael & Kira**
Kestrels	**Jay & Harlow**

Attendance

Congratulations to Squirrels for winning the attendance certificate this week with 99.7% attendance!

MAC the attendance bear will visit their classrooms next week.



Attendance reminder

Just to remind parents/carers that if they take their children out of school without authority 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, Bookham Library 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.

Important Dates



SEPTEMBER

28th - Parents evening bookings open at 6pm on MCAS

30th - Year 2 School Trip to Brighton Sealife Centre

OCTOBER

1st - Individual/Sibling Photos

2nd - Year 3/4 Cross Country at KGV after school

2nd - PTA Bingo Event 8pm

6th - Reception & KS1 Harvest Festival AM

6th - Year 5 to Hampton Court

7th - Reception & KS1 Harvest Festival AM

7th – Yr3 Butser Farm trip

9th - Yr5/Yr6 Cross Country at KGV after school

12th - Parents' Evening

13th—Yr4 Fishbourne Roman Palace trip

14th - Year 6 to The Natural History Museum

15th - Parents' Evening

19th - 30th Autumn half term

NOVEMBER

2nd - Back to school

9th - EYFS Owl workshop

13th - Children in Need

16th - Odd sock day

16th - 20th—Anti Bullying Week

DECEMBER

1st - Pre-school and Reception Christmas Performance AM

4th - Pre-school and Reception Christmas Performance AM

5th - Bookham Spirit of Christmas Event on the High St

8th - KS2 Christingle performance

9th - Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas Performance AM

9th - KS2 Christingle performance

10th - Christmas jumper day

11th - Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas Performance AM

15th - Year 5 European Christmas Day

18th - Last day of term (No Puffins)

JANUARY

4th - Back to school

Headteacher Awards

George in Year 1 was so proud to come and show me his high-frequency word rainbow. He did a brilliant job of writing on the line and confidently reading the words to me.

Libba in Year 4 chose to independently continue her learning at home.

Kaydee and Lily produced excellent science information pages about renewable and non-renewable energy. Their work was well presented and demonstrated a strong understanding of the topic.

Anna in Year 4 wrote a fantastic diary entry from the perspective of a WWII evacuee.

Amaia and Riley Jo in Year 1 demonstrated excellent independence and concentration in class.

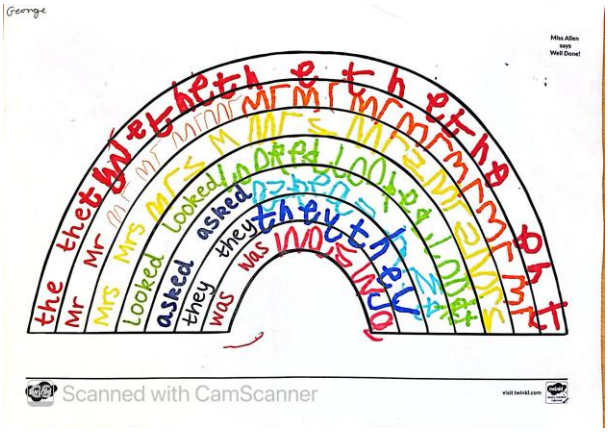
Joel in Year 5 wrote a wonderful diary entry inspired by *The Hobbit*. I was really impressed by his imaginative ideas and effective use of language.

Nam in Year 6 thoughtfully wrote an excellent poem based on the Three Witches scene in *Macbeth*. His writing was creative and captured the atmosphere of the scene beautifully.

Leon in Year 5 carefully interpreted data about the amount of daylight England has throughout the year and drew an accurate bar chart to represent his findings.

Alba and Violet in Year 1 were very excited to show me their wonderful story writing based on *The Tiger Who Came to Tea*. Their work was full of creativity.

Year 2 have worked incredibly hard on their handwriting and presentation this term and were awarded a Headteacher's Award as a class in recognition of their efforts.



