

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been another busy and rewarding week at Great Leighs. As part of our continued commitment to strong partnerships between home and school, we welcomed our EYFS parents into the classroom. It was a lovely opportunity for them to see what a typical phonics session looks like and learn more about their children's activities and experiences.



For more information about Phonics and early reading, please visit our website: [A Guide to Phonics for Parents and Carers](#)

I'm pleased to share that we have held our first Full Governing Body meeting of the academic year. I was proud to tell our governors about the super efforts of our staff and pupils. Their hard work and commitment help make Great Leighs such a wonderful place to learn.

This week, we also welcomed 12 trainee teachers from Anglia Ruskin University, giving them their first experience of life in a primary school. They commented on the positive, welcoming atmosphere throughout the school.

Looking ahead, a reminder that Parent Evenings are taking place next week. These meetings are an important opportunity to talk with your child's teacher about their progress. Please arrive promptly for your appointment. Each slot is 10 minutes, helping us give every family a fair opportunity to meet with their child's teacher.

We ask that all conversations with staff are courteous and respectful, so that these meetings remain positive and productive for everyone. These conversations are a valuable way to strengthen the partnership between home and school, which plays an important part in supporting your child's learning journey. We look forward to seeing you and sharing a productive discussion.

Thank you for your continued support and for being such an engaged part of our school community.

Mr Garlick

School Teacher Led Clubs

**A reminder that there are
no school teacher led
clubs next week due to
parents evenings.**

**These clubs will resume
again from 2nd November**
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Helping your child at home:

Our website: <https://greatleighs.essex.sch.uk/parents-info/guide-to-the-curriculum/>

Has information and useful for links for parents of how to help your child with: Reading, writing, maths and grammar.

Reading at home:

Reading with your child at home is not only a way to spend time together but will also foster in them a love of stories, characters and
Here is some further advice for reading with your child at home:

[Guide to the Curriculum - GLPS](#)

SCHOLASTIC TRAVELLING BOOKS

Every book you buy earns **FREE BOOKS** for our school!

COME TO OUR BOOK FAIR

And find your next favourite read!

DATE: 5th - 10th November TIME: 3.20 - 4.00

LOCATION: Mole Classroom

GO ALL IN.

NEW BOOKS. NEW WORLDS. NEW FAVOURITES.

DISCOVER BOOKS FROM **£3.99**

Includes your own wands!

4 for **£10.00**

2 for **£15.99**

DISCOVER MORE BOOKS ONLINE!
www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/bookcases

All books subject to availability.

Payment at our Book Fair

Please check with your school for the best way to pay for your books.

- You may pay by card at the fair via our digital till or card reader machines if your school has one, or by using the online link at www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay and simply selecting your school from the drop down menu.
- Pre-paid gift vouchers are available in £5, £10, £15, £20 and £25. Go to www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/gift-vouchers to buy vouchers for your child before the fair.
- If you can't attend the fair in person, your child can order books via a Wish List - please ask your school for details.

HELP EARN FREE BOOKS

Scholastic is one of the largest providers of free books to schools via our keyword scheme which helps to ensure that as many children as possible have access to books that support reading for pleasure. Every time you buy from the Book Fair, you help to make a difference by supporting literacy in your child's setting. Last year, with your help, we gave over £5.3M worth of free books to schools nationwide, which stocked school libraries and classrooms.

*Free books are subject to terms and conditions. Please contact your Book Fair Organizer or Scholastic Book Fairs for details. All books subject to availability. Book range may vary.

Great Leighs Primary School

BOOKMARK COMPETITION

Get creative and design a bookmark for our school!

Open to all pupils from Early Years to Year 6

5 PRIZES OF £5.00

SCHOLASTIC book vouchers to spend at the book fair

The book fair will be in school between **5th - 10th November 2026.**

Templates can be collected from Mrs Clark in Mole Class.

