



Issue 2, December 2024

### Message from the Headteacher

As we come to the end of our Autumn Term, I wanted to take the opportunity to again thank you all for being such an amazing school community.

This week we had a wonderful trip to St Michael's Church where we retold the Christmas Nativity and sung our Carols in a beautiful and special building. Well done to all those involved especially our readers: Oliver (Y2), Willow and Samar (Y3), Cooper (Y4), Rosie and Annie (Y5) and Alex (Y6). Thanks also goes to Mrs Andrew; Mrs van der Rest and Mrs Wise for helping to organise the event.

We do love Christmas at GHPS, and it has been wonderful to see all the Christmas Spirit across our school,



The KS1 Play and the EYFS Nativity were wonderful to watch. The children had a festive Christmas Lunch on Christmas Jumper day and loved the Hogwarts at Christmas feel we had in Gold Hall. The Christmas sing-a-long yesterday morning was great fun, who would have thought that when Last Christmas was released 40 years ago (yes! 40 years ago!!!) , children would still be singing it in 2024. With tonnes of Christmas activities happening across the school we really have had a fun week.

As we reach the end of 2024, my thoughts turn to making sure we can make 2025 a GREAT year for our children and our whole school community.

This school is a wonderful place, and I am truly privileged to lead such an amazing institution. Our entire school team have yet gain been outstanding and have continued to work with positivity, energy and commitment, to give your children the very best. I know they are all looking forward to a relaxing break over Christmas and I hope that every one of them and you have the chance to rest and recharge your batteries over the festive period.

I hope you have a relaxing Christmas and New Year and look forward to welcoming you all back to school on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January.

**Richard Ferris**  
Headteacher

#### Term Dates

Don't forget that we return to school on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025**.

All our published term dates can be found on our website for your convenience: [Term Dates](#)



#### Goodbye Mrs Spiers!

As mentioned previously, today we say farewell to Mrs Spiers, who has been an important member of our GHPS family since 2019 and we will all miss her very much. We know you will join us in wishing her all the best for her future adventures.

## Farewell to Mr Foord

Some of the children in Years 3 and 4 said a fond farewell to Mr Foord who has worked with most of them for over a year now as a volunteer reader. We would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to him for his time over the year. The children have really enjoyed reading to him. He very kindly gave each class a wonderful book to share too. Thank you, Mr Foord!



## A visit from Rev. Morley

Year 3 and 4 enjoyed their visit from Rev. Morley from St Michael's Church and discussed many questions that they had with him as part of their R.E. learning this half term.

Rev. Morley also visited other year groups and all the children and staff were delighted to welcome him into our GREAT school.

## Christmas Creations in Year 5&6

This week in Year 5/6 we have been sewing Christmas tree stocking decorations. We designed our patterns and cut the shapes out of red felt. We then practiced using a blanket stitch to sew the two pieces together. Using a glue gun, glitter and smaller felt pieces we then decorated our stocking. It required a lot of perseverance but we are very pleased with the end product.



## House Points

The children have been collecting house points and the winning house this term was EMERALD! Pupils in Emerald house received their winners reward today and had a non-uniform day. Next term the competition continues – who will win the next reward?

<b>Emerald:</b>	2036
<b>Ruby:</b>	1947
<b>Sapphire:</b>	1946
<b>Amber:</b>	1933

## Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

We'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported our fundraising efforts on behalf of the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal. We raised an incredible £201.72 for this important charity!



## School Uniform – Important Reminder

We would like to remind you all that if you are purchasing new school uniform over the break, please make sure to check that you buy the correct items, particularly footwear. Children should be wearing flat, black school shoes and not boots or trainers. All the guidelines can be found on our website – [School Uniform](#).

Brigade (<https://www.brigade.uk.com/>), our uniform supplier, have a **15% off** promotion for orders placed between 31<sup>st</sup> December and 5<sup>th</sup> January. Just enter the code NY15 at the checkout.

## School Lunches

Don't forget to order your child's school lunches before we return on 6<sup>th</sup> January, you could even do it now so you don't have to remember!

This enables our kitchen team to only cook the food that has been ordered and continue 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.



## Sport4Kids Clubs After School

Next term Sport4Kids will be offering slightly different 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



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

## 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 21<sup>st</sup> February 2025.

### Important – Competition Details!

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

The template for entries is attached to this newsletter and will be available from the office next term. 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

## FROGS News

Our fabulous PTA would like to share that they have made an amazing £1483.00 profit from the Christmas Fair and a further £675.00 from the film nights.

All these events would be impossible to run without our dedicated team of parent and staff helpers and we'd like to extend a huge thank you to them all.

A further thank you goes to all our parents and carers who support these events by coming along – you all make a huge difference, Thank you all for your incredible support!





