



GREAT HOLLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

GREAT TIMES

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THINKING AND LEARNING TOGETHER, ACHIEVING FOREVER

Issue 3, February 2026



Message from the Headteacher

What a wonderful start to 2026 we have had! Even though it seems like every day has been a wet play day, the positivity, energy and enthusiasm around school have been absolutely fantastic.

We are delighted to share the very positive outcome from our recent Ofsted inspection. The report recognises the tremendous dedication, commitment and passion shown by our entire school community.

The outcome has been so impressive that we have been inundated with requests from other schools wishing to visit us to learn more about what makes our school so successful. We were also incredibly proud to receive a letter from the Secretary of State praising our achievements. What a wonderful acknowledgement of the hard work that goes into making our school exceptional.

However, as always, we remain focused on what matters most: doing our very best for your child, every single day. I hope you truly appreciate the effort and care that our entire team invests in making this school such a special place to learn and grow.



An Amazing Start to the Year

We have had a fantastic start to the school year, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued and tireless support.

Your child's school really is a GREAT place to learn. As you know, the progress our children make is significantly above that of pupils nationally. It's reassuring to know that your child attends one of the most successful schools in the country.

That said, our school is about so much more than exam results. While our outcomes provide a strong indicator of our success, what truly defines us is the quality of education, care and opportunity we provide every single day.

If you have not yet done so, please do take the time to read the descriptions of our school in the Ofsted report, it really is a wonderful read and captures so much of what makes our school so GREAT.



Always Striving for Even Better

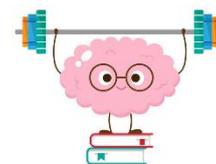
We are immensely proud of what has been achieved, particularly the incredible progress made over recent years. It is a privilege to lead such a dedicated team.

Of course, we know we will not always get everything perfectly right, but we are relentless in our determination to build on our success and continue improving even further.

I hope you share in our pride. If you get the chance, please do shout from the rooftops just how GREAT your child's school truly is!

Thank you for playing such an important part in our continued success.

Wishing you all a safe and relaxing half-term break - and please remember to KEEP READING with your child over the week... keep learning – little and often to keep your brain strong!



Richard Ferris
Headteacher

We return to school on **Monday 23rd February 2026**

There has been a change to one of our Inset Days for our next academic year (2026-27). The Inset Day previously arranged for 4th May, will now be on 20th April.

A complete list of term dates for 2025-26 and 2026-27 can be found on our website for your convenience:

[Link to Term Dates](#)



New Lunch Menu

We have had confirmation from ParentPay that the lunch menus are loaded and ready to order for next half term. Please don't forget to order your child's meals before the start of the new term (www.parentpay.com).

Details of the new menus can be found on our website on the [School Meals](#) page.

House Points Reward

The termly house point competition has continued for the first half of the Spring Term and we are delighted to confirm that the ranking and totals so far are:



Sapphire:	2094
Ruby:	1929
Amber:	1901
Emerald:	1889

Let's keep collecting those points and see who the winner at the end of the Spring term will be!

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.

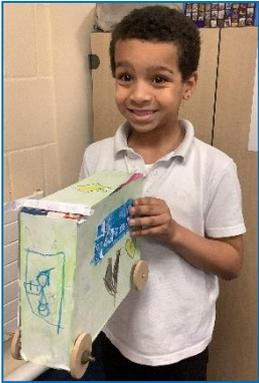
For any enquiries, please email ghpsasc@maidenerleghtrust.org



Our Great Learning!

Travelling in Style with Hedgehogs Class

In Design Technology, Year 2 children have designed and made a new vehicle for Mrs Armitage using ideas from investigating vehicles. They learnt about wheels and axles, about how an axle can be free or fixed and made choices when designing their vehicle. It was GREAT fun to make and test their vehicles.



A GREAT WW2 Experience for Year 6 at Didcot!

All of the staff and children had a brilliant day at Didcot Railway Centre. The day was filled with lots of opportunities for the children to interact and discover what life was like during WW2, and the sessions were carefully designed so that all children could participate and feel included. They were so engaged that they forgot they were learning! It was a truly fantastic experience.



Half Term Fun at the Lexicon, Bracknell

This February half term, The Lexicon is giving visitors the chance to see some of the world's most famous cars - iconic vehicles from movies spanning the last twenty years.

