Grow Learn Persevere Succeed

GREAT LEIGHS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Issue: 11 20th November 2026

admin@greatleighs.essex.sch.uk

Overall School Attendance 2nd—6th November 26 2026 95.7%

GREAT LEIGHS SCHOOL NEWS

Dear Parents/Carers

This week, we have taken part in the national Anti-Bullying Week and made it a special Kindness Week too. The 2026 theme is **"Break the Silence"**—encouraging us to talk about bullying, speak up when something is wrong, listen to one another and take action together. Well done to all the children who received a special Kindness Certificate in assembly today. It was lovely to celebrate the thoughtful and caring ways you look after one another.



Over the past few weeks, I have enjoyed showing many prospective parents around our school. Their children may be joining us in EYFS next year, and it has been wonderful to hear such positive feedback. Visitors often comment on how calm and purposeful our classrooms feel, how happy the children look as they learn, and how hard they are working.

Teddy Lympics

Our pupils have made us incredibly proud once again with their enthusiasm for all things sporty! A big well done to the children in Robin Class who took part in the Teddy Lympics. They joined in with great excitement and showed kindness towards one another—positive attitudes we love to see in school. Thank you to Mrs Leach and Mrs McBain who supported the children at this event.



Colchester Zoo

I hope Rabbit Class enjoyed their trip to Colchester Zoo today. A special thank you to the staff who organised these activities and accompanied the children. Their support, along with that of our volunteers, helps our pupils enjoy these fun events safely and confidently. I'm sure we'll hear more about their adventures next week!

Have a lovely weekend,

Mr Garlick

CONSIDERATE PARKING OUTSIDE SCHOOL

· A LITTLE CARE MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE ·

RESPECT OTHERS | KEEP CHILDREN SAFE | BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

A reminder once again to please park considerately and take extra care around the school. This week, one of our pupils narrowly avoided being knocked over when a car mounted the pavement while parking. Please keep pavements clear so children and families can arrive safely. Thank you for helping us protect our pupils.

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



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.



FOGLS
FRIENDS OF
GREAT LEIGHS SCHOOL

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.

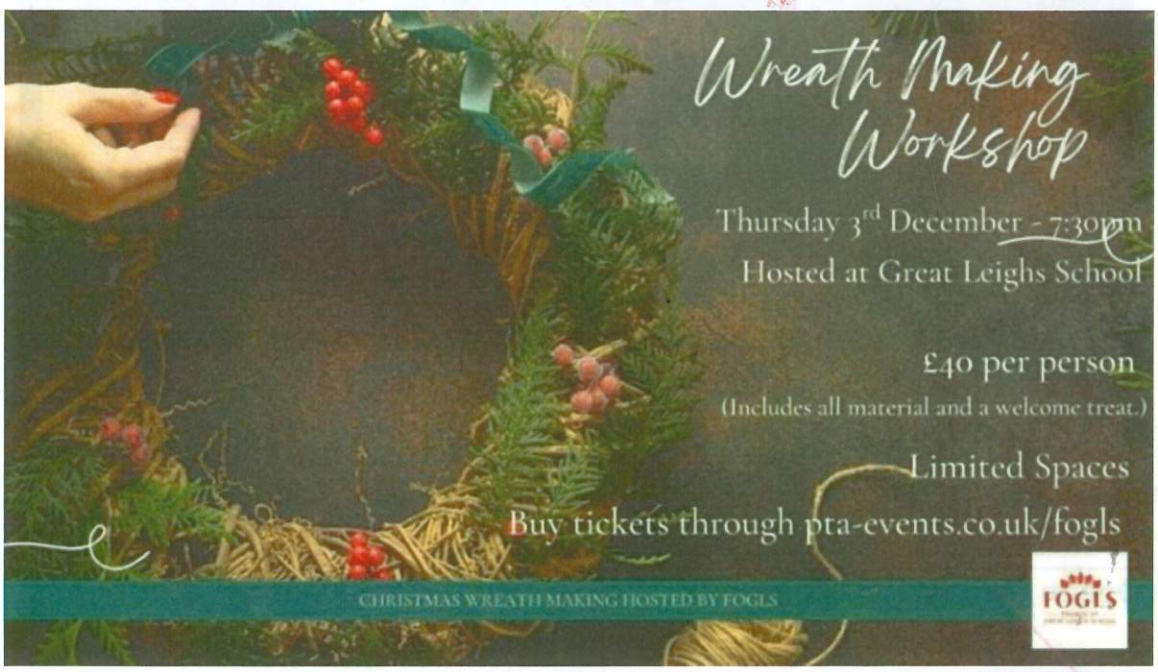
Christmas card designs have been sent home.

Please visit shop.classfundraising.co.uk /unlock to purchase any items.

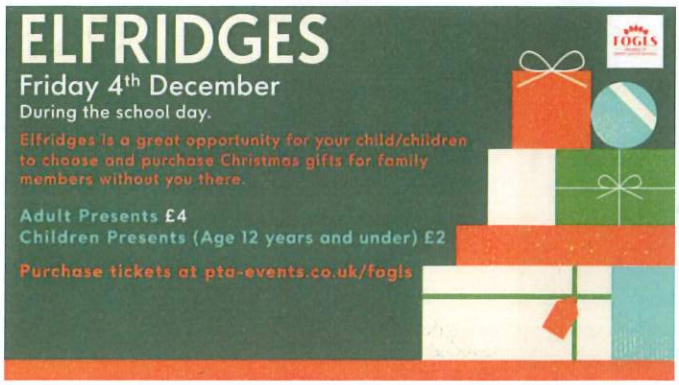
Orders must be placed by 12 noon Tuesday 24th November 2026



Merry Christmas



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

FOGLS

Christmas
RAFFLE TICKETS

Tickets have now come home. Please return to the office by Wednesday 2nd December 2026.