Deadline for submitting designs: **Monday 2nd November 2026.**

Design • Create • Be Inspired



Well done to Nathan for showing me his amazing writing

Well done To Colette for playing a solo to the class



Well done to Lilly for showing me her 'extra' maths home-work



Well done to Amari and George for their fantastic artwork



Well done Sophia for her brilliant artwork

Well done to Teddy for his wonderful Art work

Well done to Amelia and William for their super work linked to Black History month

Well done Joshua for his great effort with his writing.



Golden Ticket

Well done to Nellie, Sofia, Sophie, Lilly, Willow and Teddy A who were all awarded this week's Golden Ticket to enjoy a hot chocolate with Mr Garlick.





After our recent AGM we just wanted to let you know of changes to our committee and reintroduce what it is FOGLS do.

At this time, we would like to say a huge **THANK YOU** to Jenny Abel for her role as chair.

She has supported us all to create some amazing events for the children and in doing so raise needed funds for the school.

Committee Members

CHAIRS
Katie Lambert and Rachel McBain

TREASURERS
Jo Constantine and Jenny Abel

SECRETARY
Catherine Walker

Your Class Contacts

RECEPTION Katie Lambert	YEAR 1 Chloe Richardson Rachel McBain Catherine Walker
YEAR 2 Jenny Abel - Annika Jubb Katie Lambert - Hailey Amani Cat Kaszycki	YEAR 3 Sophie Brazier
YEAR 4 Cat Kaszycki Hannah Gething	YEAR 5 Chelsey Power Annika Jubb
YEAR 6 Lorraine Shotliff Jenny Abel	

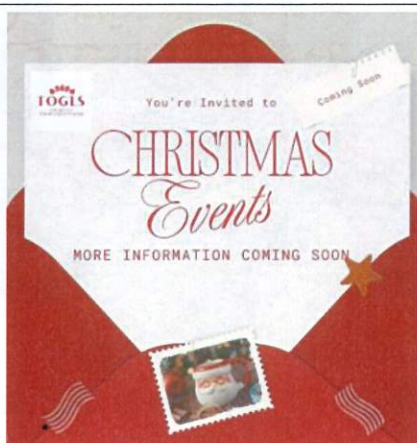
Who are FOGLS?

We're your dedicated Parent Teacher Association set up to raise vital funds for the school and help to enhance your child's experience while at Great Leighs Primary School.

We're a registered charity with the Charity Commission for England and Wales. This means we can boost our fundraising with things like Gift Aid and match funding. We have set constitutional rules, if you'd like to see them or want more information just email us.

How you can get involved

We need parents to help at each of our activities, whether it's selling ice creams, folding raffle tickets, manning stalls or more behind the scenes planning the activities, shopping or coming along to meetings to have your say. If you'd like to help out email us or chat to one of our parent class contacts.



Getting In Touch

Email: ptagreatleighs@gmail.com.

Follow us on socials 'Friends of Great Leighs School'

Check out the school weekly newsletter for our latest events or offers.

• Squirrel Class



This week we invited parents into Squirrel class for a phonics morning. We started the morning with our phonics carpet session and the children were then able to explore the phonics activities with their adults.

Thank you to everyone who was able to join us, the children loved having you in their classroom.



Robin Class

In Robin class we've had lots of fun exploring the season of Autumn! We went on an autumnal walk around school, spotting all the wonderful signs of the season. We found acorns, conkers, conker husks, and an array of brown, yellow, orange, and red leaves. We even discovered seeds, mushrooms, and caught sight of a cheeky squirrel gathering nuts!



Benchball Yr. 5 v Boreham Primary

On Wednesday the Year 5 benchball team played at Boreham. Both the A and B team demonstrated fantastic defending throughout as well as some brilliant catches on the bench. Well done to our A team who came first overall.

