



GREAT HOLLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

GREAT TIMES

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THINKING AND LEARNING TOGETHER, ACHIEVING FOREVER

Issue 4, March 2026



Message from the Headteacher

The weeks have passed by so quickly this term and I truly cannot believe we are at the Easter break already! The days are already growing longer and hopefully the sun will begin to shine soon for some warmer weather at last. The summer term is a very busy one and there are some important dates to note when some of the children will be doing their assessments:

Year 6 SATs between 11th -14th May

Year 1 Phonics Screening Check between 1st – 12th June.

Year 4 Multiplication Check between 8th – 12th June.

There are many other events, trips, workshops and activities happening, please do make sure that you keep up to date by checking emails from us regularly.

I am proud of how well-presented children at GHPS are, children like looking their best and when they are not uniformed in line with their peers it can make them feel uncomfortable. Please do keep up these high standards that we have by making sure your child meets our GREAT uniform expectations. If you are purchasing new school uniform over the break, please make sure to check that you buy the correct items, particularly footwear. Children should be wearing flat, black school shoes and not boots or trainers. All the guidelines can be found on our website – [School Uniform](#).

Thank you as always for your ongoing support and we wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable Easter break.

Richard Ferris
Headteacher

We return to school on **Monday 13th April 2026**

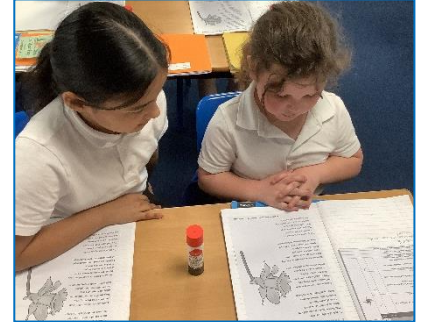
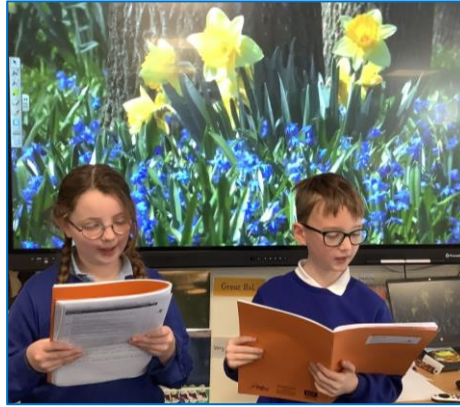
A complete list of term dates for 2025-26 and 2026-27 can be found on our website for your convenience:

[Link to Term Dates](#)

Our Great Learning!

Performing Poetry in Year 3

Falcons class have enjoyed reading and performing one of William Wordsworth's most popular poems, 'I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud'. The children have been using expression, speed, sounds and gestures to bring the poem to life and have also acted as a great audience too!



Budding Artists in Year 6

Year 6 have been exploring the art of botanical drawing this term, focusing on capturing the intricate details of flowers. Using a range of sketching pencils, the children experimented with shading, tone, and texture to bring their drawings to life. They carefully observed real flowers, paying close attention to shape, proportion, and the delicate variations in petals and leaves. It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they develop their artistic skills and create beautifully detailed pieces.



Art and Creativity in Year 5

Earlier this term, Year 5 explored the exciting world of installation art, developing their understanding of how spaces can be transformed to convey meaning and atmosphere. Using a range of materials, pupils designed and created their own installation models, carefully considering layout, lighting, and the viewer's experience. It has been fantastic to see their creativity and confidence grow as they evaluate their work, suggest improvements, and clearly present their ideas with purpose and imagination.



Year 2 ZooLab Workshop

Hedgehogs class had a visit from ZooLab. The children really enjoyed the Habitats workshop which was part of their Science and Geography studies. The children learnt about world habitats and why different types of habitats matter. They found out about animals that suit their habitat and why. They had a great time meeting the different animals.



Hawks Class erupting with knowledge!

In Year 4 this week, we have enjoyed concluding our unit of work on Italy and the infamous eruption of Mt Vesuvius in 79AD. We have looked at how volcanoes form and the role of tectonic plates in this. After the Easter break we will explore Italian food and have a go at making our own pizzas.

