



Friday 9th January 2026



Happy New Year



Welcome Back!

We have really enjoyed welcoming everyone back into school and seeing the children all looking smart in their uniforms. Despite the wet, cold, and windy weather this week, everyone has settled back into their classes and routines incredibly well, showing enthusiasm and being ready to start the new term's learning.

Be in School, Be on Time!

We're really proud of the progress that our pupils make and over the years it has become clear that those children who attend the most, achieve the most.

Regular attendance and good punctuality are vital for every child to achieve their full potential, but also for them to develop and maintain the important social skills.

Our attendance target is **96+%**, please help us to achieve it!



Upcoming Trips across the School

January is proving to be a very busy month and we have lots of school trips planned. Letters will have already been sent home about these, including payment and lunch ordering information.



- 20th January** – Year 4 to Reading Museum
- 20th January** – Year 5 to Ufton Court
- 23rd January** – Year 1 to Windsor Castle
- 28th January** – Year 2 to Brooklands Museum
- 4th February** – Year 6 to Didcot Railway Centre

If you have any questions about your child's trip, please speak to their teacher. Payment queries should come to Mrs Wise in the office.



Parents' Evening Dates

For children in Years 1-6, our next parents' evening meetings will take place on:

- Tuesday 3rd February – 3.40-6.00pm**
- Thursday 5th February – 4.00-7.00pm.**

These appointments will be in person at school and you will have the opportunity to look at your child's books and see the fantastic work they have been doing.

There will be a letter coming home soon explaining how to book your appointments.

Children in Reception class will have their appointments once Mrs Griffin has returned from her placement after the half term in February.

Nursery children will also have their appointments later in the term.



Access to the School Site

As a gentle reminder, please keep your children walking with you when on the school site. It is just too crowded to have them running off ahead. Please also don't let younger siblings run or scoot about. We really appreciate your help in keeping our playgrounds safe and calm. Also, parents and carers should not drive onto the school site for drop off or collection, unless there is an arrangement in place. Please use either of the large public car parks nearby instead.

PE Lessons in Years 4 and 6

This week in PE, children in Year 4 have begun to learn Fencing skills, taught by a specialist coach from Little Musketeers. Year 6 children have started to have Judo sessions as part of their PE, taught by Judo Club Osaka, who also run our after school club.

There are still places available at Judo club, full details are on the flyer later in the newsletter.



After School Clubs

This term we are pleased to confirm the following clubs will be running after school:

Wednesday – Judo club with Judo Club Osaka, 3.15-4.15pm

Thursday – Year 3-6 Choir club with Mrs van der Rest, 3.15-4.15pm

Friday – Year 3-6 Football club with Sport4Kids, starts on Friday 16th January

If your child would like to join Judo or Football club, please contact the providers direct. If they would like to join choir, please contact the school office.

Thank you for your continued support and have a relaxing weekend!

Richard Ferris
Headteacher



Attendance Stars

Classes with the highest attendance this week:

1st Place – Falcons (98.7%)

2nd Place – Hawks (98.6%)

3rd Place – Badgers (98.0%)



Thinking and Learning Together
Achieving Forever

Diary Dates

JANUARY 2026	
Wednesday 14 th	Reception: Family Learning Maths 'Magic Pebbles' – 1.45-3.10pm
Thursday 15 th	Deadline for applications for a Reception place (Sept 2026)
Tuesday 20 th	Year 5: Trip to Ufton Court – cost £20
	Year 4: Trip to Reading Museum – cost £18
	Year 3: Egyptian Day – letter to follow
Friday 23 rd	Year 1: Trip to Windsor Castle – cost £17
Wednesday 28 th	Year 2: Trip to Brooklands Museum – cost £25
FEBRUARY 2026	
Tuesday 3 rd	Years 1-6: Parents' Evenings – 3.40-6.00pm
Wednesday 4 th	Nursery: Family Learning Maths 'Washing Lines' – 9.00-10.30am
	Year 6: Trip to Didcot Railway Centre – cost £23.50
Thursday 5 th	Year 3: Family Learning English 'SPaG 1' – 9.00-10.30am
	Years 1-6: Parents' Evenings – 4.00-6.00pm
Friday 6 th	Year 4: Family Learning English 'SPaG 2' – 9.00-10.30am
Monday 16th to Friday 20th	HALF TERM BREAK
Friday 27 th	TRUST WIDE INSET DAY – pupils not in school
MARCH 2026	
Wednesday 18 th	Reception: NCMP Height, Weight, Vision and Hearing Screening – letter to follow
Friday 27th	Last Day of Spring Term

These dates are subject to change, we will try to give as much notice as possible!



Walking with SEN

Looking to get some fresh air with other SEN mums?

Join us every Thursday morning 11-12 at Ascot Racecourse
for a light walk & a good chat!

Winkfield Road, SL5 7LJ
(on street parking by the under pass back entrance)

**Are you a mum with a child that has special
educational needs?**

**Are you a neurodivergent mum trying to navigate
parenting a neurodivergent child?**

**Are you a neurotypical mum trying to navigate
parenting a neurodivergent child?**

**Are you awaiting an assessment for your child or
have a child that already has a diagnosis?**

Unsure but not sure where to start?

Parenting a child with SEN can feel lonely sometimes, especially when others don't quite understand. Walking alongside people who are in the same boat can make such a difference. Fresh air & a shared walk can create a safe relatable space to talk, there is no judgement, just support for all parts of the journey, understanding & the reminder that you're not alone in this.

Children are welcome to join.

Contact Emily for more details- 07731612433 @walkingwithsen



Judo For Schools



GREAT HOLLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

WEDNESDAY STARTING 7TH JANUARY TO 11TH FEBRUARY 2026
TIME FROM 3.15 TO 4.15 PM

THE COST FOR THE COURSE IS £39 FOR 6 WEEKS

All bookings are made via email to: JudoForSchools@judoclubosaka.com

Please include the following information in your email:

Subject Line of email: <Day and name of school>

Student's Name: Year Group & Class:

Any medical/allergy information or anything else that we need to know about:

My child will be collected from the school hall OR Walk home on their own?

Emergency Contact Details:

Your Name: Phone Number:

Second Contact Name: Phone Number:

Payment Method: Bank Transfer

Details of how to pay will be forwarded to you once the place has been confirmed. Failure to pay before the start of the course will forfeit the place.

Please note that places are limited to 25 students per course; places will be allocated on a first-come-first-serve basis, as we operate an ongoing progressive course. You will be notified by email as to whether your child has a place or not.

Once your child has a place, they should wear jogging bottoms and preferably a long sleeved t-shirt. It is also advisable that your child has a named water bottle with them.

By applying for a place you are accepting that Judo For Schools coaches cannot be held responsible for injury or loss/damage to personal property.

Judo For Schools is compliant with the EU GDPR legislation.
The data collected is for our use only and never shared with any third parties.