

Dear Parents/Carers

Our Harvest assembly was a lovely opportunity to come together and celebrate, with our new EYFS class, Squirrels, stealing the show. Standing in front of their parents just a month into school was a big moment, and we were so proud of their confidence and enthusiasm. Well done, Squirrels! Our KS1 pupils also gave wonderful performances, along with some lovely singing from the choir. We were delighted to welcome Rev Dan and a representative from Braintree Foodbank to share the occasion with us. The foodbank were amazed with our donations and said it *'was so lovely and the children were amazing.'* Thank you to all those of you who donated items to the food bank.



This week, we welcomed three local headteachers to Great Leighs as part of a peer review. It was wonderful to hear their positive feedback about our happy and polite children, warm relationships, inclusive culture and calm, purposeful school environment. They were particularly impressed by how safe and well supported pupils feel, the care children show one another, our excellent playtimes and the commitment of staff across the school. The visit also provided valuable ideas that will help us continue strengthening teaching and learning. We are extremely proud of our pupils and I am grateful to our dedicated staff for everything they do each day.



Keeping Safe on Wheels

Following on from our Year 6 children who successfully completed their Bikeability course last week, this week our EYFS class also had an exciting session, enjoying balance bike activities with Mandy from the Chelmsford Sports Partnership. It was fantastic to hear about how the children have been developing their cycling skills and confidence!

Have a good weekend,

Mr Garlick

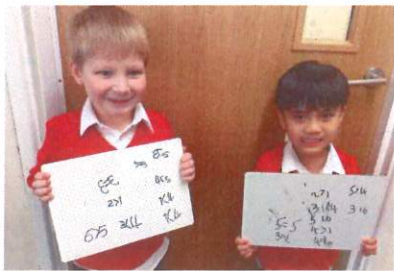
Smart Devices and Other Technology

In line with our Mobile Phone Policy:

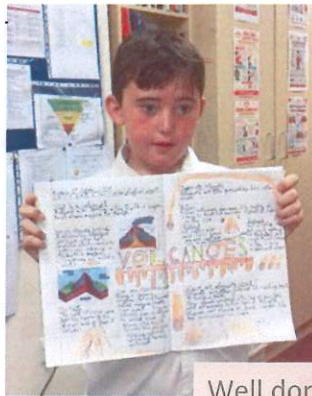
- * Smartwatches and other internet-enabled devices **are not** permitted unless agreed in advance for medical or safeguarding reasons.
- * Devices used for medical purposes must have all non-essential functions disabled.

Please visit our website for a copy of the full policy: [School Policies - GLPS](#)





Well done to Elliot and Cedric for their brilliant maths work

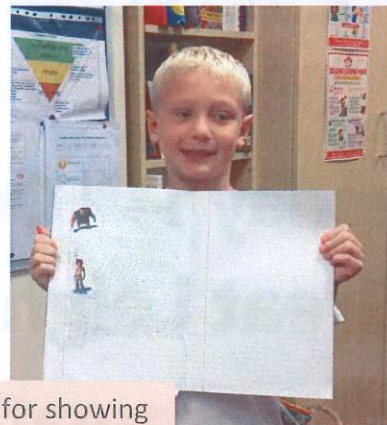
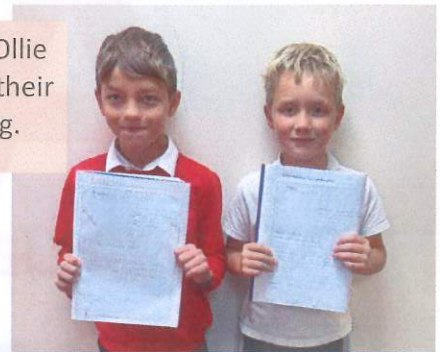


Well done to Harry and Frank for their amazing writing.



Well done to Sofia, Gryff, Will, Hugo and Mackenzie for their fantastic Diya lamps.

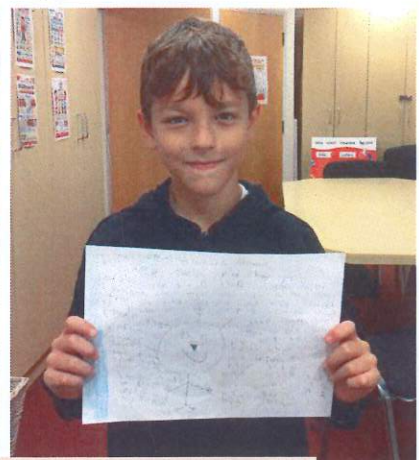
Well done to Ollie and Logan for their super writing.



