Grow Learn Persevere Succeed

GREAT LEIGHS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Issue: 10 13th November 2026

admin@greatleighs.essex.sch.uk

Overall School Attendance 2nd—6th November 26 2026 95.5%

GREAT LEIGHS SCHOOL NEWS

Dear Parents/Carers

This week, our school community gathered for a thoughtful Remembrance Assembly. Pupils listened and reflected with great respect, sharing considered responses to the sacrifices made by those who have served our country. It was a moving reminder of the importance of remembrance and of the values of respect and gratitude that we nurture together.



Attendance

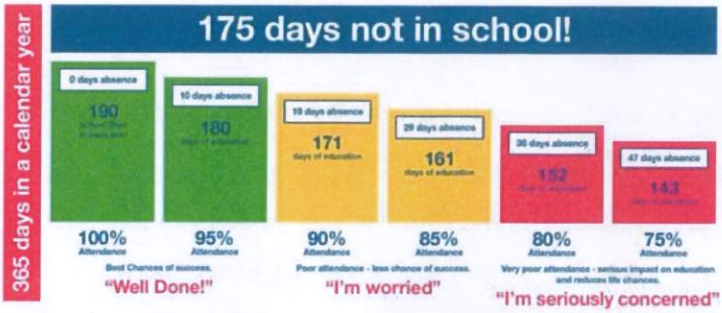
We regularly monitor our attendance in school, not just with individuals, but also as a whole school. It is pleasing to see how our attendance is higher than the national average and I would like to thank you for your support with this.

The table below shows a comparison of our school attendance with local and national figures.

	% Attendance
Great Leighs (up until 11.11)	96.4%
National	95.7%
Essex LA	95.4%

Is my child too ill for school?

NHS guidance states children can attend school with common cold symptoms like a sore throat, runny nose or cough unless they have a high temperature.



If you're not sure if your child is well enough to go come to school, check the NHS guidance for common illnesses and let us know as soon as possible if they need to stay home.

Is my child too ill for school? - NHS

If your child has a medical appointment during school hours, it's important they attend school before and after the appointment. They can wear school uniform for the appointment.

WhatsApp

If you have a concern or issue, please contact the school directly so we can listen and work with you to find a solution. Concerns shared in parent WhatsApp groups can sometimes be misunderstood or become difficult to resolve without the full context. Raising them with us gives the right people the chance to understand what has happened and respond appropriately. Thank you for helping us keep communication constructive and focused on supporting our children.

Have a good weekend, see you all on Monday.

Mr Garlick

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



Anti-Bullying Week/Odd Socks Day

Anti-Bullying Week 2026 will be taking place in school from Monday 16th November to Friday 20th November with the theme: Break the Silence.

In school, we will have special assemblies, lessons and cross-curricular activities on this year's theme.

We invite all staff and children to proudly wear odd socks to school with their usual school uniform/work wear on Monday 16th November 26 to celebrate the things that make us all unique.



FOGLS

FRIENDS OF
GREAT LEIGHS SCHOOL



Christmas Card and other products will be available to purchase.

More information to follow.

