



GREAT HOLLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

GREAT TIMES

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THINKING AND LEARNING TOGETHER, ACHIEVING FOREVER

Issue 1, October 2026



Message from the Head of School

As we reach the October half-term break and autumn starts to really take hold, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on what has been an engaging (and incredibly busy) start to the school year.

You should have now received the proof for your child's school photo. We'd like to apologise for these taking longer than usual to send out, but their delivery to us was unavoidably delayed. We hope you'll agree they are worth the wait – the children all look so smart in their pictures! Please email the school office if you haven't received your proof.

During this term we've had a Great Fire of London Workshop for Year 2, and a visit from Buttercup, Rasher and Clover the (wooden) farm animals for Reception. These were a great way for the children to experience learning with a hands-on approach that really got them involved in the topics. We have more activities planned for the coming months and will keep you updated with as much notice as possible on these events.

I hope you all had the opportunity to speak with your child's teacher earlier this month. We used a new system for the online meetings, which worked incredibly well for the first day of appointments. Unfortunately, a nationwide issue with the host servers caused a few problems on the second day of appointments and I know some of you were affected by this outage. I do hope that if you were affected by this, that you have now all had the chance to reschedule this missed appointment.

Coming up...

We return from the half term break on **Tuesday 3rd November**. Please bear in mind that the weather will be much colder, so children will need to have a warm coat in school every day (don't forget to name it!) Also, as the weather changes, please remember that the children may still have some PE lessons outside, so please make sure they have plain jogging bottoms / tracksuit to wear on top of their usual shorts and T-shirt. Children in Reception will continue to do PE in shorts and t-shirt, as they do not go outside.

We have our Fabulous FROGS Family Firework Display on **Wednesday 4th November**, which is always a GREAT event. There will be glow products on sale, as well as food and drink, before the main event of the fireworks, which is again provided by Sonning Fireworks.

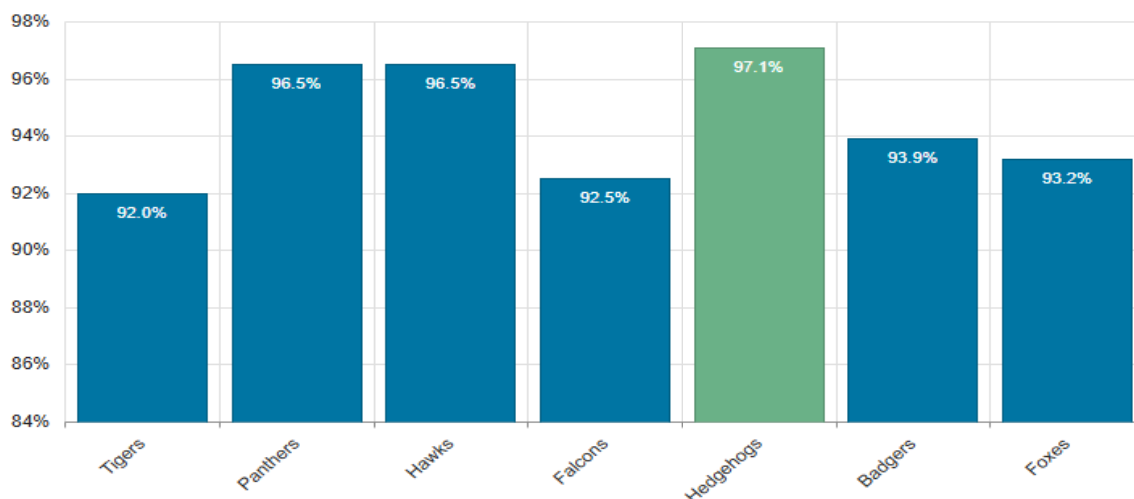
Tickets are on sale now (£8 each or a family ticket for 4 people is £25). They can be purchased online at <https://www.charity-hub.co.uk/friendsofgreathollandsschool/> or you can use the QR code below.

The fireworks display is one of the main events in the PTA calendar, so we do hope you are able to come along with all the family to support the fundraising for our school.

Attendance Matters

We continue to work hard to improve our school attendance and punctuality as both do make such a big difference to pupil successes, confidence and engagement in their learning. It is incredibly important that children are in school every day, but also that they are arriving on time and ready to learn.

Well done to Hedgehogs class who have achieved the highest attendance percentage for this term, and also to Panthers and Hawks for coming a very close second – GREAT work!



Currently our whole school attendance stands at 94.4% 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!

Ms N York
Head of School

We return to school on **Tuesday 3rd November 2026**

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

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Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

Don't forget we will continue to sell poppies on behalf of the Royal British Legion after the half term break. We also still 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 over the next couple of days. 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

Our free breakfast club continues to be very popular, which means booking is essential so we can prepare in advance to ensure staffing levels are correct.

