

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to a New School Year

It has been wonderful to welcome our children and families back to Great Leighs Primary School this week. I would also like to extend a particularly warm welcome to all those joining our school community for the first time. I hope everyone enjoyed a happy and restful summer break.

The school has quickly come alive again with smiles, enthusiasm and the familiar buzz of learning. I have been incredibly proud of how positively the children have returned. They have settled into their new classes and routines brilliantly, approaching the start of the year with confidence, curiosity and a real eagerness to learn. A special mention must go to our new Reception children, who are taking their first exciting steps in school life. They have made a fantastic start, and it has been lovely to see them beginning to form friendships, explore their classrooms and become part of our Great Leighs family. We look forward to watching them grow in confidence over the weeks ahead.

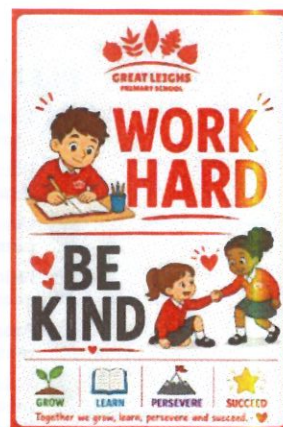
Work Hard. Be Kind.

At the beginning of term, we shared a simple but important message with every child:

Work hard and be kind.

These words will guide us throughout the year. Working hard means trying our best, embracing challenges and persevering when something feels difficult. Being kind means treating others with care and respect, offering help and making choices that contribute positively to our school community.

Together, these qualities will help our children to grow, learn, persevere and succeed. We hope families will join us in reinforcing this message at home and celebrating the many different ways in which children demonstrate hard work and kindness each day.



Class Parent Meetings

Next week, we look forward to welcoming parents and carers to our class meetings:

- Monday 5.00pm: Rabbit, Bumblebee and Kingfisher meetings
- Monday 5.45pm: Owl and Mole meetings
- Wednesday 5.00pm: Squirrel and Robin meetings.

These sessions provide a valuable opportunity to meet your child's teacher, learn more about the routines and expectations for the year, and hear how you can support learning at home.

Our parents' consultations later in the term will provide an opportunity for more detailed, individual conversations about your child's progress.

As we begin this new academic year, there is so much to look forward to. The partnership between school and home plays an essential part in helping every child thrive, and I would like to thank you in advance for your continued support and encouragement.

I hope all our children enjoy a happy, successful year filled with opportunities to work hard, be kind and achieve their very best.

Wishing you and your family a restful weekend.

Mr Garlick

Parent Code of Conduct

We are very fortunate to have a friendly and supportive parent community. The positive partnership between families and school plays an important role in helping our children feel secure, succeed in their learning and develop the skills they need for the future.

We warmly welcome parents and carers to participate in school life and value the contribution you make to our community. To help us maintain respectful and constructive relationships, we ask everyone to follow our Parent Code of Conduct, which is available on the school website.

Thank you for treating our staff, pupils and fellow families with courtesy and respect, and for your continued support of Great Leighs Primary School.

WORKING TOGETHER

WITH RESPECT

Parent, Carer & Visitor Code



A warm, safe school starts with all of us

Most concerns can be resolved when we communicate early, calmly and through the right route.

PLEASE DO

- ✓ Treat pupils, staff and other families with courtesy and respect.
- ✓ Raise concerns privately, calmly and through the correct school route.
- ✓ Use factual, appropriate language in person, in writing and online.
- ✓ Follow signing-in, safeguarding, photography and site-safety rules.
- ✓ Respect confidentiality and allow reasonable time for a response.
- ✓ Follow reasonable staff instructions and model the behaviour we expect from pupils.

PLEASE DO NOT

- ✗ Shout, swear, threaten, insult, intimidate, discriminate or use violence.
- ✗ Record people without permission or publish allegations, images or personal information.
- ✗ Approach another child about an incident or confront another family.
- ✗ Ignore reasonable safety instructions, damage property or attend while intoxicated.
- ✗ Use social media to harass others or pursue confidential school concerns.
- ✗ Make persistent or excessive contact that prevents staff carrying out their duties.

HAVE A CONCERN?

Please contact us directly - we want to help.

