Grow Learn Persevere Succeed

GREAT LEIGHS SCHOOL NEWS

Issue: 12 27th November 2026

admin@greatleighs.essex.sch.uk

Overall School Attendance 16th—20th November 2026 94.4%

Dear Parents/Carers

This week, I had the pleasure of visiting children across the school during their maths lessons. What stood out was how confidently they shared their thinking. Children described what they noticed, listened to a partner's ideas and explained why they had chosen a particular approach.





In each classroom I visited, familiar routines helped children settle quickly and focus on their maths. Teachers showed how to tackle a problem by talking through their own thinking, then gave children time to have a go for themselves. It was lovely to see children choosing resources independently and using them to explain how they had reached an answer. What really shone through was how engaged the children were in their learning and how much enthusiasm they brought to their maths lessons.

If you would like to know more information about our maths curriculum at Great Leighs – please visit our website: Guide to the Curriculum - GLPS and look at the Guide to Maths Section

Have a lovely weekend , *Mr Garlick*

Special Christmas Dinner pre-orders

Pre-orders for our special Christmas Lunch must be placed **by midday Tuesday 1st December 26.** We are not able to take bookings after this date.

Christmas Productions

Tickets are still 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.

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

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

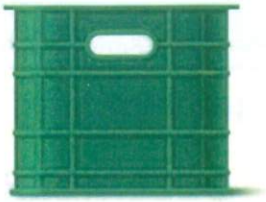
Many thanks,

Mrs Turner



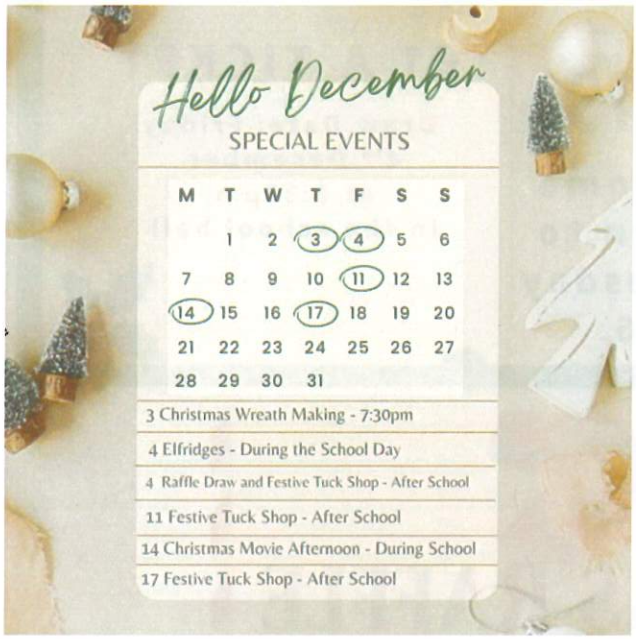








FOGLS
FRIENDS OF
GREAT LEIGHS SCHOOL



Festive Tuck Shops

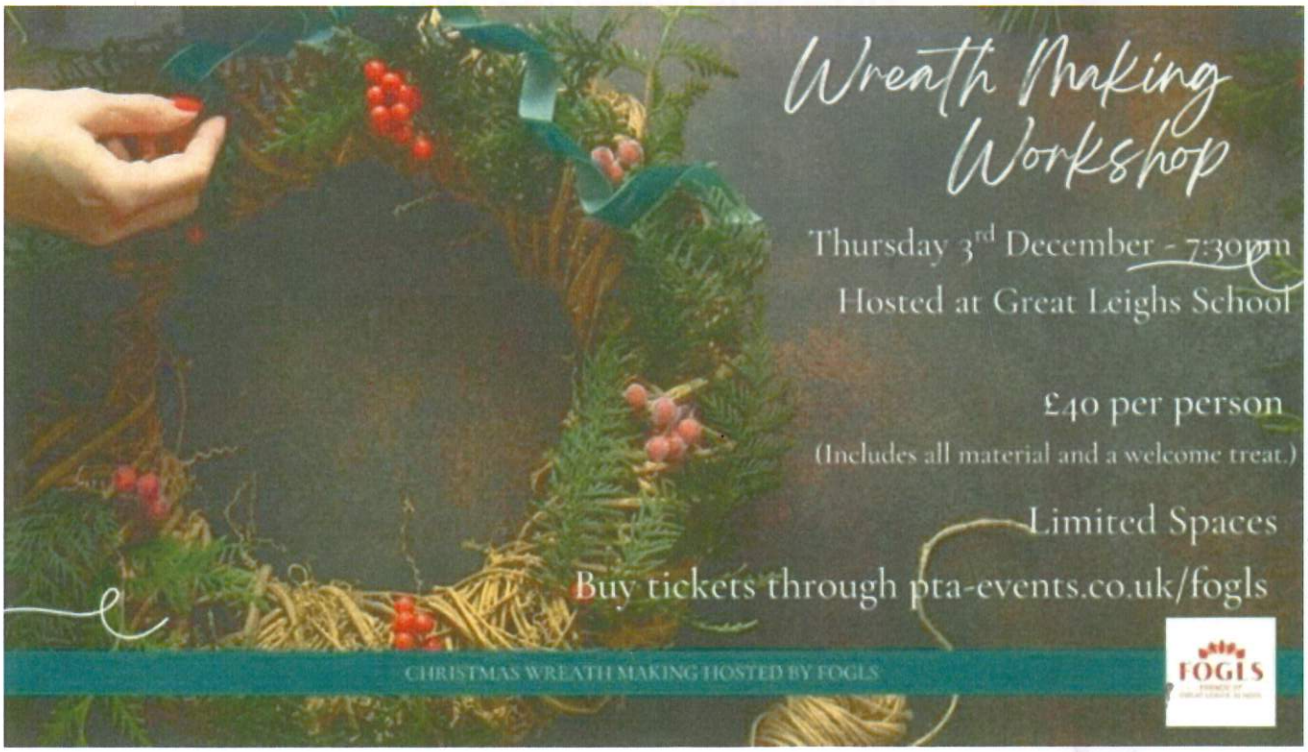
Friday 4th December
(Along with the Raffle Draw - in the hall)

