



GREAT HOLLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

GREAT TIMES

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THINKING AND LEARNING TOGETHER, ACHIEVING FOREVER

Issue 5, May 2026



Message from the Headteacher

It seems like only yesterday we were returning from the Easter break with SATs on the horizon, and now here we are halfway through the Summer term already – where has the time gone!

During the break, the swimming pool will again be set up on the Year 3&4 playground, which means there will be no access for parents, carers or children through the quiet area at drop off and pick up times. We ask that you please all use the pathway behind the gym while the pool is on site.



If you have a child in **Year 3 or 4** who has been offered the opportunity to have swimming lessons, it is essential that you complete the consent form if you have not already done so: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/mRw8CG4k1Z>

Swimming lessons will take place between 1st and 12th June for children in Hawks and Falcons classes. Please see the swimming letter for full details of the kit that children will need to bring with them **every day** while they are having their swimming lessons: [Link to Swimming Parent Letter for Years 3&4](#)

FRoGS Summer Fair 2026

We want to pass on a huge thank you to everyone who sent in donations for the Summer Fair last week when we had our non-uniform day, it all makes such a difference!

Our annual PTA Summer Fair will be taking place on Saturday 6th June between 1-4pm. This is one of the biggest fundraising events in the calendar and our PTA are always looking for a few extra pairs of hands on the day to help make things run even more smoothly. If you are able to spare a little time to help out, either with setting up, packing away, or even running a stall, please contact the FRoGS by email to frogspta@gmail.com, find them on Facebook, or leave your details with the school office.



Sun Safety

It's set to be incredibly hot over the half-term break, and while it is fabulous to finally have some sunnier weather, please do be careful in the heat!

When we return to school, please remember the following:

- Children should have a suitable, **named** sun cap in school every day.
- If you feel it appropriate, please apply long lasting sun cream in the morning before school, staff are not able to apply sun cream during the school day.
- Please make sure children have a **named** water bottle with them each day.

While in school, we will remind children to keep out of the sun at peak times on hot day and encourage them to drink plenty of water throughout the day.

Class Photographs

Class photo proofs have all been sent out with a deadline for online orders of 31st May. If you would like to send your order via the school, to qualify for free delivery these must be returned on Monday 1st June when we return for the new term. If you have lost your proof, please email the school office as we may be able to help!



Keeping Safe on Bikes and Scooters

As the weather becomes warmer and the days are longer, we're seeing lots of children enjoying playing on their bikes, scooters or other wheeled toys.

Please remember how important it is for children to wear a properly fitting helmet for their safety and protection, to significantly reduce the risk of serious injury if a fall occurs while riding.

Can we also remind you that children should not be riding their scooters or bikes on our playgrounds at pick up or drop off times. They can easily be separated from parents and become lost in the crowd, so please keep them with you at all times.

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

Richard Ferris
Headteacher

We return to school on **Monday 1st June 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](#)



School Uniform Ordering

Brigade, our school uniform provider are having one last online promotion before the end of the academic year.

Promotion Details

- Dates: **Friday 29th May – Midnight Sunday 31st May 2026**
- Offer: 15% Discount
- Code: **LASTCHANCE15**
- Website: [Brigade Parents Ordering Site](#)

Also, please note the following final order date:

- **Parents Direct (Home Delivery)** – Order by Friday 17th July for delivery before the new September term.

Our Great Learning!

Clay Houses in Year 2

Hedgehogs class have been learning to join clay shapes and make marks in the tile surface to create a pattern. They have drawn a house design and planned how to create the key features in clay. Then they created a clay house tile that has recognisable features made by both impressing objects into the surface and by joining simple shapes.

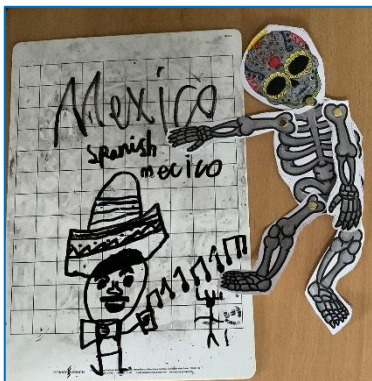


Year 3 Mexico Day

Hola!

Falcons class had a day full of Mexican themed fun on Wednesday! They loved making dancing Day of the Dead skeletons, making and tasting guacamole, creating mini pinatas and learning a little Spanish.