1

Class teacher

Ordinary classroom or pupil matter

2

School office / senior leader

Urgent, sensitive or serious concern

3

Complaints Policy

If it is unresolved or needs a formal response

A complaint will always be considered fairly.

Abusive behaviour is never acceptable.

Our school will listen professionally and make reasonable adjustments where needed.

The full Parent, Carer and Visitor Code of Conduct is available from the school office.

GROW • LEARN • PERSEVERE • SUCCEED

Requests for Leave During Term Time

Regular attendance is essential to children's learning, wellbeing and progress. In line with national guidance, requests for leave during term time for holidays or overseas travel will not normally be authorised.

Any leave should be requested in writing by submitting a form that can be found in reception or on our website and with plenty of notice.

Leave may be granted only in exceptional circumstances, and each request will be considered individually. We therefore ask families to arrange holidays and travel during the school holidays wherever possible. Thank you for supporting us in ensuring that every child benefits from consistent attendance.



EVERY SCHOOL DAY
MATTERS

Requests for Leave During Term Time



Regular attendance supports learning, wellbeing and progress.

Please arrange holidays and overseas travel during the school holidays wherever possible.

TERM-TIME HOLIDAYS

will not normally be authorised

Leave may be granted only in exceptional circumstances. Every request is considered individually.

WHAT FAMILIES NEED TO DO

- 1 Plan travel in the school holidays wherever possible.
- 2 If exceptional circumstances arise, apply in writing and in advance.
- 3 Give the dates and explain fully why the circumstances are exceptional.
- 4 Wait for the Headteacher's written decision.

WHAT DOES "EXCEPTIONAL" MEAN?

Rare, significant, unavoidable and usually short. Cost, holiday availability, existing bookings or the wishes of relatives and friends do not normally make circumstances exceptional.

PLEASE BE AWARE

10 unauthorised sessions within 10 school weeks

must trigger consideration of a penalty notice under the national framework. This does not mean a fine is automatic in every case.

Thank you for helping every child benefit from consistent attendance.

Request forms and the full Attendance Policy are available from the school office.

GROW • LEARN • PERSEVERE • SUCCEED



THE BIG 100KM WALK!

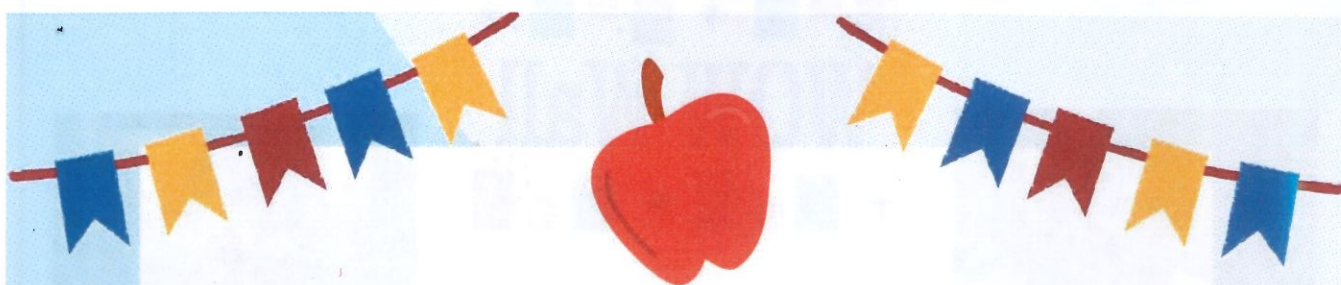
Saturday 5th and
Sunday 6th September

Laura O'Malley and Jo
Constantine will be
undertaking a gruelling 100km
Ultra Challenge, trekking from
Eastbourne to Arundel along
the South Coast to raise funds
for our school.

Any sponsorship
would be gratefully
appreciated.



