

Curriculum Enrichments...

You've got to be in it... to win it!

You may remember before Christmas we mentioned that Dexter in Year 5 had won the Ascot Racecourse photography competition. His prize was £100 of John Lewis Vouchers and £1000 to spend on photography equipment for our school! Dexter and I will be meeting very soon, so he can decide how to spend his cheque!

On Saturday 21st December, I had the pleasure of accompanying Dexter and his family for a day out at Ascot Racecourse. He met royal photographer, Millie Pilkington, who had also judged the competition. Dexter was put on the podium – shown on all the big screens around the racecourse where he was interviewed about his photograph. I was immensely proud of how confident and articulate he was when talking about his work in such a public space.



Well done Dexter for both your photography talents and your public speaking.

We're so proud when one of our pupils achieves something, no matter how big or small, and we love sharing this news with you. We'd like to say a huge well done to Dexter – great work!

It's important to remember that competitions like this can only be won if you take part! If you never try, you'll never know the things you can achieve.

Why not have a go at the Pride of Bracknell Forest Awards competition below – you've got to be in it to win it!

Important – Competition Details!

The Pride of Bracknell Forest Awards are running their annual competition; this year it is all about Saving the Planet and they are asking children to design an A4 sized poster on '**Steps to Save the Planet**' on the template provided. The pupil with the best design will win £1000 for the school as well as £100 Amazon voucher for themselves! **The competition closes on 24th January 2025.**

The template for entries is attached to this newsletter and is available from the office. All entries must include the child's full name, year group and school name on the poster.

You can either return your entry to school and we will make sure they get submitted on time, or you can post your entry to: 2025 Steps to Save the Planet Competition, Radius Court, Eastern Road, Bracknell RG12 2UP

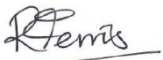
Parents' Evening – 21st and 23rd January

There was a letter sent out this week regarding our Parents' Evening appointments for Years R-6. Please read this carefully as it contains details on how and when to book your appointment with your child's teacher – it can be found on our website: [Parents' Evening Letter](#)

Following parental feedback, we run an online Parents' Evening in the Autumn term and a face to face one in the Spring Term. This way we get the best of both styles. I hope you enjoy the opportunity to look through your child's books and enjoy spending time discussing their progress in learning at school.

There will be an opportunity for Nursery parents to meet with their child's teacher later in the term.

Thank you for your continued support.



Richard Ferris
Headteacher



Attendance Stars

Classes with the highest attendance this week:

- 1st Place – Falcons (99.7%)
- 2nd Place – Hedgehogs (98.0%)
- 3rd Place – Tigers (96.9%)



Year 2 'Bring Your Wheels to School' Day

On Thursday this week, Hedgehogs class enjoyed a day in school with their bikes and scooters to start off their topic this term. They learnt about the history of transport and the importance of road safety. The weather was a little chilly, but the sun was shining all day. The children all had a really GREAT start to this term's learning.



Year 3 and 4 – Light Learning in Science

The children in Hawks and Falcons class have had a GREAT time this week beginning their new Science topic of **Light**.

The children have used torches to investigate materials which reflect the most light. They have used mirrors to create reflected messages and navigate their way through a maze and have also identified ways to keep safe in the sun.

They can't wait to continue this learning next week, when they will be investigating shadows and how they are made!



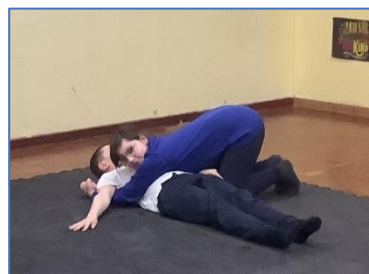
Year 5 and 6 – Judo, Science and History

In Panthers and Lions class this week during Science, children have started looking at plants and living things. They have explored the different ways plants reproduce and dissected a flower head to locate all the different parts.

The children have started to read the English text of Beowulf, which is full of adventure and we're sure the children will love sharing the events of this text with you.

Tigers class have started their topic looking at World War 2 by exploring life on the home front.

Children in Year 6 have also started Judo lessons this week, with half the year group taking part this term, and the other half having their Judo sessions next half term.



After School Activity Clubs

There are several after school activity clubs running at the moment:

Choir with Mrs van der Rest for Year 3-6

Our choir club still has spaces available! If your child would like to sign up and take part, please complete our online consent form here: <https://forms.office.com/e/ZuXLdm86CQ>

Choir club is every week on Tuesdays between 3.15-4.15pm.