merry christmas

Merry Christmas

NO : 41226

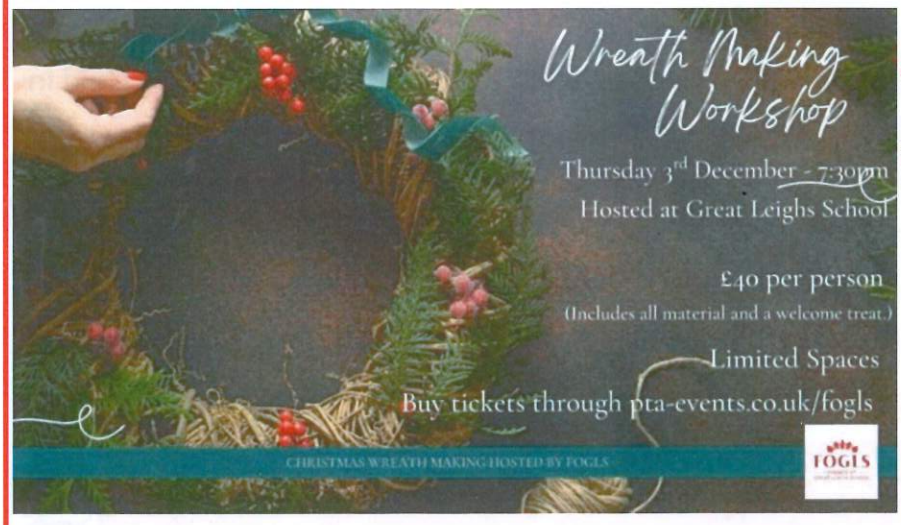
Christmas RAFFLE TICKETS

£1 A TICKET

Coming home with children today, Friday 13th November 26 - be sure to check their bags!!

Draw date: Friday 4th December 26 3.30pm

FOGLS



Festive Tuck Shops

Friday 4th December
(Along with the Raffle Draw - in the hall)

Friday 11th Decemeber
(Outside the office and KS2 Playground)

Thursday 17th Decemeber
(Outside the office and KS2 Playground)

£1
Exact money only please.

Drinks and Confectionary on sale.

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/



Orders must be placed by 8pm Sunday 22nd November 26



WOW Wall



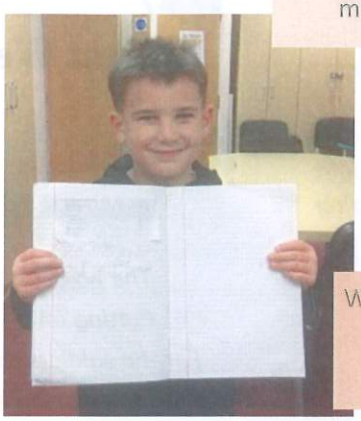
Well done to Freya, Erin and Phoebe for their amazing writing



Well done to Troy for some great Maths work and to Louie for his marvellous construction



Well done to Logan for his fantastic PHSE work.



Well done to Orson for his super effort with his writing.

Golden Ticket

Well done to Dhyan, Edward, Isabelle, Logan T, Daisy and Annie who all won a Golden Ticket this week to enjoy a hot chocolate and treat with Mr Garlick.



Reception admissions for academic year starting in September 2027

The primary school (Reception) admission round **opened on 9 November 26**, for parents of children to apply for a Reception school place for the academic year that starts in September 2027.

The statutory national **closing date for applications is 15th January 2027.**

Applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions.

99% of parents in Essex applied online last year.

The website www.essex.gov.uk/admissions also has a copy of the Primary Education in Essex 2027-28 booklet and the Schools Admissions Policies Directories contain details of all admission policies.

Remembrance Poems 2026

What was happening down below.

Guns were firing down below
Warning counties to go
Trenches dug, a horrible thought,
Just enough to get yourself caught.

They're eighteen, time for war
Vests are torn
Flander's Field guns shooting
With no more booting.

Horses running through the night
Soldiers marching to war holding tight
Poppies blow
Soldiers marching below.

Pigeons working
Soldiers lurking
Aeroplanes flying high
In the infinity going sky.

Once war ended not all soldiers were alive
So they could not be in the hive
Soldiers working in deep trenches
People today sitting on benches.

Gun shots firing
The general is hiring
Nature was hurt
Soldiers covering themselves in dirt.

And that is what is happening down below
Nothing could go slow
Guns galore
Going to war.

You have to fight
Even during the night
Children evacuated away from home
Leaving parents to be alone.

By: Sebbie



The Miracle Poppies.

The poppies blow
Putting on a show
For the soldiers as they go
With the planes flying low.

Larks singing in the air
Pigeons flying if they dare
Horses galloping to show they care
The field became empty and bare.

Soldiers marching into war
Upset by what they saw
Injured and feeling sore
Rationing and feeling poor.

