Grow Learn Persevere Succeed

GREAT LEIGHS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Issue: 9 6th November 2026

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Overall School Attendance 19th—22nd October 26 2026 95.7%

GREAT LEIGHS SCHOOL NEWS

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back!

It has been lovely to welcome the children back for the start of a new half term. I hope the break offered your family a chance to rest, recharge and enjoy some time together.

There has been a cheerful buzz around school this week as children have caught up with friends and returned to their learning. We have been pleased to see their enthusiasm, thoughtful contributions and willingness to give things a go. Thank you for helping them return ready for the weeks ahead.

Have a great weekend and see you on Monday.

Mr Garlick

Peacock School Christmas Lunch - Friday 11th December 26 - Christmas Jumper Day



Peacock catering will be cooking up a festive feast for children on this day, pre-orders are now live!
Please ensure all bookings are made by midday 1st December 26. This allows time for Peacock catering to place orders and prepare for the day. We are unable to accept any orders after this closing date and will only be able to cater for pre-orders only on Friday 11th December 26. (Information has been sent out via ParentMail)
Also, children will be able to replace their school jumper with a festive Christmas jumper on this day too! All other normal uniform should be worn (or PE kit if that day is your child's PE day)



Little City
Thank you to Mrs Amani for giving the children in EYFS and KS1 the opportunity to experience Little City this week. The children certainly all had lots of fun.

PLEASE NOTE: SCHOOL FINISHES AT 2PM ON FRIDAY 18TH DECEMBER 26

PARKING NEAR THE SCHOOL

Please remember this is a residential area. We have had concerned neighbours reach out about the unnecessary hazards for road users, pedestrians, including children attending our school caused by school parents at drop off and pick up times. Roads and pavements are being obstructed which does not comply with the Highway Code. Please ensure you park safely and legally when driving your children to and from school.

Can you help? Items needed for our Foundation Stage area



Squirrel class are looking for the following items for their outside area. If you have any of these that you no longer need then we would be very grateful for the donations.



* large spoons, whisks
* small wheelbarrows
* plastic crates

Many thanks,
Mrs Turner



Harvest Festival Foodbank Support

A big Thank You to everyone that supported this.

Braintree Area Foodbank
Together with Trussell

Thank you!

Great Leighs Primary School

For your incredible fundraising efforts in support of Braintree Area Foodbank during 2026 Harvest.

You raised an incredible 101.50kg!

Your dedication and support have made a huge difference to the lives of people living in poverty.

Registered charity number 1148782. Registered in England and Wales.

Ending hunger together



A little reading, every day

As we settle back into school routines, please keep making time to read together. Just **10–15 minutes a day** is a manageable starting point, whether your child reads to you, you share the reading, or you read aloud while they listen.

Revisiting a favourite book is valuable too. Familiar stories give children the chance to practise, grow in confidence and enjoy reading with expression. Above all, we want reading together to feel relaxed and enjoyable.

Three ways to build reading fluency at home

1. **Read and follow:** Read aloud while your child follows the words on the page. Let them hear how you pause at punctuation and use your voice to bring meaning to the text.
2. **My turn, your turn:** Take turns reading a sentence, paragraph or page, depending on your child's confidence. Keep the pace comfortable and offer gentle support when needed.
3. **Echo reading:** Read a short sentence or phrase, then invite your child to read it back. Choose a manageable amount so they can practise reading smoothly and with expression.

Helping children understand what they read

Everyday conversations help children build the vocabulary and knowledge they bring to books. Talking about a journey, something you are cooking or an interesting thing you have noticed all provides opportunities to learn.

When sharing a book, try one or two questions such as:

- "What do you think might happen next? Why?"
- "How do you think this character is feeling?"
- "What does that word mean here?"
- "Does this remind you of anything we have done or read before?"

Give your child time to think, and share your own ideas too. A conversation about a book should feel like part of enjoying it together.

For more information about reading – please visit our website:

Guide to the Curriculum - GLPS





Bookmark Competition Winners

Thank you to all the children who entered into our bookmark competition. There were so many incredible designs and this made it very hard to narrow it down to just 5 winners. The winning entries and recipients of £5.00 vouchers for the Scholastic book fair were as follows:



Jack (Squirrels)

Jack (Robins)

Ruby (Rabbits)

Primrose (Kingfishers)

Melody (Moles)

Congratulations!

Mrs Clark

There is still time to visit our Book Fair - it's open in Mole Class Monday and Tuesday next week.