Judo Club every Wednesday

Every week in Gold Hall, Judo Club Osaka hold their club for children in Years R-6. The club runs every Wednesday from 3.15-4.15pm, starting 15th January until 12th February. The cost for the course is £32.50 for 5 weeks.

Please see the flyer later in this newsletter for booking information.

Sport4Kids Clubs

Sport4Kids are offering the following clubs to our pupils after school. All bookings, payments or questions about the clubs should be directed to Sport4Kids and not via the school. For next term the clubs on offer will be:

Monday: KS1 Arts & Crafts
Tuesday: KS2 Gymnastics and Dance
Wednesday: KS1 Football
Thursday: KS2 Nerf Club
Friday: KS2 Football



Sport4Kids clubs will run from 3.20pm to 4.25pm. Children go to clubs direct from their classes and you can book a place via the Sport4Kids website: [Sport4Kids Website](#)

Don't forget we also run our morning and after school clubs every day – more information on our website: [After School and Morning Club](#)

Starting Primary School in September 2025

Do you have a child starting school in September 2025? Primary school applications close on Wednesday 15th January.

Why not come along to our final open morning to see what our GREAT school has to offer.

Places must be booked in advance via our online form: [Open Morning Booking Form](#)

Nominations for the Pride of Bracknell Forest Awards

Nominations are now open for the Pride of Bracknell Forest Awards – to nominate for any of the categories, just visit <https://prideofbracknell.com/nominate/> before the deadline of 21st February 2025.

Resilience Workshop – Spaces Available

We still have spaces available at the Resilience Workshop sessions taking place on 21st, 28th January and 4th February between 1-3pm. This course is led by Inge from the Family Learning Team and is designed to help support parents develop strategies to build and develop resilience skills with their children. Spaces must be booked by lunchtime on 14th January. If you would like to book a place, please complete our online form here: <https://forms.office.com/e/ZgkvYQCynR>

Diary Dates

JANUARY 2025	
Tuesday 14 th	EYFS Open Event for parents of children starting Nursery or Reception in 2025 – 9.15am, click here for information
Tuesday 21 st	Year 2: Breakfast Workshop in school (pupils only) – details to follow
	Family Learning: Resilience Toolkit Workshop (1 of 3) – 1.00-3.00pm
	Years R-6: Parents' Evening (in person) – 4.30-7.00pm
Thursday 23 rd	Years R-6: Parents' Evening (in person) – 3.30-6.00pm
Friday 24 th	Year 2: Brooklands Museum Trip – click here for letter
Tuesday 28 th	Family Learning: Resilience Toolkit Workshop (2 of 3) – 1.00-3.00pm
Wednesday 29 th	Reception: Family Learning Maths 'Magic Pebbles' Workshop – 1.45-3.10pm
	First Days Charity 'Pop-up' Coat Event offering warm winter coats, hats, etc – 3.00-4.00pm
Friday 31 st	Year 1: Windsor Castle Trip – click here for letter
FEBRUARY 2025	
Tuesday 4 th	Family Learning: Resilience Toolkit Workshop (3 of 3) – 1.00-3.00pm
Friday 14 th	Years 5&6: VE Day Party – details to follow
Monday 17th to Friday 21st	HALF TERM BREAK
Friday 28th	INSET DAY – Pupils not in school

Please note that our Term Dates for 2025-26 are on our website here: [Term Dates 25-26](#)



GREAT HOLLANDS
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Ofsted
Good
Provider

Open Events

Open Morning (9:15am)

Friday 27 September

Monday 14 October

Tuesday 14 January

Open Morning (10.15am)

Wednesday 13 November

Open Evening (6:00pm)

Wednesday 27 November

Booking is required for this event. Please register using the [online form](#) on our website.



Do you have a child starting Nursery or Primary School in September 2025?

We warmly invite you to attend one of our open events to come and find out what makes us so proud of our school. You will be able to meet school leaders and have a tour through our well-resourced teaching and learning provision.

Our Early Years team will be on hand to answer questions and help you in making this hugely important decision for your child.



Judo For Schools



GREAT HOLLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

WEDNESDAY, STARTING 15TH JANUARY TO 12TH FEBRUARY 2025
TIME FROM 3:15 TO 4:15 PM

THE COST FOR THE COURSE IS £32.50 FOR 5 WEEKS

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

Please include the following information in your email:

Subject Line of email: <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.

Emergency Contact Details:

Your Name: Phone Number:

Second Contact Name: Phone Number:

Payment Method: Bank Transfer

Payment will be via 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 30 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.



www.greathollandsprimary.co.uk



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