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.



FOGIS
FRIENDS OF
GREAT LEIGHS SCHOOL

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

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE PRIZE LIST

FOUR Tottenham Hotspur Hospitality Tickets (vs Sunderland)
kindly donated by GB Finch
You Magazine Beauty advent calendar worth £630
TWO Odeon Cinema tickets
Christmas Goodie Bag, kindly donated by The Hub
Family Day Pass for Jimmys Farm
TWO tickets to Adventure Cinema open air experience in 2027
£15 Voucher for Longacre Garden Centre
£50 off any fuel, kindly donated by AD Fuels
MOT Voucher kindly donated by Schilwards
Tropics Voucher
Pilates Voucher
Boos Bakery Voucher
Amazon Fire TV Soundbar
Annual Family Membership for Stubbers Adventure Centre
Aussie hair care hamper
3 month Atom Home Exam Preparation Plus subscription
LillyPuds Hamper
Healing Touch Massage voucher
Stock Florist voucher
Fish & Chips for two, kindly donated by The Square and Compasses
Family Ticket* to the Enlightened Christmas Event at Hylands House
** (2 adults, 2 children)*

£1 PER TICKET

RAFFLE DRAWN FRIDAY 4TH DECEMBER

Thanks to all the fabulous businesses who donated!

WOW Wall



Well done to Orson for his super writing



Well done to Teddy for his amazing writing.



Well done to Sofia and Ethan for their fantastic work about Colchester Zoo.



Well done to Martha for her amazing poem



Well done to Mackenzie, Finley, Edward, Pippa, Gryff and Ella for their incredible artwork

Golden Ticket

Well done to Bonnie, Jasper, Maddie, Lilly, Sianna and Sophia C who all won this week's Golden Ticket to enjoy a hot chocolate and a 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.

Colchester Zoo!






On Friday 20th November, we had the most wonderful day out at **Colchester Zoo!** We were so lucky with the weather, enjoying some lovely sunshine throughout the day, which made our visit even more special.

We travelled to the zoo by coach, with the children full of excitement and anticipation for the adventures ahead. From the moment we arrived, they were fantastic! They showed such enthusiasm, curiosity and excitement as we explored the zoo and discovered all the amazing animals. The children were also little walking champions, clocking up an incredible **10,000 steps and more** throughout the day!

One of the highlights of our day was our very special Christmas workshop with Sooty the Elf. We learnt lots of fascinating facts about reindeer, including what they eat, how their thick coats keep them warm and how their wide feet help them walk across snowy ground. The children then became little Christmas helpers, searching for lichen and helping Sooty find the missing bells for the reindeer's magical flying harness. With a little help from Father Christmas himself, we managed to save the day! The excitement on the children's faces was simply magical, especially when Father Christmas gave everyone a cuddly reindeer to take home.

There was plenty to explore, including the penguins, dinosaurs, elephants, rhinos and more. Some of the children were also lucky enough to spot the newborn baby chimp, born recently on 4th November.

It was such a lovely day spent together, full of laughter, learning and special memories. The children were an absolute credit to Rabbit Class. We were so proud of how beautifully they behaved, how well they listened and how enthusiastically they embraced every part of the trip. They really did make the day extra special.