From **Saturday 14th to Sunday 22nd February 2026** (inclusive), the town centre will transform into a showcase of eight legendary movie cars. **All eight vehicles will remain in town for the full duration of the event.**

Batmobile Tumbler (Princess Square)

The Mutt Cutts van from *Dumb and Dumber* (outside Foot Locker)

Bumblebee from *Transformers* (outside M&S)

Ghostbusters Ecto-1 Cadillac (outside Fenwick)

A Flintstones car (outside Superdry)

Disney's Cars characters (opposite Boots / next to Five Guys):

- Lightning McQueen
- Tow Mater
- Professor Z

Also, from **Monday 16th to Friday 20th February**, between **10am and 4pm**, visitors can take a photo while sitting **INSIDE** one of the three **Disney Cars** vehicles at The Lexicon.

Where: Opposite **Boots / next to Five Guys**

Cost: **£1 per person** (*card payment only*)

All proceeds will go to **The Lexicon Charity Fund**, supporting local community groups within the borough of Bracknell Forest.

Don't forget – Kids Eat Free or For Less at the Lexicon this half term! From 14th to 22nd February, selected restaurants will be offering these discounts – information can be found via this weblink:

<https://www.thelexiconbracknell.com/events/kids-eat-for-less-february-half-term-2026>

Full details of all of these events can be found on The Lexicon Bracknell website:

<https://www.thelexiconbracknell.com/whats-on>

Road Closures

We have received notification of some upcoming roadworks around Ringmead to replace damaged kerbs and bollards on the chicanes in the coming weeks. Thankfully, most of them have been scheduled for the half-term break, but please be mindful that there may be some increased traffic when we return due to these works.

Week commencing 16th February

Ringmead – between Wroxham and Wylam (9.30-3.30 for two days)

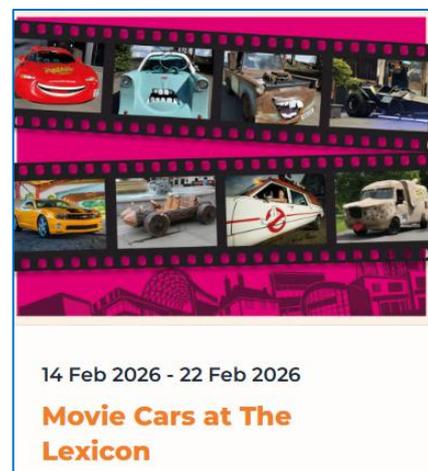
Great Hollands Road – between Beedon Drive and Great Hollands Square (9.30-3.30 for two days)

Ringmead – between Wordsworth and Winscombe (9.30-3.30 for two days)

Week commencing 23rd February

Great Hollands Road – between Holbeck and Highfield (9.30-3.30 for two days)

Roads will be closed to all traffic. Information boards will be or have been placed advising of the actual start date and duration.



Diary Dates

FEBRUARY 2026

Monday 16th to Friday 20th	HALF TERM BREAK
Wednesday 25 th	Year 1: Local Area Walk around Great Hollands Consent form link: https://forms.office.com/e/kt7tNbnCL9
Friday 27th	Trust-Wide Inset Day – school closed to pupils

MARCH 2026

Tuesday 3 rd	Reception: Parents' Evening – 3.40-6.00pm
	All Welcome: Resilience Toolkit Workshop – 1.00-3.00pm, sign up here: https://tinyurl.com/resilienceGH2026 <i>This is the first of three sessions in the course.</i>
Thursday 5 th	Reception: Parents' Evening – 4.00-7.00pm
w/c Monday 9 th	Year 6: Practice SATs Week
Monday 9 th	Year 5: Family Learning Science & Engineering Workshop – 9.00-10.30am in Gold Hall
Tuesday 10 th	All Welcome: Resilience Toolkit Workshop – 1.00-3.00pm <i>This is the second of three sessions in the course.</i>
Friday 13 th	SEND Surgery: 9.00-3.00pm – Appointments throughout the day, letter to follow
Tuesday 17 th	Reception: NCMP Height, Weight, Vision and Hearing Screening – 9.30am -12.00pm
	All Welcome: Resilience Toolkit Workshop – 1.00-3.00pm <i>This is the third of three sessions in the course.</i>
	Year 5: Experience Easter at St Michael's Church, Easthampstead – 1.30-2.30pm Consent form link: https://forms.office.com/e/8E0gRLrajR
Thursday 19 th	Year 2: ZooLab visit for Animal Encounters Workshop – letter to follow, approximate cost £10
Friday 27th	Last Day of Spring Term <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School closes at 2.15pm for pupils • After School Club closes at 4.45pm