£1 A TICKET

Draw Date: Friday 4th December at 3:30pm in the school hall

Prizes Include:

⚽ 4x Hospitality Tickets to Spurs (vs Sunderland) ⚽ 🎬 2 x Adventure Cinema Tickets 🎬	💄 You magazine beauty advent calendar worth £630! 💄 🛍️ Small goodie bag from The Hub 🛍️
🍿 2 x Odeon Cinema Tickets 🍿	🍪 Boos Bakery Voucher 🍪 **Plus many more!**

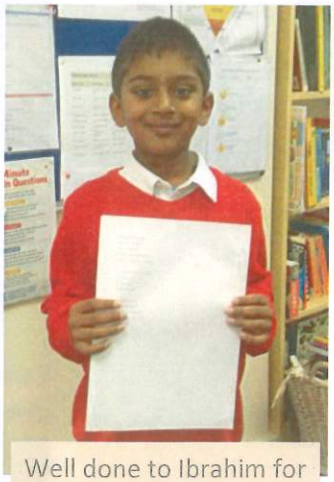
WOW Wall



Well done to Una, Eleanor and George for their brilliant English work.



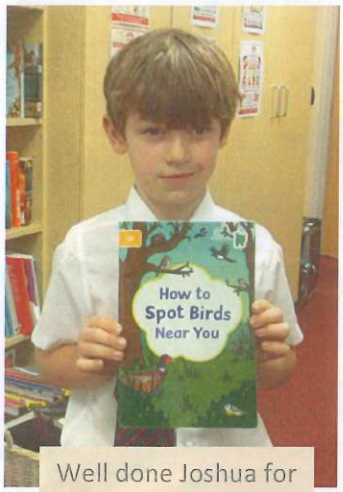
Well done to Maisie for her fantastic RE work.



Well done to Ibrahim for his super RE work



Well done Louie for his super History work and Hudson for his excellent DT.



Well done Joshua for making great progress with his reading.

Christmas Productions and Special Christmas Dinner pre-orders

As mentioned last week. tickets are now available for our upcoming **school Christmas productions.** Please make your **bookings before Thursday 3rd December 26.** Should you need to make any changes please contact the school office.

Also, our special Christmas lunch can still be pre-ordered up until 1st December 26. We are not able to take any bookings after this date.

WhatsApp

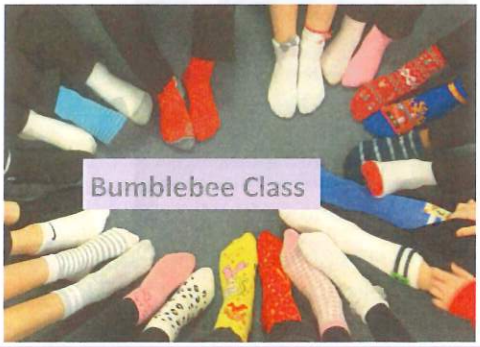
If you have a concern or issue, please contact the school directly so we can listen and work with you to find a solution. Concerns shared in parent WhatsApp groups can sometimes be misunderstood or become difficult to resolve without the full context. Raising them with us gives the right people the chance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

Odd Socks Day



Robin class loved sharing their odd socks with each other!





Bumblebee Class



Squirrel Class



Rabbit Class

Robin Class





This week, we have been writing about Autumn, linking our work to our Science topic. The children enjoyed going on an autumnal walk, looking for signs of the changing season. They worked hard to think of adjectives and verbs to describe their findings. 'Crumpled, wet leaves' and 'beautiful birds singing' were just a few of their fantastic ideas!





Robin Class

To celebrate **Friendship Week** in Robin Class, we have been thinking about the qualities that make a good friend. We looked at different scenarios and voted on whether we thought the actions shown were how a good friend should behave or not.

We then put our thinking into practice by creating our very own **Friendship Potions!** The children carefully chose ingredients to include in their potions, thinking about why each quality was important in a good friend. Lots of children chose to include kindness, a good sense of humour and being a good listener. It was lovely to hear the children sharing their ideas about what makes a special friend!









Rabbit Class

Rabbit Class celebrated friendship week by designing their own posters highlighting the important of kind hands.

Kingfisher Class - Anti-Bullying/Friendship Week

We created our own art with the message 'be kind' in the middle.



Mole Class Anti Bullying/Friendship Week

In Mole Class, we took inspiration from Irish artist Audrey Hamilton and her painting *BFFs* to create our own beautiful **Two Hands, One Heart** pictures, using poster paints and oil pastels. We explored words and phrases that celebrate friendship, kindness and speaking out against bullying, adding our chosen words inside the hearts to reflect the importance of being a good friend and looking out for one another.



Upcoming Events

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 ParentMail
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	Kindness
Squirrels	Teddy M	Arthur	Amias	Leo	Ollie L
Robins	Albie	Dhyan	Jack	Harry	Elliana
Rabbits	-	-	-	-	-
Bumblebee	Joshua	Jackson	George H	Leo	Isabelle
Kingfisher	Bodhi	Jenaya	Ollie	Lilly	Quinleigh
Mole	Amber	Freya	Joshua	Adi	Marcey
Owl	Isabelle	Elliot	Madison	Zachary	Ellie

ATTENDANCE CUP

for last week.

1st Mole & Bumblebee Classes - 98.7%

2nd Rabbit Class - 97%

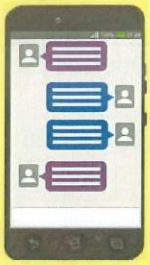
3rd Robin Class - 96.1%



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

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.