If you are bringing your child to morning club or free breakfast club, we must ask that you do not drive or park on our school site. The mornings are incredibly busy and the car park is used for our school, but also for The Oaks Children's Centre and the Preschool. If parents take up parking spaces, often staff members cannot park and are delayed in their start to the day.

Please help us by using the large public car parks nearby and walking the short distance to Silver Hall door.

For any enquiries about morning or after school club, please email ghpsasc@maidenerlegustrust.org

BBC 500 Words Competition for 5-11 Year-olds

500 Words is the UK's largest story-writing competition for 5-11 year-olds. The competition celebrates children's creativity and imagination, encouraging children from across the UK to create an original story in 500 words or less.

There are two categories: 5-7 year-olds and 8-11 year-olds, and the competition closes at 9.00pm on Friday 6th November.

Spelling, punctuation and grammar are not marked – as has always been the case with the competition, it's all about the writer's creativity!

The stories, once written by the children, must be submitted by an adult using the entry form on the 500 Words website.

Frequently Asked Questions about the competition can be found on their website:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words/articles/zdntywx#zjfp3qt>

Our Great Learning!

KS1 have completed some great home learning this half term. Many have made a Tudor house, written a diary entry as Samuel Pepys, played the Great Fire of London game or created a picture of the Great Fire.



Diwali Diya Lamps

In Year 3, children have been learning about the celebration of Diwali from a Hindu perspective. They thought about and discussed the key question, 'Would celebrating Diwali at home and in the community bring a feeling of belonging to a Hindu child?' They also created their own Diya lamps after learning about this festival of light.



Diary Dates

OCTOBER 2026	
Monday 26 th to Friday 30 th	HALF TERM BREAK
NOVEMBER 2026	
Monday 2 nd	INSET DAY – pupils not in school
Wednesday 4 th	FRoGS PTA: Family Firework Display – book your tickets online at: www.charity-hub.co.uk/friendsofgreathollandsschool
Friday 6 th	All Welcome: Mental Health Support Team Coffee Morning – 9.00am
Thursday 12 th	School Nurse Drop-in Parent Appointments – booking is necessary, times are limited – 20 minute appointments available between 9.30-11.30am, booking form to follow.
	Year 6: NCMP Height and Weight Screening for Pupils (am)
Monday 16 th	Whole School: Odd Socks Day for Anti-Bullying Week
Wednesday 18 th	Open Event for parents of children starting Nursery or Reception in September 2027 – 6.00pm, please complete our online form linked below to book your place GHPS Open Events - Autumn 2026 – Fill in form
Tuesday 24 th to Monday 30 th	Whole School: Book Fair, every day after school
Saturday 28 th	FRoGS PTA: Christmas Fair, details to follow
DECEMBER 2026	
Thursday 3 rd	Open Event for parents of children starting Nursery or Reception in September 2027 – 9.15am, please complete our online form linked below to book your place GHPS Open Events - Autumn 2026 – Fill in form
Wednesday 9 th	Year 1&2: Nativity Performance (pm) – details to follow
Thursday 10 th	Year 1&2: Nativity Performance (pm) – details to follow
Tuesday 15 th	Years 1-6: Church Carol Singing (am) – details to follow
	Reception: Nativity Performance (pm) – details to follow
Wednesday 16 th	Whole School: Christmas Lunch and Jumper Day – details to follow
Friday 18 th	Last day of term – school finishes at 2.15pm

DROP IN & CHAT!

Join us for a friendly, relaxed coffee morning
with the Mental Health Support Team (MHST)



Friday
6th November



9:00 AM
(Right after
school drop-off!)



Great Hollands
Primary School

→ Who are the MHST?

The Mental Health Support Team (MHST) supports children and their families who are experiencing mild or moderate mental health difficulties.

Pop in for an informal chat to find out what they do and how they can offer help with:



Support
Advice
Guidance



Feeling low,
worried, or
anxious



Difficulties
with sleep



Fussy
eating



Challenging
behaviours



Drop the kids off,
pop round to the school,
and grab a warm drink!

No pressure, just good conversation
and a welcoming space.



ALL WELCOME!

 **Completely FREE**

 **No Booking Required -
Just Turn Up!**



If you have any questions please contact
the SEN Team.



FROGS PRESENT

GREAT HOLLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL **FIREWORKS NIGHT** **4TH NOVEMBER 2026**

Online Ticket Sales Only

Pre-order single tickets £8

Family ticket £25 (under 3's free)

[Charity-hub.co.uk/friendsofgreathollandsschool](https://charity-hub.co.uk/friendsofgreathollandsschool)

Single tickets on the night £10

Family ticket £27 (under 3's free)

GATES OPEN AT 6PM
FIREWORKS START AT 7PM

*All children under the age of 16 must be
accompanied by an adult*

GLOW STALL | BBQ

**Strictly no smoking, no alcohol, no pets, no personal
fireworks or sparklers on the school grounds**