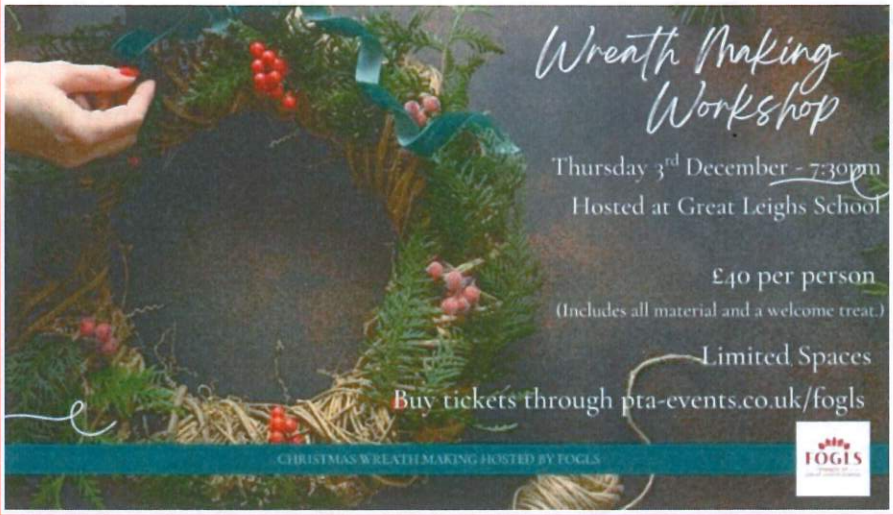
FOGLS
FRIENDS OF
GREAT LEIGHS SCHOOL













FOGLS
FRIENDS OF GREAT LEIGHS SCHOOL



Elfridges - Secret Christmas Shopping Day – Friday 4th December!

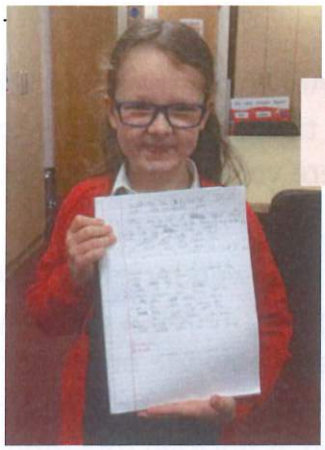
Give your child the magic of choosing their own surprise gifts for family and friends! We're turning the school hall into a festive pop-up shop run by the FOGLS team.

How it works in 4 easy steps:

1. Pre-pay online: Order gifts in advance for adults or children (under 11).
2. Name the recipient: Tell us who your child is buying for (Mummy, Daddy, Nanny, sibling, etc.).
3. The personal shopper experience: On the day, a FOGLS helper will assist your child in picking out the perfect item from our fantastic range
4. Wrapped and tree-ready: We'll wrap and tag every present so it can come home that day as a complete surprise!

Last year's event was a huge hit, and this year's gift selection is our best yet. Don't miss out! Buy gifts here - www.pta-events.co.uk/fogls/

WOW Wall

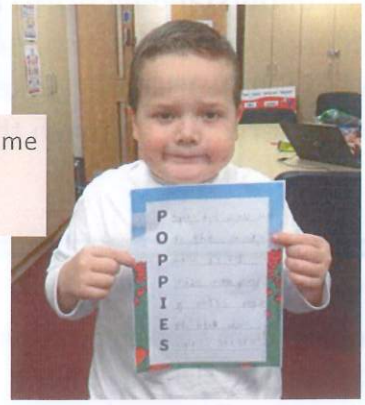


Well done to Elle for her amazing poem

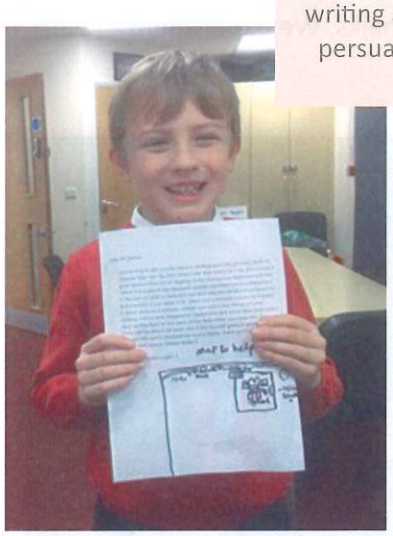
Well done to Daisy for her super PSHE work



Well to Jacob for showing me his brilliant poem



Well done to Logan for writing an excellent persuasive letter.



Well done to Darcey and Daisy for their fantastic artwork



Golden Ticket

Well done to Cedric, Elba, Albie, Noah, Ashley & Harvey who all won a Golden Ticket this week to enjoy a hot chocolate and treat with Mr Garlick.



