



GREAT HOLLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

GREAT TIMES

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THINKING AND LEARNING TOGETHER, ACHIEVING FOREVER

Issue 1, October 2025



Message from the Headteacher

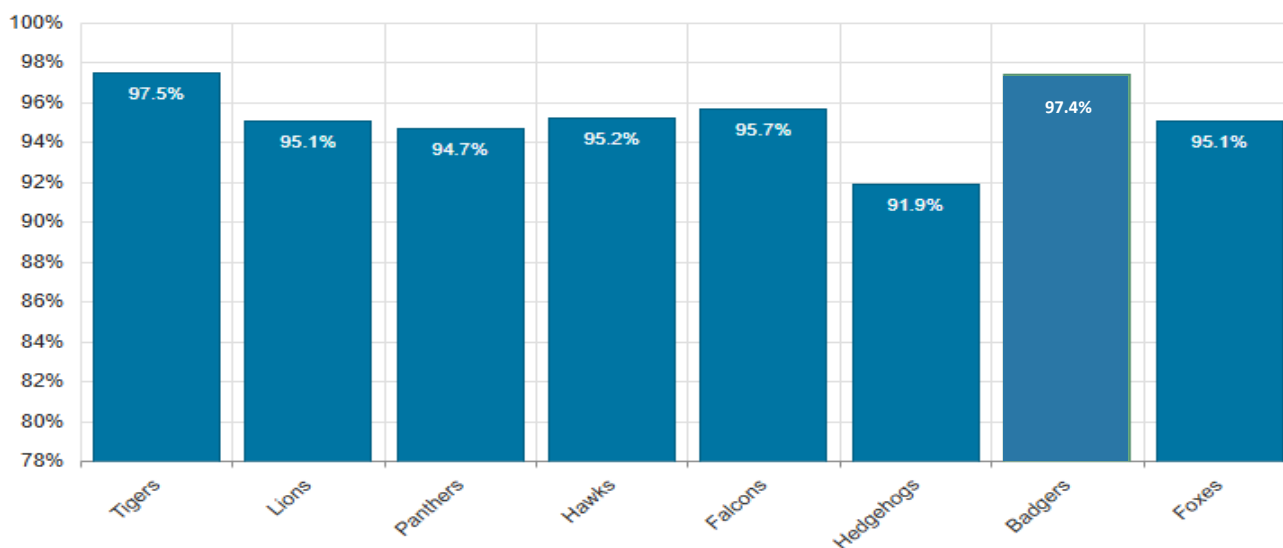
As we find ourselves at the end of the first half of the Autumn Term, I'd like to reflect on the many different curriculum enhancing activities that the children have enjoyed, including workshops, trips and themed days. These experiences can only happen with support from our parent community, whether it's by making costumes, volunteering or making financial contributions, I'd like to thank you all for your continuing support.

I hope you all took the opportunity to speak with your child's teacher earlier this month during our Parents' Evening sessions. Please don't forget that you can make an appointment to speak with class teachers at any time throughout the year if you ever need to discuss any aspect of your child's educational journey.

Attendance Matters

In our newsletters over previous weeks, we have been focussing on school attendance and punctuality as both can make a huge difference to pupil successes, confidence and engagement in their learning. It is incredibly important that pupils are in school on time every day.

Well done to Tigers and Badgers classes who have achieved the highest attendance percentage for this term – GREAT work!



Currently our whole school attendance stands at 94.9% for this academic year, which we must improve on greatly if we are to reach our target. Let's work together to achieve GREAT attendance!

There is so much more happening in the second part of the Autumn Term and beyond, and we can't wait to share it all with you!

Richard Ferris
Headteacher

We return to school on **Monday 3rd November 2025**

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

House Points

The children have been collecting house points and the competition is well underway. At the halfway point of the term, the current totals are:

Ruby: 709

Sapphire: 645

Emerald: 642

Amber: 638

Great job so far everyone! Let's see who will have the most points at the end of the Autumn term!

Message from the School Advisory Board (SAB)

The Autumn Term seems to be rushing by, with half term now upon us. So far this term the School Advisory Board (previously known as Governors) have visited the school to observe a normal day and to witness the experience of the children. We visited all the year groups from Nursery through to Year 6. The pupils in the nursery were quickly learning their daily routines and expectations and experiencing their learning through play. Whilst in Reception class phonics and handwriting was being learnt. Throughout the rest of the school maths lessons were underway, and the SAB could see the way teaching and learning progressed through the year groups.