Well done to Larry for showing me his brilliant writing.



Well done to Martha for her fantastic English work.



Well done to Primrose and Ollie for their amazing creative writing.

FOGLS



AGM

Annual General Meeting

Everyone is welcome.

Stay informed and get involved.

Wednesday 14th October 2026 - 8:00pm

At Great Leighs Primary School

Email: ptagreatleighs@gmail.com

if you can join us.

EYFS/KS1

4:00PM - 5:00PM

£4

Includes snacks and unlimited drinks.


FOGLS
FRIENDS OF
GREAT LEIGHS SCHOOL

KS2

5:15PM - 6:30PM

£3.50

Includes unlimited drinks.
Tuck shop available.

Spooky Disco



FRIDAY
16TH OCTOBER

TICKETS ON SALE NOW - VISIT:
www.pta-events.co.uk/fogls

If anyone can volunteer please let one of FOGLS know.

SUMMER FETE

A big thank you to all who supported, volunteered and donated gifts or prizes.

We raised over

£1800


FOGLS
FRIENDS OF
GREAT LEIGHS SCHOOL



Well done to Owen!



Robin Class

This week in Robin class, we have been developing our instruction writing skills, linked to our exciting Paddington topic. On Monday, the children had the opportunity to make their very own marmalade sandwiches! They took turns following the instructions carefully, listening closely as they prepared their sandwiches.

Once they had finished, everyone had the chance to taste their creation. Most of us loved them, but we were very proud of everyone for being brave and giving them a try. We then used this exciting first-hand experience to help us write our own set of instructions, thinking carefully about the order of each step and the language we needed to use.



Squirrel Class

Squirrel class enjoyed a balance bike session on Tuesday with Mandy from Chelmsford Sports Partnership. We started off the session by learning about the different parts of the bike and then had a go at travelling in a straight line. We practised different skills such as steering and gliding with our feet off the ground. We finished the session with a game of Follow the Leader. Well done Squirrels for fantastic listening and turn taking!



Bumblebee Class

Year 3 were very lucky as Mrs Clark came to show us a stone Age flint that that she found. Mrs Clarks friend, who is an archaeologist, said: It is indeed a worked flint. It is a scraper made during the later Neolithic period about 3500 - 3000BC. Used for scraping the fat and fur off of hides.



India Day!

On Tuesday, Rabbit Class had a wonderful time celebrating **India Day!** The children had a fantastic day filled with exciting activities, learning, creativity, music, dance and, of course, lots of fun.

We began the day by **tasting a range of Indian foods**, including naan, poppadoms, mango chutney, lime pickle, pilau rice, basmati rice, pomegranate and mango. The children showed great enthusiasm and curiosity as they explored the different flavours, textures and smells. Lots of children even asked for more! It was lovely to hear them using descriptive adjectives such as "*sticky*" and "*crunchy*" to explain what they were eating. They demonstrated wonderful manners, enthusiasm and participation throughout the activity.



We then headed outside to create our own **Rangoli patterns** using chalk on the playground. The children engaged brilliantly with this activity and produced some fantastic, colourful and ambitious designs. They showed great creativity and carefully thought about the shapes and patterns they wanted to create.



After break, the children spent some time with **Miss Parish learning the story of Rama and Sita**. They enjoyed acting out the different parts of the story and worked together to add music, helping to bring the story to life.

After lunch, we were very excited to **perform our Indian dancing and our Rama and Sita play to Year 1**. Year 1 were a wonderful audience, and the children performed with great confidence and enthusiasm. We then invited Year 1 back to our classroom, where we proudly showed them the **Diya lamps we had made** and our beautiful Rangoli patterns.

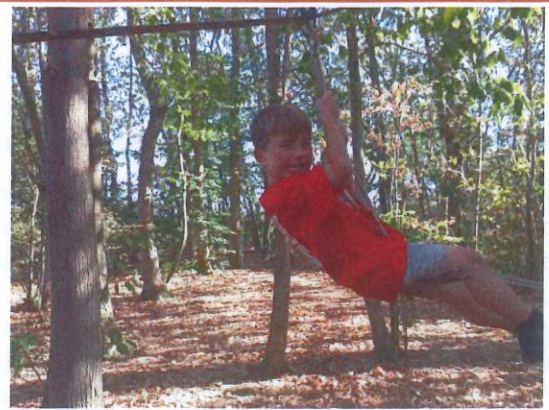


To finish our wonderful day, we took part in some **yoga**, which originated in India. It was a lovely, calm way to end a very busy and exciting day.