School Visitor

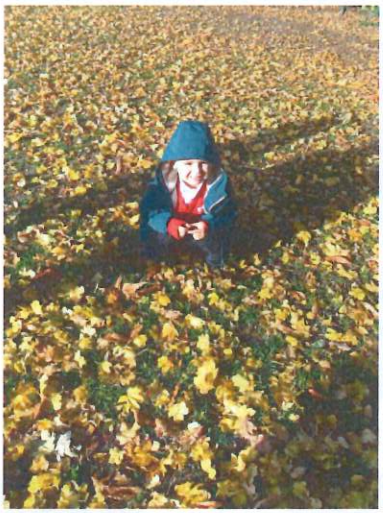
Today we had a visit from Amy from the Multi Schools Council. This is the second time Amy has come to Great Leighs and the children were very excited to welcome her back.

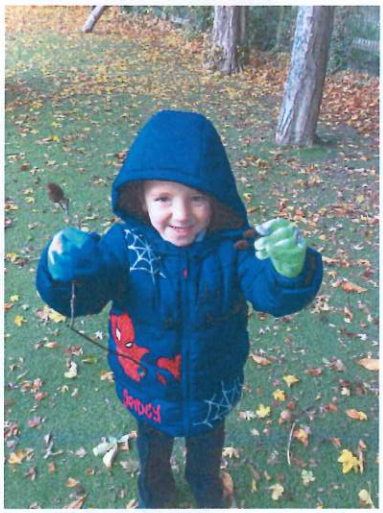
She delivered an assembly followed by interactive workshops for the children in Key Stage 2. The focus of today's sessions was understanding ADHD and how the brain works in different ways. We also focused on getting rid of some myths related to ADHD and looked at positive role models to show that everyone can reach their potential.



Squirrel Class

Squirrel class have enjoyed our new Autumn topic this week which started with a walk around the school to search for signs of Autumn. We also created firework pictures using chalks. We experimented with different patterns and used some smudging to create the smoke.





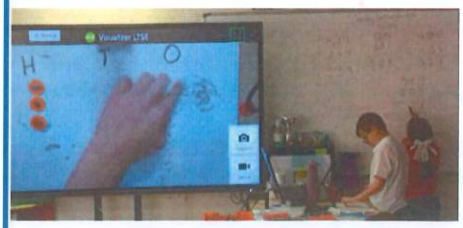








Bumblebee Class



In Maths we have been learning to subtract across a 10 using the column method. Elliot modelled the exchange using counters on the visualiser whilst Maddie modelled the column method. Fantastic teachers!

We have also been working on acrostic poems:

***F**izzing sparklers*

***I**n the warm, dark air*

***R**ockets blast into space*

***E**xplosions making me jump like a frog*

***W**heels spinning like they are in a race*

***O**n top of the bonfire, fireworks dancing*

***R**ed, orange and green explode above*

***K**aleidoscope of colours mixing together*

***S**moke lingering in the cold, dark air*

By: Sophie, Jacob, Hailey, Joshua, George S



Resilience Workshop - Owl Class

On Monday Owl class took part in a NHS funded resilience workshop. The workshop is designed for Year 6 pupils to develop coping mechanisms to help with any worries as they approach their transition to Year 7.

'We did lots of activities such as movement, breathing exercises and discussing our worries we have for High School. We got to do star jumps, squats, press ups and then Mandy got us to choose our own move!'

'One of us wore a back pack which then had rocks added to it to show how it feels when our worries add up' 'A lot of our worries were similar such as finding all our new classrooms and missing our old primary school friends'.

'We really enjoyed the amazing workshop, it was fun and helped us to feel more excited and less worried for Year 7!'

By: Teddy D, Elliot, Annie and Isabelle

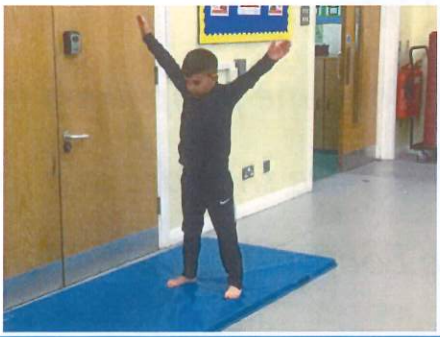
Robin Class

In Robin Class this week, we have been working hard to develop our number knowledge by exploring different number bonds to numbers between 2 and 10. The children chose a number at random using our number fans and then used Numicon to investigate the different ways they could make that number.

In gymnastics, we have been recapping our knowledge of different rolls, jumps and balances. The children used these skills to create their own mini routines, which they then confidently performed to the rest of the class.



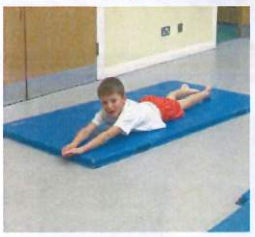
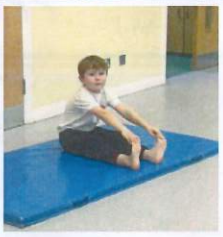





Rabbit Class




In Rabbit Class this week, we have been recapping our gymnastics skills through a series of fun games, challenging the children to remember different jumps, rolls and balances. The children then put these movements together to create their own sequences to music, which they proudly performed to the class. To finish, they worked in pairs and small groups to combine their ideas and create their own group choreography.