APRIL 2026

Monday 13th	First Day of Summer Term
Wednesday 22 nd	Year 2: Family Learning English 'Story Maps' – 9.00-10.30am in Gold Hall
Thursday 23 rd	Whole School: Class Photos and Year 6 Individual Photos
Wednesday 29 th	Year 1: Family Learning English 'Story Sandwich' – 9.00-10.30am in Gold Hall

MAY 2026

Wednesday 6 th	Year 3: Family Learning Maths 'Kaboom' Times Tables – 9.00-10.30am in Gold Hall
Thursday 7 th	Year 4: Family Learning Maths Division – 9.00-10.30am in Gold Hall
Monday 11th to Thursday 14th	Year 6: SATs Assessments Week
w/c Monday 18 th	Whole School: Walk to School Week
Friday 22 nd	Nursery: Family Learning English 'Messy Writing' – 9.00-10.30am in Gold Hall
Monday 25th to Friday 29th	HALF TERM BREAK

JUNE 2026

w/c Monday 1 st	Year 6: Bikeability Course – specific days TBC
Monday 1 st to Friday 12 th	Year 4: Multiplication Tables Check
	Year 3&4 Swimming – details to follow
w/c Monday 8 th	Year 1: Phonics Screening Check
Thursday 11 th	Year 6: Family Learning Transition to Year 7 – 9.00-11.00am in Gold Hall <i>Session 1 of 2 - This is a parent only session</i>
Tuesday 23 rd to Monday 30 th	Book Fair: 3.00-3.30pm every day – more info to follow
Friday 26 th	Year 6: Family Learning Transition to Year 7 – 9.00-11.00am in Gold Hall <i>Session 2 of 2 - This session is for parents and children.</i>

JULY 2026

Wednesday 1 st	Year 6: Transition Day to Bracknell Forest Secondary Schools
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JULY 2026

Thursday 2 nd	<p>Year 6: Transition Day to Bracknell Forest Secondary Schools</p> <p>New Reception Intake: Family Learning Starting School – 9.00-10.30am in Gold Hall</p>
Friday 3rd	INSET DAY – school closed to pupils
Wednesday 8 th	Year 6: End of Year Production Performances – details to follow
Monday 13 th to Wednesday 15 th	Year 6: Residential Trip to PGL Liddington
Friday 17 th	Whole School: Sports Day, details TBC
Monday 20 th	<p>Whole School: Reports go out and pupils meet their new teachers (9.30-11.00am)</p> <p>Year 6: Water Day</p>
Tuesday 21 st	Year 6: Prom – 6.00-8.00pm in Gold Hall
Wednesday 22 nd	<p>Year 6: Graduation Celebration – 10.00-11.00am in Gold Hall</p> <p>End of Summer Term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School closes at 2.15pm for pupils • After School Club closes at 4.45pm

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





Resilience Toolkit

Helping our children to deal with challenge and change

A series of 3 sessions provided by Bracknell Family Learning Team to give parents/carers some great ideas and resources to use with their children

- Empowering children to make good choices
- Lots of ideas for boosting resilience and having a positive outlook
- "Make & Take" -each session will include helpful tools and techniques for you and your child



Try out different resources

A chance to chat and ask questions

Tuesday 3 rd March 2026 1-3pm	Tuesday 10 th March 2026 1-3pm	Tuesday 17 th March 2026 1-3pm
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Please speak to Mrs Balza (ghpssen@maidenerleghtrust.org) if you require further information. Please book your place on the course by **Tuesday 24th February** using this link: <https://tinyurl.com/resilienceGH2026>

Bracknell Forest Educational Psychology Service Parent Carer Contact Line

- 30 minute conversation with an Educational Psychologist -
- Available to all Bracknell Forest parent carers -
- Wednesday mornings during term time -
- By phone or MS Teams –



*Would you like advice on how to support your child at home?
Are you worried about your child's social skills?
Do you need some suggestions for your child's wellbeing?
Are you concerned about your child's learning?*

An Educational Psychologist has training and experience in supporting children and their adults to overcome barriers so that they can access their learning.

In these short sessions we can provide advice and signposting to help you support your child.

Discussions are confidential.

Booking information:

[EPS Parent Carer Contact Line - Request for appointment – Fill out form](#)