Results

Boreham A Team 7 - 4 Great Leighs B Team
Boreham B Team 3 - 4 Great Leighs A Team
Boreham B Team 7 - 2 Great Leighs B Team
Boreham A Team 1 - 7 Great Leighs A Team

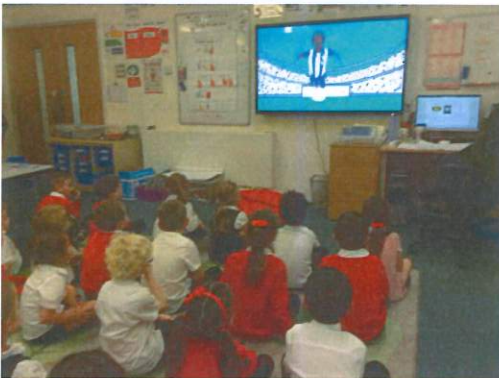


Black History Month EYFS/KS1

Squirrel class have been learning about Mo Farah this week as part of Black History Month. We watched a clip of one of his gold medal races and discussed how hard he would have had to work to compete in these races. In PE, we practiced our starting positions at the beginning of a race to make sure we had a quick start and then competed in teams for different races.



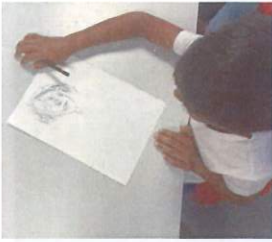
In Robin Class, we have been celebrating Black History Month by learning about the famous footballer Laurie Cunningham. He was a pioneering Black footballer who played for several well-known clubs, including West Bromwich Albion and Real Madrid, where he became the first British player to play for the Spanish club in the modern era. He also represented England at senior international level and was one of the first Black players to do so.



For Black History Month, Rabbit class have been learning about the incredible life and achievements of Simone Biles, the world-renowned gymnast. They enjoyed discovering more about her early life and watching some of her amazing performances at the Olympic Games and World Championships. The children explored adjectives to describe Simone, gathered key facts from Newsround and reflected on what they found inspiring about her. They then brought their learning together by creating their own fact files, celebrating Simone's determination, resilience and outstanding achievements. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn about an inspiring role model and celebrate her contributions to the world of sport

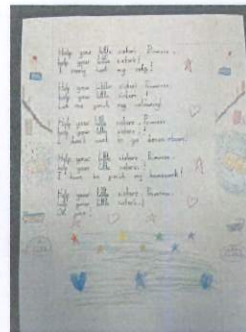


Black History Month KS2



In Year 3 we learnt about the life and struggles of Mary Seacole. She showed amazing resilience helping people who were injured in the war, even though she was told not to. She used her own money to help and later, a nurses fund was raised to ensure her fantastic work carried on.

We have been learning about the poet Joseph Coelho in Kingfisher Class and created our own funny, silly, repetition poems in the style of his.



In Year 5 the children have been learning about Walter Tull, an inspirational Black historical figure, as part of our Black History Month celebrations. Walter was a pioneering footballer who played for Tottenham Hotspur and became the first Black outfield player to appear in the Football League. He later joined the British Army during the First World War and, in 1917, became the first British-born Black combat officer in the British Army.

Sadly, Walter was killed in action in March 1918, aged just 29. His courage and determination made him an important figure in both football and British history.

The children researched his remarkable life and achievements to create their own fact files, celebrating his legacy and the barriers he helped to break. Here are some examples of their fantastic work!

As part of our Black History Month learning, Year 6 have been exploring the life and achievements of Benjamin Zephaniah, the celebrated British poet and writer. The pupils researched his early life, adult life and published works, discovering how he used poetry to share important messages about equality, justice and standing up for what is right. They also learnt that Benjamin was dyslexic and found reading and writing difficult at school, but this did not stop him from becoming a successful and much-loved poet. His journey showed the children how talent, creativity and determination can help people overcome challenges and achieve great things.