Our visits into school are always a delight, the children never fail to impress us with their excellent behaviour and their attitude to learning. After this, I met with Mr Ferris and Ms Ellis (Director of School Improvement - Curriculum), where we reviewed the previous academic year, looking at successes and areas that may need 'tweaking' to improve our practice and therefore outcomes for the children.

The first SAB meeting was held in early October, where we discussed the School Improvement Plan and asked Mr Ferris questions. There were also reports on Safeguarding and SEND provision, which were prepared by SAB members. The very impressive SATs results from the summer and information submitted for our meeting, showed that the school is going from strength to strength and puts it in the top 5% of schools nationally for progress made. Congratulations and thanks should go to all the staff and pupils who have made this possible.

There is currently a vacancy for a parent SAB member. If any parent is interested, the forms and details will be sent out over the half term break. Should you wish to ask any questions about the possibility of joining us please contact me via the school, or you can speak to our current parent SAB member, again, by contacting the school. No formal qualifications are required for this voluntary role.

Wishing you all a very relaxing half term break and I look forward to seeing what the next half term brings.

Lindsey Bowden,
Chair of GHPS SAB



Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

We are delighted to confirm that we will again be selling poppies on behalf of the Royal British Legion. These will be on sale in school between Monday 3rd and Friday 7th November. We also have a limited amount of poppy-

themed merchandise available for 50p or £1 each.

Our Year 6 pupils will be visiting classes daily for children to make their purchases.



School Lunches – New Menus

As you will be aware, the **current menu will be changing after half term**. The new menu will be uploaded onto ParentPay very soon. We will notify you all via email when the new menu is live and available to order.

Thank you to everyone who has been ordering lunches at home for their children. Our caterers are then able to only cook the food that has been ordered to ensure that fresh and nutritious meals are available for those children. It also helps us think about our environmental impact as it greatly minimises food waste.

The school office team are always on hand to help if you are having any problems using ParentPay.



Before and After School Club

Don't forget to book your place at 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

Autumn Photography Competition 2025

Pupils aged 7 years and older are invited to take part in this year's Ascot Racecourse Autumn Photography Competition, celebrating the magic of the season and the theme for 2025 is 'Favourite Christmas Memory'.

The competition will once again be judged by Royal Photographer Millie Pilkington.

Submission Details:

'Favourite Christmas Memory' – a personal image that portrays a meaningful festive moment, e.g. meeting Father Christmas, singing carols with friends, making a Christmas cake...

Format:

Images must be a digital landscape photograph in jpeg format alongside a paragraph describing why you have chosen this image.

Prizes and Deadline:

£1000 for each winning school to spend on photographic equipment

£100 of John Lewis vouchers for winning photographers

All entries must be sent via email to csr@ascot.com by **14th November 2025**.

This competition was won by our very own Dexter last year and the money used was put towards fabulous new cameras for our photography club – let's see if we can make it two years in a row for a GREAT GHPS winner!

Mayor's Christmas Card Competition

The Mayor of Bracknell Forest has invited all primary school children in the borough to design her official Christmas card for 2025! She is looking for a creative design that celebrates Christmas in Bracknell Forest.

Submission Details:

Designs should be created on A4 paper or card, with the child's name, age and school written on the back. There can only be one entry per pupil.

Prizes and Deadline:

There is a first prize of a £25 gift voucher and your design printed as the Mayor's official Christmas card. Two runners-up will also receive a £20 gift voucher each.

All entries must be emailed to mayor@bracknell-forest.gov.uk or posted to: Mayoral Support Officer, Bracknell Forest Council, Time Square, Market Street, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 1JD by **10th November 2025**.

Full details of both of these competitions can be found on [the flyers later in this newsletter](#).

Our Great Learning!



Harvest Performance

Reception children shared their Harvest performance with parents last Thursday. They performed an autumn poem, read the story of 'The Little Red Hen' and shared some Harvest songs. Well done to all the children and staff, and a big thank you to parents and carers



for the fantastic Harvest donations. We took these to our local food bank today where they will be used to help local families in need.

