



Weekly Update

Friday 1st October

Important Updates This Week



The Autumnal weather is most definitely here and we've had a very wet and unsettled week. As the weather has now turned colder, can I please remind you to make sure the children come into school with their coats as they will need them when going out to play at break and lunch times.

Henley Literary Festival

Next week the children across the school will enjoy different online sessions as part of the Henley Literary Festival.

On Wednesday, Years 3&4 will enjoy a live stream of Thiago de Moraes reading 'A Gladiator Stole My Lunchbox'

On Thursday, children in EYFS will be listening to Smriti Halls reading 'I'm Sticking With You Too'

On Friday, children in Years 1&2 will be hearing Dr Shini Somora reading 'A Scientist Like Me' and Years 5&6 will hear Michael Morpurgo reading his new novel.

The Henley Literary Festival runs from 2-10 October and further information can be found on their website: <https://henleyliteraryfestival.co.uk/>

Reading at home

We all know that reading is the key to unlocking success and as families you play a huge part in ensuring your child's continuing success in school. Please help your children to enjoy reading each day by making it part of their daily routine. Try choosing a time of day when you and your child are not too tired and remember that a short daily session is much better than the occasional long one! Encouraging them to talk about what they are reading will also help develop their understanding skills.

Each child will begin their reading journey at GHPS using the Read, Write, Inc programme and then move on to the Accelerated Reader / myON reading system. Please support them to engage fully with both of these systems. Those that engage – SUCCEED!

If you have any questions about your child's reading or about their learning in general, please do get in touch with your child's class teacher. We are always here to help and support you and your child.

Parent and Teacher Meetings

Our parent and teacher meetings will be held on Monday 11th and Tuesday 12th October. These will be online meetings via Zoom and more information about booking your time slot will be sent out next week.

Thank you for your continued support.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'R Ferris'.

Richard Ferris
Headteacher



Attendance Stars

Classes with the highest attendance this week:

- 1st Place – Hawks (98.2%)
- 2nd Place – Hedgehogs (97%)
- 3rd Place – Panthers (96.7%)



House Points

House points have been totaled up across the school and the winners this week are **Emerald** with 176 house points! Well done Emerald, GREAT work!

PE Uniform

The children are looking very smart in their school uniforms, but can we please remind you of our PE uniform.

We recommend a plain black or blue tracksuit for the winter months, which is worn on top of the usual shorts and t-shirt, to help keep the children warm when doing PE outside. These can be found very reasonably priced at many supermarkets. Please see the links below for suitable examples for your information.

[Sainsburys - Joggers](#)

[Sainsburys – Tracksuit Top](#)

We understand that everyone's circumstances are different and we try and support our families by keeping costs to a minimum. It is important for the children to be in the correct uniform, so that they do not feel uncomfortable. If you are struggling, please do get in touch with us so that we are able to support you.

EYFS Topic – Can you help?



The children in Early Years are learning all about people who help us this term. Do you know anyone who is a dentist, nurse/doctor, farmer, policeman, fireman, lollipop person, etc, who could come and talk to the children about what they do and show them some of the things they use to help people?

If you can help, please get in touch with the school office: ghpsoffice@maidenerleghtrust.org

Bracknell Forest Vehicle Naming Competition

Bracknell Forest Council have been in touch letting us know that they have ten new waste collection vehicles and they are launching a competition for local primary schools to help in naming them.

If your child can think of a catchy and original name for one of the new vehicles, please send it in to the school office via email to: ghpsoffice@maidenerleghtrust.org along with your child's name and class.

We will then choose three names to be submitted to the waste and recycling team, who will select the winning entries.

We look forward to receiving some GREAT name suggestions!



Mixed Football Matches vs Binfield Primary

Match 1 – A Game

The Great Hollands team started excellently against a strong looking Binfield side, pinning the visitors back and looking increasingly likely to score the first goal. After an end-to-end half, Binfield broke the deadlock, with a strike from just inside the penalty area. A second goal followed shortly for Binfield, as they closed down a quick goal-kick. After the half-time break, Great Hollands again started strongly, with excellent passing play from the midfield and great tackling from the defence. A third goal for Binfield eventually came following a corner, however, Great Hollands moment was still to come. After a good run up the wing, captain Mason drove into the box and fired home to give a well-deserved goal. Final score – 1-3



Match 2 – B Game

An excellent Binfield side came out on top against Great Hollands in the B match. Defending excellently as a team for much of the first half, the game remained deadlocked at 0-0 for most of the half thanks to some brilliant defending and excellent goalkeeping from Caden in the GHPS goal. Eventually, the visitors found their way through and scored a couple of quick goals before half-time.

At half-time, the team discussed getting higher up the pitch to have more opportunities to score, however, chasing the game meant that with too many bodies up the field and despite more goalkeeping heroics, more goals were inevitable.

Final score – 0-6

Thank you to everyone who came to support our teams on Thursday and a very special thank you goes to Millie from EP, who very kindly volunteered to referee the game.

Saturday 10th October is World Mental Health Day

This year's World Mental Health Day, on Saturday 10 October has as its focus *Mental Health in an Unequal World*.

Many people with a mental illness do not receive the treatment that they are entitled to and deserve and together with their families and carers continue to experience stigma and discrimination. World Mental Health Day is an opportunity for people to learn about mental health inequality and to start a discussion. Resources and information can be found [here](#).

<https://www.kooth.com/>



We know that talking about feelings can be difficult for children and young people, however, and so we are delighted that for students living in Berkshire West (Reading, West Berkshire and Wokingham) access has been made available to Kooth, a well-established online counselling service for 11-18 year olds which is accredited by The British Association of Psychotherapy and Counselling (BACP).

For children not able to access Kooth, there is a wealth of advice available online including [Young Minds](#) and [On My Mind](#).

If you need help yourself or are worried about your child, advice can be found on the [NHS website](#).

For something practical to do this World Mental Health Day, children and adults can plan [positive activities](#) to enhance their emotional health and happiness using the principles of the Five Ways to Wellbeing: Connect, Be active, Take notice, Learn, Give.

Above all, we encourage you to take time to talk and to listen.

If we all do **one** thing,
we can change **everything**.

mind.org.uk/DoOneThing

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Birch Hill Primary School, Bracknell

October Half Term: 25th to 29th October

Christmas Holidays: 20th to 23rd December

February Half Term: 14th to 18th February

Activities Include:

Go Karts, Drama, Rounders, Science, Golf, Uni Hoc, Cricket, Arts & Crafts, Lego, Football, Crossbow Challenge, Relays, Water Play, Space Hoppers, Obstacle Challenge, Building Bonanza, Big Chief, Hama Time, Parachute Games, Paint Party, Nature Fun. Plus Many More!

HAVE FUN ★ MAKE FRIENDS ★ SMILE 😊



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