Italy

Capital City
 Rome is the capital city of Italy. It lies on the Tiber River. It was built on seven hills. People will travel to Rome to see their historic monuments.

Key Cities
 • Venice - streets are waterways, travel by gondola
 • Pisa - leaning tower, architects built on soft ground

History of Rome
 • Settled more than 2700 years ago
 • Was the capital of the Roman Empire
 • Center of ancient movements called Renaissance

Food
 • Pizza
 • Pasta, lasagne, spaghetti
 • Risotto
 • Caprese Salad
 • Margherita Pizza
 • Espresso
 • Bruschetta

Quick Facts
 • Capital City is Rome
 • Population 6.5 million
 • Currency is Euro
 • Government is democracy and republic
 • Language is Italian
 • Italy is a member of European Union

Learning: I can describe the key event

Time	Event	Image
Days before 24 th August	Warnings were felt was life carried on as normal	
24 th August - morning	first eruption phase began with a small explosion.	
24 th August - early afternoon (around 1pm)	Vesuvius erupted violently. Pompeii was plunged into darkness. Ash began to fall.	
24 th August - afternoon (around 2pm)	Ash and pumice were falling on Pompeii and hot lava, magma, pumice and debris began to build up on buildings.	
25 th August - midnight	crater peaked. Pyroclastic surge reaching 350km	
25 th August - early morning (around 2am)	eruption cloud collapsed. Surges grew close to Pompeii	
25 th August - morning (around 7am)	lava surge reaching Pompeii and kills everything	
25 th August - morning (around 8am)	Pompeii disappears under volcanic material rock.	

to explain how volcanoes are formed

Write a small paragraph about each stage of a volcano's life.

1. Pressure builds up inside the Earth.

2. This then affects the Earth's crust so the magma can sometimes erupt through it.

3. The lava and ash that has erupted through the crust build up to form the classic volcano cone shape over time.

4. This process is happening all the time!!!!

Key words: magma, pressure, lava, eruption

Easter Holiday Fun

This Easter there are some GREAT activities to enjoy with the family in the local area.

Bracknell Forest:

Drop into your [local library](#) these school holidays for a variety of free Lego and craft sessions and the chance to find your next favourite book.

Make sure you have signed up for your very own children's [library card](#) so you can borrow some books for the holidays and are ready to enter the Summer Reading Challenge in July!



Scavenger Hunt at every branch!

Drop into your local library during the school holidays to collect a scavenger hunt challenge sheet from one of our staff, complete it and enter the prize draw.

Week 1 Mario Lego Challenge and Easter Craft Sessions

Have a go at our Mario-themed Lego challenge and get your crafting creativity flowing. Sessions are free. No bookings required.

Monday 30 March at Binfield Library 3pm to 5pm
Tuesday 31 March at Bracknell Library 10am to 12pm
Wednesday 1 April at Crowthorne Library 10am to 12pm
Wednesday 1 April at Whitegrove Library 10am to 12pm
Thursday 2 April at Sandhurst Library 2pm to 4pm



Week 1 Easter Craft Sessions

Get your crafting creativity flowing. Sessions are free. No bookings required.

Monday 30 March at Harmans Water Library 3pm to 4pm
Tuesday 31 March at Ascot Heath Library 3pm to 4pm
Wednesday 1 April at Great Hollands Library 3pm to 4pm
Thursday 2 April at Birch Hill Library 3pm to 4pm



Week 2 – The Magic Faraway Tree Craft Sessions

Climb The Magic Faraway Tree these school holidays to explore a different 'Land' at our themed craft sessions in each of our 9 library branches. Sessions are free. No booking required.

Land of Ice and Snow - Tuesday 7 April at Harmans Water Library 10:30am to 11:30am
Land of Fantastical Creatures - Tuesday 7 April at Sandhurst Library 2pm to 3pm.
Land of Turtles - Wednesday 8 April at Crowthorne Library 10:30am to 11:30am.
Land of Minibeasts - Wednesday 8 April at Great Hollands Library 2:30pm to 3:30pm.
Land of Machines - Thursday 9 April at Bracknell Library 10:30am to 11:30am.
Land of Music - Thursday 9 April at Ascot Heath Library 2pm to 3pm.
Land of Dinosaurs - Thursday 9 April at Birch Hill Library 2:30pm to 3:30pm.
Land of Games - Friday 10 April at Whitegrove Library 10:30am to 11:30am.
Land of Oceans - Friday 10 April at Binfield Library 2:30pm to 3:30pm.