Budding Artists Blossoming in Year 6

Children in Year 6 have been exploring the beautiful world of Impressionism. Drawing inspiration from Claude Monet and his enchanting 'Gardens at Giverny', the children have created their own stunning works of art that capture light, colour and movement in true Impressionist style.



Computing Skills for Badgers and Foxes

Children in Year 1 have been learning to improve their keyboard and mouse skills in their computing lessons. They really enjoyed writing some simple sentences and drawing themselves!



Year 3 Stonehenge Trip

Falcons had a wonderful day at Stonehenge as they travelled back in time around five thousand years! They became history detectives, engineers and part of a Neolithic family by creating a human timeline, studying artefacts, grinding wheat and making their own rope in order to understand the past lives of those that built this amazing structure.



Observational Drawing for Hedgehogs

Children in Year 2 have been learning how to use tone and texture to create observational drawings. They have used different tools to make light and dark tones and chosen different materials to add texture and detail.



Celebrating Diwali through Dance and Music

On Monday 20th October, pupils from Nursery, Reception and Years 1-4 all took part in an energy filled dance workshop linked to the festival of Diwali. They all really enjoyed the music and dance movements taught to them by the instructor – some of our staff team got involved as well and all had a GREAT time!



Diary Dates

OCTOBER 2025	
Wednesday 22 nd	INSET DAY – pupils not in school
Thursday 23 rd to Friday 31 st	HALF TERM BREAK
NOVEMBER 2025	
Monday 3 rd	Whole School: Pupils return to school
Monday 3 rd to Thursday 13 th	GHPS hosting the Healthy Living Exhibition from South Hill Park, which includes work from last year's Year 3 pupils

NOVEMBER 2025	
Thursday 6 th	FROGS PTA: Family Firework Display – please see the flyer in this newsletter – individual and family tickets available now! www.charity-hub.co.uk/friendsofgreathollandsschool
Friday 7 th	Year 2: Picnic Planners Day
	Year 1: Toy Day
	SEND Surgery: appointments only, detail to follow
Wednesday 12 th	Year 6: Cinema visit to watch Kensuke’s Kingdom – letter to follow
Wednesday 19 th	Year 4: Local Area Walk – letter to follow, details TBC
Tuesday 25 th to Monday 1 st	Book Fair – open daily after school
Wednesday 26 th	Year 1: Family Learning Maths ‘100 Square’ – 1.45-3.10pm
Thursday 27 th	Year 2: Family Learning Maths ‘Criss-Cross Addition’ – 9.00-10.30am
Friday 28 th	Year 6, selected pupils only: Careers Fair at Garth Hill School – letter to follow for pupils taking part
DECEMBER 2025	
Tuesday 2 nd	Year 4: Christmas Unwrapped at St Michael’s Church, Easthampstead – letter to follow
Saturday 6 th	FROGS PTA: Christmas Fair – stall holders wanted, email frogspta@gmail.com Further information to follow
Tuesday 16 th	Reception: Performance of ‘Our First Nativity’, details to follow
Wednesday 17 th	Years R-6: Christmas Jumper Day and School Christmas Lunch – details to follow
Friday 19th	Last Day of Autumn Term
JANUARY 2026	
Wednesday 14 th	Reception: Family Learning Maths ‘Magic Pebbles’ – 1.45-3.10pm
Friday 23 rd	Year 1: Trip to Windsor Castle – letter to follow, approx. cost £20
Wednesday 28 th	Year 2: Trip to Brooklands Museum – letter to follow, approx. cost £25

FEBRUARY 2026	
Wednesday 4 th	Nursery: Family Learning Maths 'Washing Lines' – 9.00-10.30am
	Year 6: Trip to Didcot Railway Station – letter to follow, approx. cost £25
Thursday 5 th	Year 3: Family Learning English 'SPaG 1' – 9.00-10.30am
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



The poster features a blue background with a large white stylized flower graphic on the right. On the left, there are three circular inset photos: the top one shows a teacher and students clapping, the middle one shows a girl writing in a notebook, and the bottom one shows a boy on a climbing frame. The school's logo, a stylized flower, is in the top left corner of the text area.