The children were an absolute joy throughout India Day. Their enthusiasm, curiosity and willingness to join in with every activity made the day very special. **Well done, Rabbit Class!**



Forest School



Rabbit Class have been thoroughly enjoying their weekly trips to Forest School with Andrew this half term. They have loved exploring the woodland and discovering new ways to learn and play in the natural environment.

The children have enjoyed creating their own little gardens, making beautiful leaf rubbings and experimenting with leaf printing using hammers. They have also had lots of fun playing amongst the trees, enjoying the hammocks and swings, and developing their confidence as they explore the outdoors.

It has been wonderful to see the children becoming increasingly curious, creative and adventurous during their Forest School sessions!

Thank you to all the volunteers that have given up their time to help support the children.



Science in Year 5

In Mole Class, our science topic this term is **Forces**, and we have been having lots of fun investigating **air resistance and water resistance**!

The children have made parachutes of different sizes and tested them from the climbing frame, observing how the size of the parachute affected the speed at which it fell. We have also explored water resistance by creating three different shapes from plasticine and dropping them into a tall tube of water to see which shape moved through the water most quickly.

The children have really enjoyed making predictions, planning fair tests, carrying out investigations and recording their results. They have been developing their scientific thinking and learning how forces can affect the movement of objects.



Benchball Yr. 6 v Boreham Primary

Our Year 6 benchball team had a match at Boreham after school on Thursday. The teams showed fantastic perseverance during all matches and it was lovely to see the children encouraging each other.

Results

Boreham A Team	15 - 1	Great Leighs B Team
Boreham B Team	6 - 6	Great Leighs A Team
Boreham B Team	16 - 6	Great Leighs B Team
Boreham A Team	14 - 4	Great Leighs A Team



Upcoming Events

12th Oct 26	EYFS Parent Phonics morning 8.45am - Info sent via ParentMail
13th Oct 26	EYFS Parent Phonics morning 8.45am - Info sent via ParentMail
14th Oct 26	Benchball Yr. 5 AWAY to Boreham PM - Info sent via ParentMail
16th Oct 26	FOGLS Disco - Info on Newsletter
20th Oct 26	Parents Evening 3.30pm - 6.30pm - Info sent via ParentMail
21st Oct 26	Flu Vaccinations - Info to follow
22nd Oct 26	Parents Evening 3.30pm - 7pm - Info sent via ParentMail
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
6th - 10th Nov 26	Book Fair - Info on Newsletter
18th Nov 26	Teddy Lympics (Selected Yr. 1 team) - Info to follow
20th Nov 26	Colchester Zoo Yr. 2 - Info sent via ParentMail
23rd Nov 26	Essex Fire Cyber Bullinging Workshop Yr. 5 - Info to follow

This Week's Awards	Values Award	Maths Award	Reading Award	Building Learning Power
Squirrels	Ollie L	Ivy F	Nellie	Archie Ph
Robins	Poppy	Kingsley	Finn	Reuben
Rabbits	Hugo	Gryff	Will	Pippa
Bumble-bee	Raelle	Jacob	Oliver	Elliott
Kingfisher	Bernadette	Bodhi	Evan	Sophie
Mole	Lottie	Ashley	Phoebe B	Darcy
Owl	George	Harvey	Zachary	Annie

ATTENDANCE CUP

for last week.

1st Mole - 98.3%

2nd Bumblebee - 97.4%

3rd Kingfisher - 96.1%



Read our Online Safety newsletter here:

<https://greatleighs.essex.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/10/October-2026.pdf>



This months features are AI Companions & Discord

ParentMail

Please ensure you are connected and read all ParentMails sent out to you.

If you need to connect please contact the office.

Staff Training

Non-Pupil Days 2025/2026

Fri 23rd Oct 26

Fri 12th Feb 27

Mon 7th Jun 27

Weds 21st Jul 27

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

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](#)



Chelmer Valley High School

A Specialist Engineering and Leadership Academy

Open Events 2026



Open Evening

Thursday 17th September 2026

5.30 p.m. – 8.00 p.m.

Open Mornings

Tours by appointment during September and October 2026. Please contact the school office to book an appointment.