17/09/20

L.O. recount

Mum and I stood on the crowded platform. All around us was Anxious children weeping short with a top T-shirt pleats sitting like tiny and to show which person they lived with. Trees were clutching onto the sad parents as the train got closer - closer. I ran to my parents saying my last goodbyes giving lots of hugs. I was told home I walked with mum and dad. When I got on the train, mum, dad and I started crying when I looked out at them I saw Anxious they were Black and white and still hoo.

love this! wanted saw saw saw saw

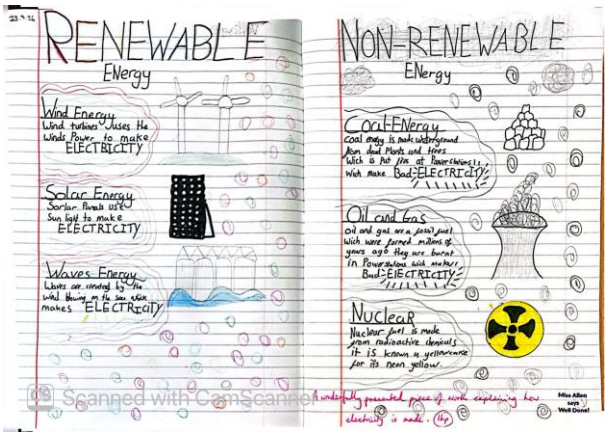
18/09/20

When I arrived at the st... Butercup. Country side... the instructor asked everyone 3 girls to go to group with I got to group 1 and I said "Hi" I was so good at it but then she said "not you Beaters in group A" so I went up to group 1 and looked around the attic I could see lots of girls rolling around and seeing I was upset. When I went down from the attic there was lasagne for table. You have remembered so many details! Well done Anna! I would like you to show Miss Allen!

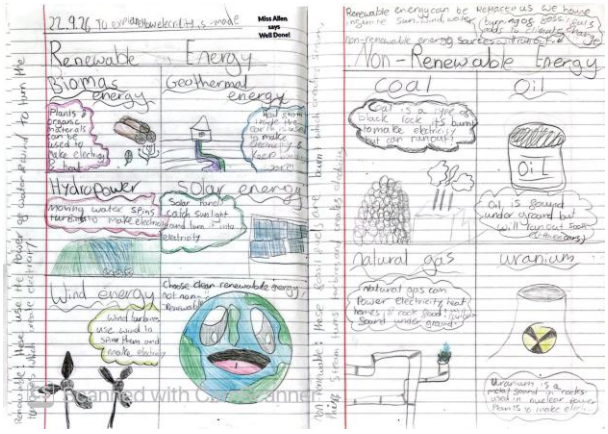
speech marks not brackets ( ) see see see went went went

Miss Allen says Well Done!

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Miss Allen says Well Done!

23.9.24 LO: To plan a witches poem

1. In the forest, all silent and creepy, cloudy,
Eates 3 witches ~~is~~ live have green skin,
twitchy eyes and teeth, sharp as daggers.

1st Witch: Thrice the brag hath crowed,
2nd Witch: Thrice the tailless dog has barked.
3rd Witch: The Hour draws "To tune, To time!"
1st Witch: Mixing concoctions dropping drop
Bouring and pouring, but not a stop
Throwing herbs in a cauldron a spell
And a potion prick thumb
Disgusting, slop that is hot
An apple, skull soup
All: Crackle Crackle the pot glows green,
The Biggest spell there ever seen.
2nd Witch: Bone as a witch claw dog
and the skin as a person slaf green
Eyeball from a hairy, tail rat,
The ear as a giant bat.
Tongue of a slithy rattlesnake
and a stick, beak from a newly lake
All: Crackle, Crackle the pot glows green
The biggest spell there ever seen.
3rd Witch: Tooth as sharp as a unicorn's horn
and leg as a rabbit, that just been born
Fur as a spider, and fin as a fish.
Octopus that would make a fine dish.
Tail as a rat and a vampire's claw
and A monster with a thunderous roar.
All: Crackle, Crackle the pot glows green
The biggest spell there ever seen.

Super rhyming! (Mp)

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Dear Diary,

I woke up with a thought that this day I would be a regular day of eating my time away, but when I went outside I had a salty seeing on my lips probably the fish and chips I had for morning tea. When I left work outside I got out my large pipe and started smoking.

When I was smoking I lost track of time. And when I was getting ready for my morning nap I heard my doorbell ring and all of a sudden a group of dwarves rushed in and started eating my whole pantry my doorbell rang (again). I was starting to annoyed. Another group of dwarves poured in and at the back of the dwarves was gypsy. After the dwarves ate all my food Gandalf was in meeting to convince me to go on an adventure, and I finally decided to go and said "please just try the adventure we will buy and pack your bags as good." he said convincingly. I said "okay I'll try the adventure." and everyone cheered "hurrah!" So in the morning I will set off

Miss Allen says Well Done!