Children evacuated away from home
Parents left to feel alone
Soldiers with a broken bone
Or under crosses all alone.

By: Sophie

They died for us.

Lark's flying in the sky
Meanwhile planes passing by
They're our heroes for the sacrifice they made
Because they were the people saving the day.

Looking at the rising dawn
See the soldiers in the thorns
The poppies blow as the soldiers go
Scattered row on row.

On the 11th in November
We take a moment to remember
The sacrifice they made
With the service that they gave.

Trenches dug deep
Horses in heaps
Pigeons coming home like a boomerang
Poppies blood red.

Sunset setting
Family not forgetting
Soldiers hurt
Covered in dirt.

Hearts are broken
No more children using tokens
At the arcade at the beach
In the war zone, teachers won't teach.

No more fun things like tracking
Countries are attacking
Going on for years
People in tears.
They died for us.

By: Elle

Christmas Performances

As mentioned in yesterday's ParentMail bookings for your child's class Christmas Performances will go live next week and will be available from 8pm Monday 16th November 26.

A total of two tickets per child will be available, and ***tickets are on a first come first served basis, please book on ParentMail as soon as possible and by Thursday 3rd December 26.***

Squirrel Class Christmas Production 'The Little Blue Star' will be on **Tuesday 8th December 26 at 9.00 am** and **Wednesday 9th December 26 at 9.00am**. (You will be able to access the hall from drop off – please ensure you are seated by 8.55am)

Robin and Rabbit Classes joint Christmas Production 'Fireside Nativity' will be on Tuesday 8th December 26 at 10.00am and Thursday 10th December 26 at 9.00am. (KS1 gates will open at 9.45am for the Tuesday performance – please ensure you are seated by 9.55am. You will be able to access the hall for Thursday's performance from drop off – please ensure you are seated by 8.55am)

Bumblebee and Kingfisher Classes joint Christmas Carol Concert will be on **Tuesday 15th December 26 at 9.00am and Wednesday 16th December 25 at 9.00am.**

Mole and Owl Classes joint Christmas Production 'Cinderella & Rockerfella' will be on Tuesday 15th December 26 at 1.45pm and Wednesday 16th December 26 at 1.45pm.

For the Bumblebee and Kingfisher Class concerts you will be able to access the hall from drop off (please ensure you are seated by 8.55am) and for the Mole and Owl Class production the KS2 gate will be open at 1.30pm – please arrive promptly to be seated by 1.40pm)

We look forward to seeing you there!

Upcoming Events

16th Nov 26	Wear odd socks to school day!
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 Bullying Workshop Yr. 5 - Info sent via ParentMail
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 sent via ParentMail
8th Dec 26	KS1 Christmas Show 10am - Info sent via ParentMail
9th Dec 26	EYFS Nativity 9am - Info sent via ParentMail
10th Dec 26	KS1 Christmas Show 9am - Info sent via ParentMail
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 sent via ParentMail
15th Dec 26	Production Yr. 5/6 1.30pm - Info sent via ParentMail
16th Dec 26	Carol Concert Yr. 3/4 9am - Info sent via ParentMail
16th Dec 26	Production Yr. 5/6 1.30pm - Info sent via ParentMail
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	Teddy F	Archibald	Theodore	Otis
Robins	Orri	Ralph	Raphael	Una
Rabbits	Orson	Clara	Amelia	Ethan R
Bumblebee	Elle	George S	Florence C	Finley
Kingfisher	Callie	Louie	Chloe	Quinleigh
Mole	Erin	Phoebe B	Nathan	Phoebe A
Owl	Isolde	Ava	Roman	Elliot

ATTENDANCE CUP

for last week.

1st Rabbit Class -97.39%

2nd Bumblebee - 97.33%

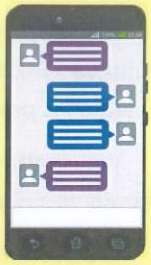
3rd Robin - 96.13%



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



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

ParentMail

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

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

Message for Parents

VACCINATION UK

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.