Bien hecho Falcons!



GREAT Learning about Butterflies and much more - with the Butterflies classes!



Butterflies class have had a busy few weeks and have been learning about different countries around the world. They have talked about how other countries are different to our country where we live, and how they are the same. This topic included making and tasting foods from different parts of the world. As well as practising their phonics and number skills, they have also been watching their caterpillars turn into cocoons and then butterflies before releasing them into the wild – what a lot of GREAT learning Butterflies class!

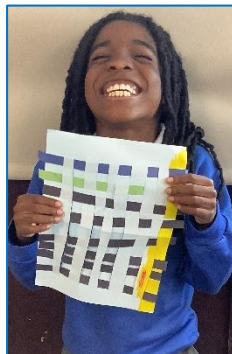
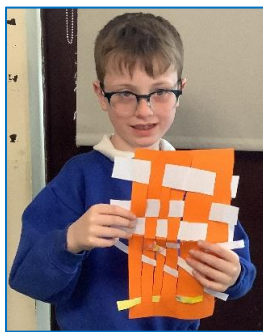
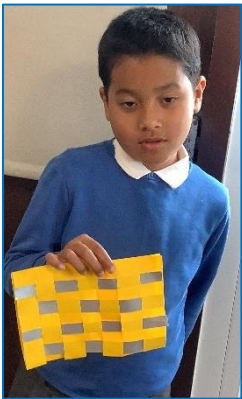
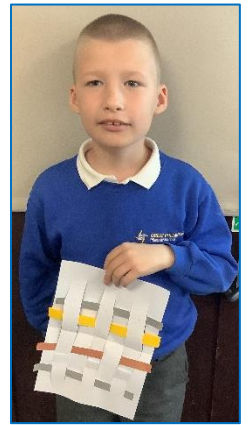
Glove Puppets for Foxes and Badgers

This week the children have been designing and making glove puppets in Design Technology. They had fun designing their puppets and then adding details to them.



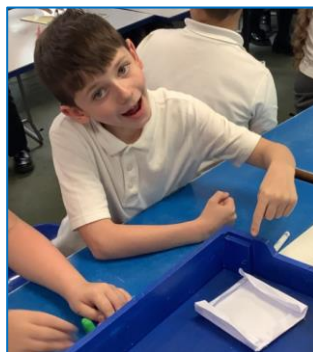
Hawks Class Exploring Mayan Crafts

In Year 4 this week we have concluded our learning about the ancient Maya. We have explored their writing, number system and learnt all about their way of life. We have written stories about Mayan Folktales and had a go at weaving using stripes of coloured paper.



Paper Boats and Pulleys for Panthers

In Science, children in Year 5 have been learning about water resistance and have made paper boats investigating the effects of streamlined shape. Additionally they made pulleys to test how a lighter weight could lift a heavier load.



Lions and Tigers Learning New Skills and Planning for the Coming Weeks!

Even though SATs week has finished, Year 6 pupils are still very hard at work with their writing skills and continuing to develop and progress further with their learning.

Some of the children had additional 'learn to ride' lessons after SATs to help them develop confidence in riding a bike ahead of the Bikeability course – everyone who took part showed GREAT determination in learning this important new skill.



Bikeability starts when we return, and we will be sending out confirmation of what days children will need their bikes and helmets in school. If you have stated your child has no bike or helmet, these will be available for them to borrow.

Year 6 children have also been working hard to think about ideas for their Year 6 Fete, which is held later in the term - they worked well in groups and collaborated with each other to ensure that everyone's voices were heard and every one was able to take part! Watch this space for more information about the Fete coming soon!



As they enter their final half term at Great Hollands, our Year 6s have so much to do and plan, from the performance of 'I'm an 11-year-old, Get me out of here!' to the residential trip, prom, graduation assembly and so much more - they have a very busy few weeks ahead of them!

Upcoming Gems Workshops and Courses

We want to remind you about the **free virtual workshops and courses** available through GEMS to support families of children and young people with autism and/or ADHD.

These sessions are designed to help parents and carers gain practical strategies, build confidence, and connect with others in a supportive environment. Your child does not need to have a diagnosis for you to attend, the workshops are also open to families whose child is waiting for assessment or where autism and/or ADHD has been diagnosed.