The children then put their artistic skills to the test, creating some fantastic portraits of Benjamin Zephaniah. Through their research and artwork, Year 6 have celebrated his creativity, his powerful use of language and the lasting impact he has had on literature.



Children's Parliament



'Yesterday, we went to London! Exciting, right? We caught the train from Chelmsford with Mrs Clark and headed to the meeting point at Victoria Gardens, London. As we left the tube station we spotted Big Ben! We managed to get a picture with Mrs Clark.

When we registered our arrival we were given special T-shirts to wear. Then, everyone gathered for a dance, instructed by Action Amanda! There were lots of other children at the event and we all had to line up to walk from the gardens to Parliament. When we arrived at Parliament we had to wait in line to go through security checks. It was like going through Airport security. The building itself was huge and had some massive corridors and rooms beautifully decorated and even the toilets were posh! For the actual children's parliament debate we were all taken into a big hall where some of the children were able to give speeches. Unfortunately we didn't get to read our speeches but we did some great 'bobbing' which is where we had to stand up straight and look to show we would like to make a speech. We also had to say 'I don't support' or 'I support' when the motions were read. It was an amazing day and we were really happy to be chosen to take part.' By: Amber and Melody

Science

Mr Garlick has asked us to help improve the football pitch due to flooding, it gets too muddy when rain water doesn't drain away quickly enough.



We concluded that the compost was the most permeable (let the most water through).

Upcoming Events

20th Oct 26	Parents Evening 3.30pm - 6.30pm - Info sent via ParentMail
21st Oct 26	Flu Vaccinations - Info sent direct from NHS Vaccinations to parents
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
5th - 10th Nov 26	Book Fair - Info sent via ParentMail
17th Nov 26	Enrichment Day - Broomfield - Selected Team - Info to follow
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 Bullying Workshop Yr. 5 - Info to follow
24th Nov 26	Enrichment Day - Here - Selected Team - Info to follow
30th Nov 26	The Snowman Event - Yr. 3 - Info to follow
3rd Dec 26	FOGLS Wreath Making Event - Info to follow
4th Dec 26	FOGLS Elfridges Event - Info to follow
8th Dec 26	EYFS Nativity 9am - Info to follow
8th Dec 26	KS1 Christmas Show 10am - Info to follow
9th Dec 26	EYFS Nativity 9am - Info to follow
10th Dec 26	KS1 Christmas Show 9am - Info to follow
11th Dec 26	School Christmas Dinner - Info to follow
14th Dec 26	FOGLS Christmas Movie - Info to follow
15th Dec 26	Carol Concert Yr. 3/4 9am - Info to follow
15th Dec 26	Production Yr. 5/6 1.30pm - Info to follow
16th Dec 26	Carol Concert Yr. 3/4 9am - Info to follow
16th Dec 26	Production Yr. 5/6 1.30pm - Info to follow
18th Dec 26	LAST DAY OF TERM 2PM FINISH
21st Dec 26 - 1st Jan 27	CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR BREAK
4th Jan 26	BACK TO SCHOOL
4th - 8th Jan 27	Shakespeare Week KS2 - Info to follow

This Week's Awards	Values Award	Maths Award	Reading Award	Building Learning Power
Squirrels	Raife	Pippin	Oliver B	Ella
Robins	George	Elsie	Una	Elliot
Rabbits	Pippa	Charlie	Leo	Ruby
Bumble-bee	Larry	Callie	Albie	Sebbie
Kingfisher	Lilly	Jax	Noah	Ruby
Mole	Nathan	Farhan	Amelie	Daisy
Owl	Elliot	Ellie	Arthur	Teddy A

ATTENDANCE CUP

for last week.

1st Bumblebee - 99.7%

2nd Mole - 99%

3rd Kingfisher - 97.5%



Read our Online Safety newsletter here:

[https://
greatleighs.essex.sch.uk/wp-
content/uploads/2026/10/
October-2026.pdf](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](#)

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

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