**GREAT HOLLANDS
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Open Events

**Mon 6 October
Wed 12 November
Wed 3 December
Thu 8 January**

Scan QR
to book



 www.greathollandspriamry.co.uk  01344 424911



SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Students are invited to participate in our photography competition inspired by their "Favourite Christmas Memory". The competition offers students aged 7-16 the opportunity to win prizes for themselves and their schools and to see their photography on display at our Howden Christmas Racing Weekend.

HOW TO ENTER

Entry Requirements

Submit a digital landscape photograph capturing your **Favourite Christmas Memory** alongside a short paragraph explaining why the photograph is important to you.

Age Categories

Junior - Primary Schools (ages 7-11)
Senior - Secondary Schools (ages 11-16)

Judge

Entries will be judged by royal photographer, Millie Pilkington. One of the UK's most respected and accomplished portrait photographers, Millie's commissions range from informal family portraits to the private wedding photographs of Their Royal Highnesses The Prince and Princess of Wales, and her work has appeared widely in the UK and international press.

Find out more about Millie at milliepilkington.co.uk

Please send entries to csr@ascot.com alongside your name, age and school.
Please send image in jpeg format.

Winners announced - 3rd December 2025
Prize giving - 20th December 2025 at Ascot Racecourse



PRIZES

- ➔ £1,000 to spend on photographic equipment for winning schools
- ➔ £100 of John Lewis vouchers for winning photographers
- ➔ Overall winning photograph to appear in the Ascot racecard on 19 and 20 December
- ➔ Winning photographs to be displayed in the Ascot Grandstand on 19 and 20 December

ENTRY
DEADLINE
14TH NOV
2025



Design the Mayor's Official Christmas Card!

The Mayor of Bracknell Forest invites all primary school children in the borough to design her official Christmas card for 2025!

The winning design will be used as her official card this year.

She's looking for a creative design that celebrates Christmas in Bracknell Forest.



How to enter:



- Create your design on A4 paper or card.
- Clearly write your name, age, and school on the back of your entry.
- Only one entry per pupil.

Prizes:



First Prize: £25 gift voucher and your design printed as the Mayor's official Christmas card!
Two Runners-Up: £20 gift voucher each.



Send your entries to:

Email: mayor@bracknell-forest.gov.uk or by post to: Mayoral Support Officer, Bracknell Forest Council, Time Square, Market Street, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 1JD

Deadline for entries: Monday, 10 November 2025. Winners will be contacted through their schools shortly after the closing date. The Mayor will personally visit the winning schools to present the prizes.





MAIDEN ERLEGH
INSTITUTE

Train to Teach Information Evening

THURSDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2025

6:00PM - 7:00PM

Are you interested in kick-starting a new career in teaching?

If so, our Train to Teach event is the perfect opportunity for you to learn all you need to know about teacher training with Maiden Erlegh Institute. You can discover if teaching is right for you, find out how to apply and explore what funding is available.

Maiden Erlegh Institute offers training places at a variety of Primary, Secondary or SEND schools in Reading, Wokingham and Bracknell.

You could train at:

- Aldryngton Primary School
- Birch Copse Primary School
- Birch Hill Primary School
- Blessed Hugh Faringdon Catholic School
- The Forest School
- Great Hollands Primary School
- Jennett's Park CE Primary School
- John Rankin Federation
- Katesgrove Primary School
- Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge
- Maiden Erlegh School
- Maiden Erlegh School in Reading
- Oak Tree School (Primary or Secondary)
- Reading Girls' School
- Ridgeway Primary School
- Southcote Primary School
- Westwood Farm School
- Whitley Park Primary and Nursery
- UTC, Reading

How to sign up?

If you are interested in signing up to the Train to Teach Information Evening, please **scan the QR code** below or click **HERE** to complete the booking form.



Event Venue:

Maiden Erlegh School
Silverdale Road, Earley, RG6 7HS



www.maidenerleghinstitute.org



0118 926 2467



MEIOffice@maidenerleghtrust.org

HATCHLINGS

@ CROWTHORNE RUGBY CLUB
SUNDAY MORNINGS 10AM-11AM

FOR MORE INFO EMAIL
SECRETARY@CROWTHORNERFC.CO.UK



OPEN TO CHILDREN IN YEARS 1, 2 & 3 TO
EXPERIENCE THE THRILL OF RUGBY IN A
SAFE, FUN AND SUPPORTIVE
ENVIRONMENT!