Upcoming sessions before the summer holidays include topics such as:

- **Sleep – Autism & ADHD** – Tuesday 9 June, 7–9pm
- **ADHD Course** – Wednesdays 10, 17 and 24 June, 7–9pm
- **Sensory Processing** – Tuesday 16 June, 7–9pm
- **AuDHD** – Tuesday 30 June, 7–9pm
- **Interoception** – Tuesday 30 June, 7–9pm
- **Barriers to School: Can't go, not won't go** – Wednesday 1 July, 10am–12noon
- **Empowering Calm** – Wednesday 8 July, 10am–12noon

Places are limited, and some sessions are already fully booked, so we encourage you to visit the GEMS workshops page and book as soon as possible.

Book your place here:

<https://www.gems4health.com/workshops/>

Looking for something to do this half term?

Paws at the Lexicon, Bracknell (Friday 22nd May – Monday 1st June)

There will be lots of pawsome fun with 'Paws at The Lexicon' this May half-term. There will be lots to see and do to celebrate all things canine, with free activities and interactive experiences for all ages.

Funds raised throughout the event will support [Guide Dogs](#), a locally based charity.

Some activities will feature real dogs, while others are dog-themed with no dogs present, so you should find something for everyone to enjoy.

On Saturday 30th May, Marshall from PAW Patrol will be in Princess Square at intervals throughout the day. Meet the loveable fire pup in his iconic red uniform, snap a photo, and join in the excitement as he makes special appearances at intervals throughout the day.

All activities are **free** and take place between 11.00am and 4.00pm.

Full details of the events taking place, including restaurants offering the 'Kids Eat Free' promotions can be found in the What's On pages of the Lexicon Bracknell website:

<https://www.thelexiconbracknell.com/events/paws-at-the-lexicon>

Diary Dates

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
	Year 3&4 Swimming – full details are on the letter on our website: Link to Swimming Parent Letter for Years 3&4
Wednesday 3 rd	Years 3-5: Road Safety, Sustainability and Recycling Workshops with Grundon
Saturday 6th	FRoGS PTA: Summer Fair – 1.00-4.00pm
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>
Thursday 18 th	Choir: Performance at the Hexagon for the Junior Music Festival 2026
Tuesday 23 rd to Monday 30 th	Book Fair: 3.00-3.30pm every day
Thursday 25 th	School Nurse Drop-in: Appointments available during the morning (20mins each – 3 dates available) – sign up here: https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/cZa6mKZPuY
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
Wednesday 8 th	Year 6: End of Year Production of ‘I’m an 11 year-old, get me out of here!’ Afternoon and Evening Performances – details to follow

JULY 2026	
Thursday 9 th	School Nurse Drop-in: Appointments available during the morning (20mins each – 3 dates available) – sign up here: https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/cZa6mKZPuY
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 • 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!





Judo For Schools



GREAT HOLLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

WEDNESDAY STARTING 3RD JUNE TO 8TH JULY 2026
TIME FROM 3.15 TO 4.15 PM

THE COST FOR THE COURSE IS £39.00 FOR 6 WEEKS

All bookings are made via email to: JudoForSchools@judoclubosaka.com

Please include the following information in your email:

Subject Line of email: <Day and name of school>

Student's Name: Year Group & Class:

Any medical/allergy information or anything else that we need to know about:

My child will be collected from the school hall OR Walk home on their own?

Emergency Contact Details:

Your Name: Phone Number:

Second Contact Name: Phone Number:

Payment Method: Bank Transfer

Details of how to pay will be forwarded to you once the place has been confirmed. Failure to pay before the start of the course will forfeit the place.

Please note that places are limited to 25 students per course; places will be allocated on a first-come-first-serve basis, as we operate an ongoing progressive course. You will be notified by email as to whether your child has a place or not.

Once your child has a place, they should wear jogging bottoms and preferably a long sleeved t-shirt. It is also advisable that your child has a named water bottle with them.

By applying for a place you are accepting that Judo For Schools coaches cannot be held responsible for injury or loss/damage to personal property.

Judo For Schools is compliant with the EU GDPR legislation.
The data collected is for our use only and never shared with any third parties.

ACTIVSPORT

Clubs at Great Hollands Primary School

01-06-2026 to 26-07-2026

School holidays coming up?