# Christmas at GHPS



Merry Christmas



# Diary Dates

JANUARY 2025	
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Children return to school – school starts at 8.45am, doors open at 8.40am</b>
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Year 2:</b> Bring your Wheels to School Day – <a href="#">click here for letter</a>
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Year 1:</b> Kings and Queens Dress-up Day – <a href="#">click here for letter</a>
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	EYFS Open Event for parents of children starting Nursery or Reception in 2025 – 9.15am, click <a href="#">here</a> for information
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Year 2:</b> Breakfast Workshop – details to follow
	<b>Family Learning:</b> Resilience Toolkit Workshop (1 of 3) – 1.00-3.00pm
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Year 2:</b> Brooklands Museum Trip – letter to follow, approx. cost £22
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Family Learning:</b> Resilience Toolkit Workshop (2 of 3) – 1.00-3.00pm
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Reception:</b> Family Learning Maths 'Magic Pebbles' Workshop – 1.45-3.10pm
	First Days Charity 'Pop-up' Coat Event offering free winter coats, hats, etc – 3.00-4.00pm
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Year 1:</b> Windsor Castle Trip – letter to follow, approx. cost £21
FEBRUARY 2025	
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Family Learning:</b> Resilience Toolkit Workshop (3 of 3) – 1.00-3.00pm
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Years 5&amp;6:</b> VE Day Party – details to follow
<b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> to Friday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>HALF TERM BREAK</b>
<b>Friday 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>INSET DAY – Pupils not in school</b>



20 Years of Celebrating Bracknell Forest's Heroes!

# Who is your LOCAL HERO?

PRIDE OF BRACKNELL FOREST AWARDS 2025

The Pride of Bracknell Forest Awards celebrate the achievements of outstanding individuals and organisations in our community. We showcase those local heroes who make life in the Bracknell Forest better.

## Show your support by nominating someone today:

Business of the Year  
Charity of the Year  
The John Nike Pride of Bracknell Forest Award (Adult & Young)  
Long-Standing Service to the Community Award  
School of the Year  
Sport & Achievement Award (Adult & Young)  
Teacher of the Year  
Team of the Year  
Young Person in Business

 [prideofbracknell.com/nominate](https://prideofbracknell.com/nominate)

 [contact@prideofbracknell.com](mailto:contact@prideofbracknell.com)

 Pride of Bracknell Forest Awards

 @PoBFA



Please submit all nominations by Friday 21st February

# Life is expensive. We can help.



## First Days Mobile Support Hub

Please come along to one of our Mobile Support Hubs. Our van carries seasonal items and you can meet our Family Support Team who will be able to talk through how we can help you with other essentials.

## January to March 2025

<b>1st Tuesday</b> Priestwood Community Hall Kerith Centre Bracknell	09:30-10:30 10:45-12:00	<b>4th Monday</b> Shinfield Community Church	12:30-13:30
<b>2nd Wednesday</b> Woodley Precinct Highfield Park Wargrave Pennfields Twyford	10:00-12:00 12:30-13:15 13:30-14:00	<b>4th Wednesday</b> Woodley Precinct	10:00-12:00
<b>3rd Wednesday</b> Kerith Centre Bracknell Great Hollands Community Centre	10:00-11:00 11:30-12:30		



Registered Charity in England & Wales 1157855

01189 219338  
[www.firstdays.net](http://www.firstdays.net)

## BRACKNELL HEALTHY PARENT CARER PROGRAMME

LED BY SEND PARENT CARERS TO SUPPORT THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF OTHER PARENT CARERS OF CHILDREN WITH SEND IN BRACKNELL FOREST



### What's it about?

Join us for a 12-week journey of discovery where you'll:

- Uncover the magic within yourself
- Boost your confidence
- Make small, meaningful changes for your busy life



### Programme options

#### ONLINE (via Teams):

**Dates:** Thursdays, from 09/01/25 to 03/04/25  
**Time:** 7:00-9:30 PM

#### IN-PERSON:

**Dates:** Tuesdays, from 14/01/25 to 08/04/25  
**Time:** 10:30-1:00 PM  
**Location:** The Oaks & Hollies Childrens Centre, Wordsworth, RG12 8QN



### BOOK NOW

**Online sessions:** <https://shorturl.at/qgQcT>

**In person sessions:** <https://shorturl.at/YthVW>



University of Exeter  
Medical School



# Bear cubs



Ages 5 to 10



First and third Monday of the month - 4pm to 5pm

**6th January 2025** - Make a bookmark and read a story! - Online

**20th January** - Talent Show- Bracknell

**3rd February** - Big on Bouncing - Slough- Small Fee Applicable

**17th February** - Disney Quiz - Online

**3rd March** - Sensory Bus - Windsor

**17th March** - Park Play - Maidenhead

\*Please note activities may be subject to change

### Registration:

Gems.4Health@nhs.net  
0800 999 1342

### Criteria:

Children with or likely to have ADHD and/or autism and living in East Berkshire



For more information: Call 0800 999 1342 or visit [www.Gems4Health.com](http://www.Gems4Health.com)