[superkind.org/campaign/friends-of-
great-leighs-school-the-big-100km-walk](https://superkind.org/campaign/friends-of-great-leighs-school-the-big-100km-walk)



WELCOME
BACK
TO SCHOOL
FROM



FOGLS

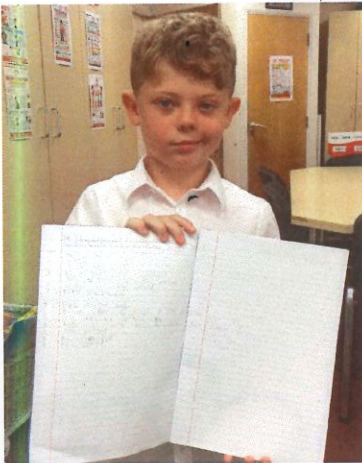
— FRIENDS OF —
GREAT LEIGHS SCHOOL



**A BIG WELCOME TO ALL
NEW FAMILIES TO THE
SCHOOL.**



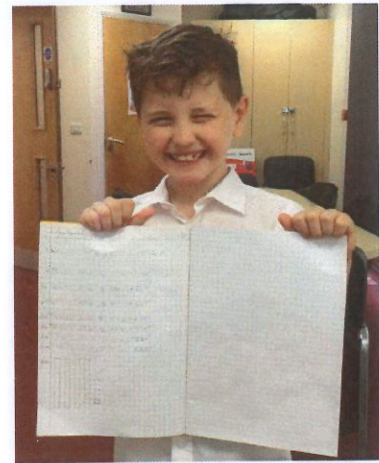
WOW Wall



Well done to Jackson for showing me his super poem



Well done to Ava for her amazing artwork.



Well done to Tommy for showing me his marvellous maths work.

PE DAYS

Sept/Oct

Squirrel (EYFS) Weds & Thurs (plus 26th Sept & 19th Oct)

Robin (1) Tues & Thurs (plus 21st Sept & 19th Oct)

Rabbit (2) Tues & Thurs (Forest School) (plus 21st Sept & 12th Oct)

Bumblebee (3) Weds & Fri (plus 14th Sept & 12th Oct)

Kingfisher (4) Mon & Fri

Mole (5) Weds & Fri (plus 7th Sept & 5th Oct)

Owl (6) Mon & Fri

Upcoming Events

7th Sept 26	New EYFS Group B including lunch until 1pm
7th Sept 26	Bumblebee/Kingfisher/Rabbit Class Meetings 5pm
7th Sept 26	Mole/Owl Class Meetings 5.45pm
8th Sept 26	All EYFS including lunch until 1pm
9th Sept 26	All EYFS Full time from today
9th Sept 26	Robin/Squirrel Class Meetings 5pm
22nd Sept 26	Bikeability Yr. 6 Group 1
23rd Sept 26	CSSP Girls Football Yr. 5/6 AM - Info to follow
23rd Sept 26	CSSP Boys Football Yr. 5/6 PM - Info to follow
24th Sept 26	Yr. 5/6 In school family sports afternoon - Info to follow
25th Sept 26	Bikeability Yr. 6 Group 2
28th Sept 26	CSSP Boccia & Kurling - Info to follow
29th Sept 26	Bikeability Yr. 6 Group 3
29th Sept 26	School Individual Photos - Info to follow
13th Oct 26	KS1 Boys & Girls Football - Info to follow
16th Oct 26	FOGLS Disco - Info to follow
20th Oct 26	Parents Evening 3.30pm - 6.30pm - Info to follow
21st Oct 26	Flu Vaccinations - Info to follow
22nd Oct 26	Parents Evening 3.30pm - 7pm - Info to follow
22nd Oct 26	LAST DAY OF TERM
23rd Oct 26	STAFF TRAINING/NON PUPIL DAY
26th - 30th Oct 26	HALF TERM
2nd Nov 26	BACK TO SCHOOL

TERM DATES

Autumn Term 2026

Mon 1st Sept to

Fri 18th Dec 26

Spring Term 2027

Mon 4th Jan to

Thur 25th Mar 27

Summer Term 2027

Mon 12th Apr to Weds 21st Jul 26

Staff Training

Non-Pupil Days 2025/2026

Tue 1st Sept 26 Fri 23rd Oct 26

Fri 12th Feb 27 Mon 7th Jun 27

Weds 21st Jul 27

ParentMail

Please ensure you are connected and read all ParentMails sent out to you. If you need to connect please contact the office.

Read our Online Safety newsletter here:

<https://greatleighs.essex.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/Sept-2026.pdf>



This months features are YouTube & AI manipulated images

Our website is regularly updated with information on local agencies and events which may be of interest including lots of local school holiday camps and activities which you can access by clicking [here](#)