Chelmer Valley High School, Court Road, Broomfield, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 7ER

Telephone: 01245 440232
Email: school@chelmer-essex.sch.uk
Website: www.chelmer-valley-high-school.co.uk
Twitter: @ChelmerValleyHS

Always the best we can be



CHANCE TO SHINE
STREET



FREE INDOOR
CRICKET.

HAVE FUN.
GET ACTIVE.
MAKE FRIENDS.

5.30-6.30 PM ON WEDNESDAYS
FROM 16 SEPTEMBER 2026
SUITABLE FOR AGES 8-16
FREE ENTRY

HYLANDS SCHOOL SPORTS HALL, CHELMSFORD, SS15 5NX
ENTER VIA HATFIELD GROVE

SCAN TO REGISTER



HOLIDAY COURSES

**Bikeability Level 1, Level 1 & 2, Learn to ride courses and a new course
Child Bike Workshop & Learn**

To book, please visit link
essex.cycleready.co.uk/publicbooking

Venues: Chelmsford, Colchester, Harlow & Witham

There is a £15 non-refundable booking fee



**SAFER
GREENER
HEALTHIER**


Essex County Council

Date/ Time/ Location	Name of course	Description	Link to book / more info
Thursday 17 th September 930am-1130am 6 week ONLINE course	Positive parenting for primary	This course is designed to support you to understand your children and provide parenting support. It covers boundaries, communication skills, understanding feelings and emotions and most importantly how to have fun as a family. This is for parents with primary school aged children.	ACL Essex HO4C01OL26 Positive Parenting For Primary
Thursday 17 th September 7pm-9pm 2 week ONLINE course	Raising girls	This course will support parents/carers who are raising girls in the 21st century - Aimed at parents/carers who want to develop their understanding of the different stages of girlhood and learn how to raise happy, confident, and kind young women.	ACL Essex HO4C02OL26 Raising Girls
Tuesday 22 nd Sept 12.30pm-2.30pm 2 week ONLINE course	Communicating with children aged 5-11	Discover the power of positive communication with your child.	ACL Essex HO1C02OL26 Communicating With Children Aged 5-11 Years
6 th October 1230pm-230pm 2 week ONLINE course	Zones of regulation	This course will provide parent/carers an insight and understanding into the use of zones of regulations for supporting emotional intelligence in young people.	ACL Essex HO3C02OL26 Zones Of Regulation
Thursday 8 th October 7pm-9pm 2 week ONLINE course	Understanding children's anxiety	Looking at anxiety, the causes of anxiety and how to support your child or young person.	ACL Essex HO4C03OL26 Understanding Children's Anxiety

ACL run a wide range of FREE family learning workshops/ courses for parents and carers including parenting style courses and workshops including managing big emotions, understanding children's anxiety, SEND support, positive parenting, supporting your neurodiverse child and more.

Details in the table below are taken from ACL website www.aclessex.com/community-family-learning/

No referrals needed

Mid Autumn Term
The Essex SEND Local Offer Roadshow

Are you a parent or carer of a young person with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) aged 0 to 25? Do you want to know what support is available in your area? Come along to one of our Essex SEND Local Offer Roadshows.

You can chat with teams from Education, Health and Social Care, as well as local support groups and activity providers.

The marketplace is free and there is no need to book. Children are welcome!

Drop in between 9:30am and 12:30pm

Monday 12 October 2026

Wickham Bishops Village Hall, Church Road, Wickham Bishops, CM8 3JZ

Scan the QR Code for all the information, including dates and venues or visit the Essex Local Offer at:
<https://send.essex.gov.uk/i-think-my-child-needs-help/essex-local-offer-roadshow>

In Partnership with

Join us at the SEND Roadshow in Wickham Bishops

Date: Monday 12 October 2026

Time: Drop in anytime

9:30 AM - 12:30 PM (all ages)

Quieter times: Prefer a quieter visit? Pop in after 11:30 AM.

Location: Wickham Bishops Village Hall, Church Road, Wickham Bishops, CM8 3JZ

Cost: FREE

What to Expect:

Have questions about your child's needs and the best support available? The SEND Roadshow brings together a variety of professionals under one roof, including local support groups, education professionals, health teams, and social care teams.

You can:

- access support and information
 - understand the different services available
 - discover local support, such as parent groups and inclusive activities
- attend free talks

For more information on the event - including who will be there- take a look at: [Mid Essex SEND Local Offer Roadshow | Essex Local Offer](#)