Holiday Club at Whiteknights Primary School (7.6 miles away)

Dates: 26-05-2026 to 29-05-2026

Age Groups: Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5, Year 6

Price from: £35/day

[Find Out More](#)

We're delighted to be running these clubs at your school this term. Click any of the buttons below to book directly, or visit activsport.co.uk to learn more.

After School Club (ASC)

After School Cricket

Ages: Year 3, Year 4, Year 5, Year 6

Days: Fri

Times: 15:20-16:25

Dates: 05-06-2026 to 10-07-2026

[From £6.50/session](#)

Weekly Cricket Session after school

[Book Now](#)

After School Football

Ages: Year 3, Year 4, Year 5, Year 6

Days: Thu, Thu

Times: 15:20-16:25

Dates: 04-06-2026 to 09-07-2026

[From £6.50/session](#)

Weekly Football Session after school

[Book Now](#)

Supporting Your Children Workshops 2026

To book a space email Inge.Taylor@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Each course is a **standalone 2-hour session**, is universal (not specific for SEND), and is for the adults supporting **not** the children themselves so **please arrange childcare if needed**

Once you have completed an enrolment form your space will be confirmed

Please only book if you are going to be able to attend to avoid other parents missing out.

All sessions unless stated otherwise take place at The Bracknell Open Learning Centre

Supporting Children to Overcome their Anxious Thoughts and Worries Exploring how anxiety affects primary aged children using simple, effective techniques to support them to overcome their Anxious Thoughts & Worries.	
Monday 8th June 2026	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Managing Behaviour in a Positive Way Supporting parents of primary aged children develop positive behaviour strategies and handle challenging behaviours with confidence and care.	
Monday 22nd June 2026	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Parenting your pre / early-teens in a Positive Way (aged 10 – 13) An insight into parenting, looking at positive behaviour strategies, different ways to strengthen communication / connection with your pre-teen child.	
Let me know if you would like to be on the list for future dates	
Parenting your teen in a Positive Way (aged 13 – 16) A session focused on using positive approaches to guide teenage behaviour, building stronger communication and connection during the teen years.	
Let me know if you would like to be on the list for future dates	
Encouraging Resilience – Keep Calm and Bounce Back Gain practical tips, leaving you inspired and equipped to help primary aged children bounce back stronger; no matter what life throws their way	
Thursday 4th June 2026	6.30 – 8.30
Transition to secondary school Gain practical tips, share experiences, and learn how to support your child through the exciting, sometimes challenging transition to secondary school.	
Tuesday 2nd June 2026 (@ Owlsmoor School for Owlsmoor parents)	9 – 11 am
Thursday 4th June 2026 (@ The Pines School for The Pines parents)	9 – 11 am
Monday 8th June 2026 (@ St. Michael's EH for St. Michael's parents)	9 – 11 am
Tuesday 9th June 2026 (@ Meadow Vale for Meadow Vale parents)	9 – 11 am
Monday 29th June 2026 (@ Bracknell Open Learning Centre)	6.30 – 8.30 pm
Transition: Reception to Year 1 and beyond The move from Yr R to 1 is a big step in your child's learning journey. Session helps parents understand what the transition involves and how to support.	
Thursday 25th June 2026	6.30 – 8.30 pm
(fully booked – let me know if you would like to book for future sessions)	
A healthy night's sleep Support for parents of primary aged children to gain practical tips to help children build healthy, lasting sleep habits	
Let me know if you would like to be on the list for future dates	

Reducing Sibling Rivalry A supportive session giving parents of primary aged children the tools to strengthen sibling bonds and create a calm, connected family environment.	
Let me know if you would like to be on the list for future dates	
Family Dynamics Family life comes in many forms for primary aged children. Session offers practical guidance navigating varying dynamics.	
Let me know if you would like to be on the list for future dates	

To book a space or get further information email Inge.Taylor@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Each toolkit is universal (not SEND specific) aimed at primary aged children & not suitable for younger siblings to attend and will be held at the Bracknell Open Learning Centre

Once you have completed an enrolment form your space will be confirmed

Please only book if you are going to be able to attend to avoid other parents missing out.

EBSA (Emotionally Based School Avoidance) A 2-week toolkit (you are expected to attend both sessions) Week 1 – parent only session looking at - What EBSA is, how to support your child to build 'being in school' resilience and what you can expect schools to do. Week 2 – parents + child (need school's permission for child to attend) looking at supporting children to challenge 'What if's?' produce resilience tools and next steps.	
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