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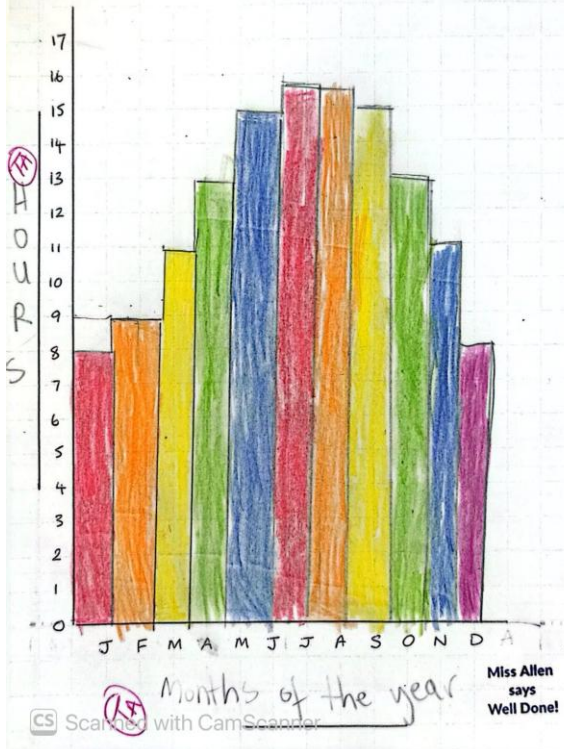
with the pharaoh and Horus and I got to climb the adventure, Horus let me ride on and everyone was so kind. And I was surprised those were bellies, dinosaurs, dragons, but somehow energy (probably all my good thoughts).

By the time I got home it was midnight and I was tired and I said "can I have another adventure?" and Grandpa said "yes".

The end

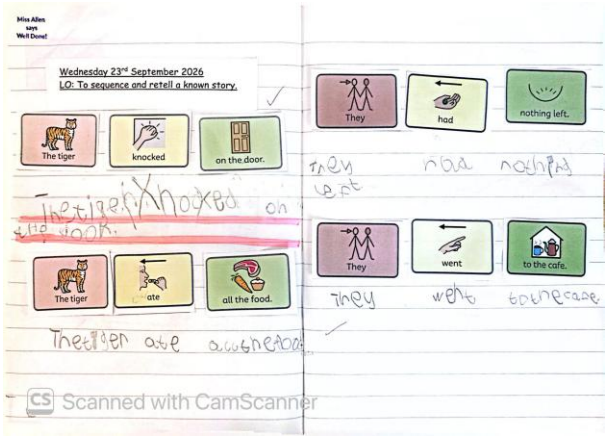
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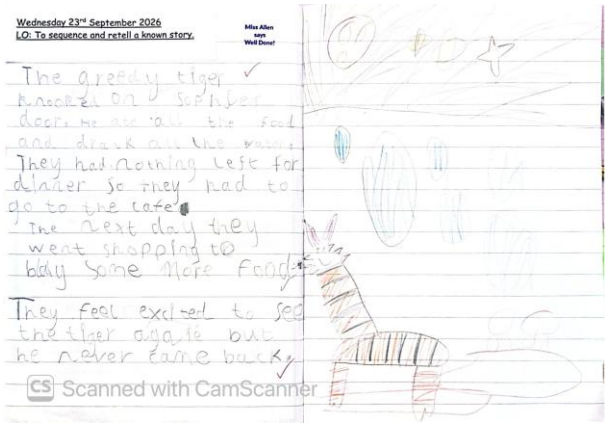
Hours of sunlight over the year in Great Bookham.



Miss Allen says Well Done!

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Friends of Great Bookham School

An enormous thank you supporting our uniform and first doughnut sale on Friday! We sold out very quickly so will ensure next time there are more to buy on the day.

Next Friday is our Bingo evening which will be lots of fun for all parents, please book your tickets as soon as you can: https://www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofgbs/

🙌 **Can you lend a hand?** We're a small PTA team, and even an hour makes a difference. Email us or message your class rep if you can help at these events. We're also forming a festive committee to help make Christmas magical for the children—get in touch if you'd like to join!



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

Your Space Therapies

Decreasing depression

Leatherhead Girls cricket

Colin Bull Swimming lessons

Bookham Colts Girls Wildcat Programme

Bus Stop Forest School October half term Stay and Play

Mole Valley Girls taining sessions

YMCA 4 week parent support programme

Horsley FC taster session

Girls Golf taster sessions

Yogamoo sessions

Dance Shack

Home start 10 week parenting course