



GREAT HOLLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

# GREAT TIMES

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THINKING AND LEARNING TOGETHER, ACHIEVING FOREVER

Issue 2, December 2025



## Message from the Headteacher

As we come to the end of our Autumn Term, I wanted to take the opportunity to reflect on 2025, but also to think ahead to 2026 and how we can make it another GREAT year for our amazing school community.

This week, children from Years 1-6 took a lovely trip to St Michael's Church where we retold the Christmas Nativity and sung our Carols in a beautiful and special building. Well done to all those involved especially our readers: Finnley (Y2), Eveline and Liyanna (Y3), Skyla (Y4), Eryk and Christopher (Y5) and Damian (Y6). Thanks also goes to Mrs Andrew and Mrs van der Rest for organising the event.

We do love Christmas at GHPS, and it has been wonderful to see all the Christmas spirit across our school.

It was wonderful to watch our youngest pupils in Reception performing 'Our First Nativity', and also to see our Year 1&2 pupils in their performance of 'It's a Baby!' These nativity plays take a lot of patience, practise and dedication from staff and pupils alike and we are very proud of how well all the children did on their performance days.

The children had a festive Christmas Lunch on Christmas Jumper day and loved the Hogwarts at Christmas feel we had in Gold Hall. There was also a fabulous Christmas sing-a long in Gold Hall this morning and everyone really enjoyed themselves.

We have had lots of Christmas activities happening right across the school and we really have had a fun week.

Our school is a wonderful place, and our school community is filled with some very wonderful people.

Our entire school team have yet again been superb and have continued to work with positivity, energy and commitment, to give your children the very best. I know they are all looking forward to a relaxing break over Christmas and I hope that every one of them and you have the chance to rest and recharge your batteries over the festive period.

Wishing you all a relaxing Christmas and New Year and I look forward to welcoming you all back to school on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

**Richard Ferris**  
**Headteacher**

We return to school on **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

Term dates for 2025-26 and 2026-27 can be found on our website for your convenience: [Term Dates](#)

## PE Activities for Years 4 and 6

Next term, we are pleased to be able to confirm that children in Year 4 will be undertaking a lesson of fencing each week in PE. The sessions will be led by a coach from Little Musketeers Fencing, who have previously run an after school club with us for children in Years 1-6.

Children in Year 6 will be having a Judo lesson each week as part of their learning in PE. These sessions will be led by Judo Club Osaka, who also run an after school club every Wednesday at our school. Details about the after school club can be found later in this newsletter.

## House Points Reward

The termly house point competition has been concluded for the Autumn Term and we are delighted to confirm that Ruby are the winning house!

The totals for this term are:

**Ruby:** 1523  
**Sapphire:** 1515  
**Emerald:** 1375  
**Amber:** 1342

Mr Ferris met with house captains on Wednesday this week to decide on the reward for the winners this term. They decided that they wanted to organise some fun games for Ruby house to take part in. This morning, all of Ruby house came to Gold Hall and enjoyed some fun, all organised and led by the House Captains, supported by Mrs Watson and Ms York.

They played a series of games including a limbo contest and musical statues and they all had a really GREAT time. We can't wait to see who will be the winners next term, and would like to congratulate all the children for their great work in collecting house points this term.



## Green Team in Action!

Our Green Team spent some time this morning with Mr Walters learning about how the school heating and hot water gets shut down when the school is closed to help save energy.



## Morning and After School Club

Don't forget to book your place at morning or after school club for next term, all the details are on our website on our wraparound care page: [Before and After School Childcare](#).

All sessions for after school and morning club should be paid for in advance on ParentPay and if you have a balance outstanding on your child's account this must now be settled in full.

For any enquiries, please email [ghpsasc@maidenerlegthrust.org](mailto:ghpsasc@maidenerlegthrust.org)

# Our Great Learning!

## Sustainability looking good in Year 6!

Year 6 have been busy sewing this week, creating sustainable reusable bags from old clothing. They developed their stitching and design skills while learning about the importance of recycling and reducing waste. The finished bags show great creativity and care—well done, Year 6!



## Artistic Design in Year 1

Over the past couple of weeks, Year 1 have been learning to make art in the style of Matisse in computing using a painting program on the tablets.



## A visit from Revd Morley

On Tuesday, Rev. Morley from St. Michael's and St. Mary Magdelene Church came into school. He visited each year group and class, speaking to the children and answering questions that they had for him. The children were very engaged in his visit and really enjoyed welcoming him to our GREAT school.



# FROGS Christmas Fair

Thank you to everyone who came along to our fabulous FROGS Christmas Fair this year. We have been told this week that the event made £941.47 in profit, which will be used to help supply new playground equipment for the children in the new year.

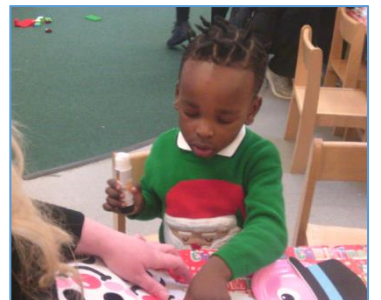
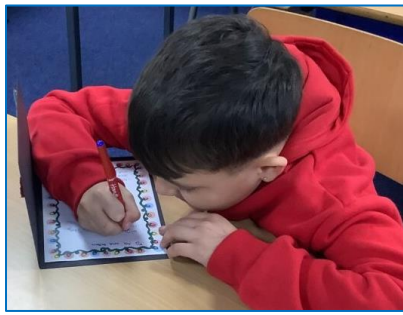


Our FROGS are always looking for new members to join their small but fabulous core team of volunteers. If you can spare some time to help out at events such as the fairs, film nights and discos that they hold, please get in touch with them by email: [frogspta@gmail.com](mailto:frogspta@gmail.com) - they would love to hear from you!

# Christmas at GHPS







# Diary Dates

JANUARY 2026	
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Whole School:</b> Start of Spring Term
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Open Event for parents of children starting Nursery or Reception in 2026 – 9.15am, click <a href="#">here</a> for information
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Year 1:</b> Kings and Queens Day
	<b>Year 2:</b> Bring your Wheels to School Day
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Reception:</b> Family Learning Maths ‘Magic Pebbles’ – 1.45-3.10pm
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Deadline for applications for a Reception place (Sept 2026)
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Year 5:</b> Trip to Upton Court – cost £20
	<b>Year 4:</b> Trip to Reading Museum – cost £18
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Year 1:</b> Trip to Windsor Castle – cost £17
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Year 2:</b> Trip to Brooklands Museum – cost £25
FEBRUARY 2026	
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Nursery:</b> Family Learning Maths ‘Washing Lines’ – 9.00-10.30am
	<b>Year 6:</b> Trip to Didcot Railway Centre – cost £23.50
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Year 3:</b> Family Learning English ‘SPaG 1’ – 9.00-10.30am
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Year 4:</b> Family Learning English ‘SPaG 2’ – 9.00-10.30am
<b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> to Friday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>HALF TERM BREAK</b>
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>TRUST WIDE INSET DAY</b> – pupils not in school
MARCH 2026	
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Reception:</b> NCMP Height, Weight, Vision and Hearing Screening – letter to follow
<b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Last Day of Spring Term</b>

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