We have also started our new Geography topic, where we will be comparing different places around the world. This week, we began by learning about the seven continents. Working in pairs, the children used atlases to locate each continent on a world map. They really enjoyed exploring the atlases and developing their map skills











Little City Comes to Visit!

We were delighted to welcome **Little City** into our school for a fantastic day of imaginative play on Thursday with our EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 children!

The children had an amazing time exploring all the different areas and stepping into a variety of exciting roles. They loved styling hair in the hairdressers, dressing up in fancy dress, whizzing around on the cars and bikes, and posting letters in the post office. They also had lots of fun becoming police officers, doctors and vets, using their imaginations to bring each role to life!

It was wonderful to see the children so engaged, using their creativity, developing their communication skills and enjoying playing together. There were smiles and excitement everywhere!

A **huge thank you to Hailey** for providing this wonderful experience completely free of charge. Such a kind and generous gesture, and one that we are incredibly grateful for. The children thoroughly enjoyed every minute, and we really appreciate you making such a memorable experience possible for them!





























Upcoming Events

9th & 10th Nov 26	Book Fair - Info sent via ParentMail
18th Nov 26	Teddy Lympics (Selected Yr. 1 team) - Info sent via ParentMail
20th Nov 26	Enrichment Day - Broomfield - Selected Team - Letter sent home
20th Nov 26	Colchester Zoo Yr. 2 - Info sent via ParentMail
23rd Nov 26	Essex Fire Cyber Bullinging Workshop Yr. 5 - Info to follow
24th Nov 26	Enrichment Day - Here - Selected Team - Letter sent home
30th Nov 26	The Snowman Event - Yr. 3 - Info sent via ParentMail
3rd Dec 26	FOGLS Wreath Making Event - Info on Newsletter
4th Dec 26	FOGLS Elfridges Event - Info on Newsletter
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 - (& Christmas Jumper) Info sent via Parent-Mail
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	Ivy E	Freddie	Lallie	Emba
Robins	George	Albie	Crue	Eleanor
Rabbits	Edward	Ruby	Phoebe	Orson
Bumblebee	Sophie	Hailey	Seb	Raife
Kingfisher	Martha	Ruby	George	Toby
Mole	Joshua	Daisy	Troy	Jack
Owl	Blake	Sophia C	Sophia V	Henley

ATTENDANCE CUP

for last week.

1st Bumblebee - 97.5%

2nd Robin - 97.2%

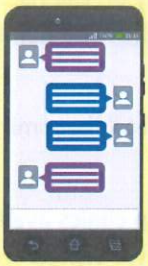
3rd Kingfisher - 96.4 %



Read our Online Safety newsletter here:

https://greatleighs.essex.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/11/November-2026.pdf

This months feature is Online Grooming



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 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

PLEASE NOTE: SCHOOL FINISHES AT 2PM ON FRIDAY 18TH DECEMBER 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

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

VACCINATION UK

Message for Parents

Respiratory illnesses and flu cases are currently on the rise. We encourage you to ensure your child receives their flu vaccination. You can choose between the quick and painless nasal spray vaccination or the injectable vaccine, which is porcine and gelatine-free.

Vaccination not only helps protect your child from becoming seriously unwell but also helps protect vulnerable family members and the wider community.

We currently have several community catch-up clinics available. Please use the link below to book an appointment. If you previously declined consent when we visited your child's school, you can still change your decision and book an appointment.

Alternatively, please contact our office on **01245 984145**, and a member of our team will be happy to arrange a clinic appointment for you.

https://www.essexchildrensimmunisations.co.uk/Book-a-clinic-vaccination

Please note that GP practices are not routinely providing flu vaccinations for healthy children in **Reception through to Year 11**.

Online Parenting Courses - Family Lives

Being a parent has never been easy. There are no manuals for it, and previous generations may not be able to provide the insight you're looking for. The family unit is more dispersed than ever, with some families existing hundreds of miles from what may be called a 'core unit'. The rapid pace of societal change in the UK rapidly outstrips the knowledge of the immediate past. The result is that many parents may find themselves lost in a maelstrom of contradictory advice. For adults, time has never been more compacted. Family Lives has produced a series of online parenting courses, to make this challenge a little easier. If interested please follow the link below:

https://www.familylives.org.uk/how-we-can-help/online-parenting-courses

Family Lives offers a confidential and free* helpline service for families in England and Wales (previously known as Parentline). They can be contacted on **0808 800 2222** for emotional support, information, advice and guidance on any aspect of parenting and family life. Their website is also a rich source of useful support and advice.