Spring into Easter at The Lexicon

Get ready to hop into the holidays! The Lexicon is inviting families to **Spring into Easter** with a fun-filled programme of Easter-themed activities running from **Friday 27 March to Monday 13 April 2026**.

Guess the number of eggs in the Giant Globe

Visit Princess Square to discover a **giant Easter egg-filled globe**. Simply scan the QR code, guess how many eggs are inside, and you could win **one of three spring hampers worth £100 each**. [T&C's apply](#)

Hop aboard The Lexicon Express

The much-loved Lexicon Express will have a springtime makeover, offering a fun way to tour the centre for just **£1 per ride**. Don't forget to pick up the **limited-edition Easter sticker** for your collection!

FREE Easter Trail

Back by popular demand, the **FREE Easter Trail** will reuse [the ten large eggs beautifully decorated by local schools last Easter](#). Families can hunt for the eggs and complete the trail leaflet for the chance to win one of three £50 gift cards from The Lexicon.

Meet The Animals!

Fun Events - Don't Miss Out!



[CLICK FOR DETAILS! ►](#)

Diary Dates

MARCH 2026	
Sunday 29 th	FRoGS Easter Egg Hunt and Bonnet Competition: 11.00am – 1.00pm (winners chosen at 12.45pm)
APRIL 2026	
Monday 13 th	First Day of Summer Term
Monday 20 th	Year 1: Berkshire Reptile Encounters visit – letter to follow
Wednesday 22 nd	Year 2: Family Learning English 'Story Maps' – 9.00-10.30am
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

MAY 2026	
Monday 4 th	May Bank Holiday: Pupils not in school
Wednesday 6 th	Year 3: Family Learning Maths 'Kaboom' Times Tables – 9.00-10.30am
Thursday 7 th	Year 4: Family Learning Maths Division – 9.00-10.30am
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
Monday 25th to Friday 29th	HALF TERM BREAK
JUNE 2026	
Monday 1st	First day of Term
w/c Monday 1 st	Year 6: Bikeability Course – specific days TBC
Monday 1 st to Friday 12 th	Year 4: Multiplication Tables Check – more info to follow
	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
Thursday 2 nd	Year 6: Transition Day to Bracknell Forest Secondary Schools
	New Reception Intake: Family Learning Starting School – 9.00-10.30am in Gold Hall
Friday 3rd	INSET DAY – school closed to pupils

JULY 2026	
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	Whole School: Reports go out and pupils meet their new teachers (9.30-11.00am)
	Year 6: Water Day
Tuesday 21 st	Year 6: Prom – 6.00-8.00pm in Gold Hall
Wednesday 22 nd	Year 6: Graduation Celebration – 10.00-11.00am in Gold Hall
	End of Summer Term <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!



SPRING SALE!

10% OFF



STOCK UP ON SUMMER UNIFORM EARLY!

10% OFF EVERYTHING THIS WEEKEND!

ENTER PROMO CODE:

BLOOM10

AT CHECKOUT

ORDER YOUR SUMMER UNIFORM EARLY

10% off this weekend (27th - 30th March 26)

Simply use the promocode: **BLOOM10** at checkout.

Life is expensive. We can help.



First Days Mobile Support Hub

Please come along to one of our Mobile Support Hubs. Our van carries seasonal items and you can meet our Family Support Team who will be able to talk through how we can help you with other essentials.

April to June 2026

1st Tuesday

Priestwood Community Hall
Kerith Centre Bracknell

09:30-10:30
10:45-12:00

4th Monday

Shinfield School Green Centre

12:30-13:30

2nd Wednesday

Woodley Precinct
Highfield Park Wargrave
Pennfields Twyford

10:00-12:00
12:30-13:15
13:30-14:00

4th Wednesday

Woodley Precinct
Rainbow Centre Winnersh

10:00-12:00
12:30-13:00

3rd Wednesday

Kerith Centre Bracknell
Great Hollands Community Centre

10:00- 11:00
11:30-12:30



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