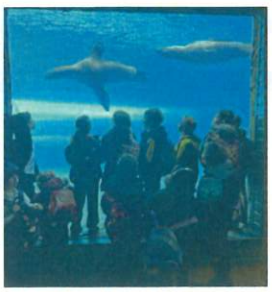
A **huge thank you** to Katie, Jenny, Cat, Miss Green, Mrs Quadir and Kay for giving up their time to come along and support us. We are so grateful for all your help, enthusiasm and care throughout the day. Having you there made such a difference and helped everything run so smoothly. Thank you for helping us make such wonderful memories with the children!

We certainly lucked out with the sunshine, and we came home with lots of happy memories (and a few very tired little explorers!).










Bumblebee Class Sewing Practice!









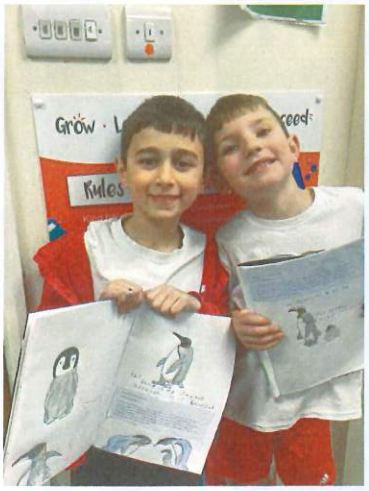
Sewing practice in Year 3 before we transfer our skills into making our Christmas decorations.

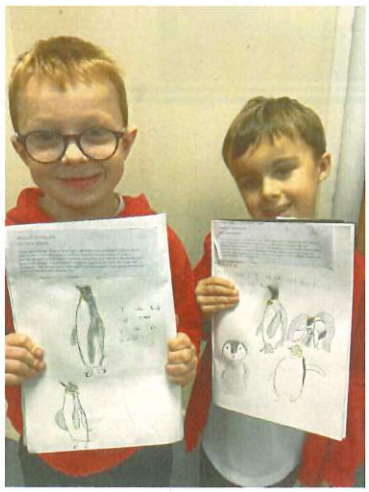
Rabbit Class Art

This week, Rabbit Class have been busy sketching emperor penguins!

We started by following a step-by-step drawing video before having a go at sketching freehand. Using photographs and illustrations for inspiration, the children carefully observed the penguins, paying attention to their shapes and features.

Here are some of their fantastic sketches!







Drama Club



A big well done to everyone in drama club for their wonderfully successful performance of 'The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse' on Wednesday. Also, a big thank you to parents for supplying amazing costumes!

Cluster Enrichment Day - Singing



'What a great day we had with children from our cluster schools. They put 100% into all of the singing practice and performed amazingly to their adults, Year 1 and Year 4.' Miss Plumb

' It was an excellent day. I loved it because I got to sing with other children from different schools. We sang four songs and they included soloists, harmony parts and even a couple of dancers! We performed to parents and some classes in school. It was the best time ever.' Harry Yr. 5

Robin & Squirrel Class - Special Visitor

As part of our current RE unit, 'Celebrations,' Robin and Squirrel classes welcomed Mrs Quadir in to speak about the Islamic celebration of Eid, which follows Ramadan.

She explained to the children what happens during Ramadan with fasting and why it is observed, talked through how her family and friends celebrate Eid, and shared some special Islamic artefacts.

The children listened with great excitement and thoroughly enjoyed asking her questions about her faith and Islamic celebrations. A special thank you to Mrs Quadir for giving up her time.















Times Table Assembly

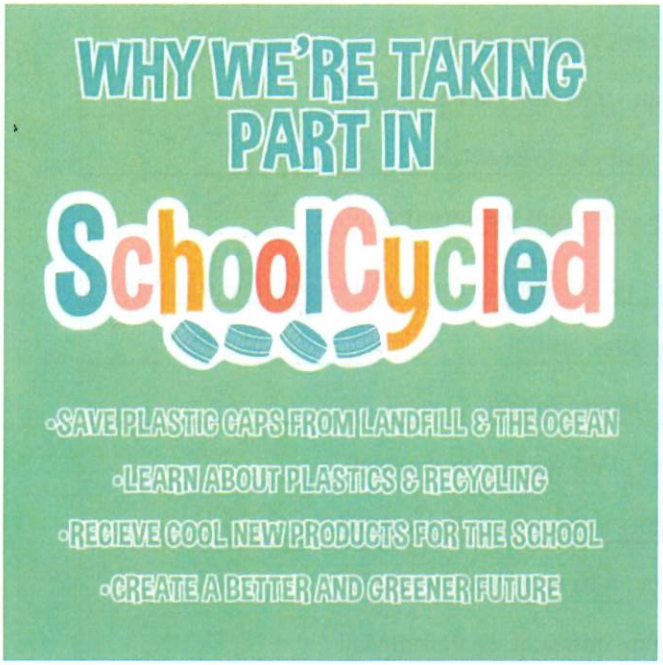
We had our termly family times tables assembly on Thursday. A huge congratulations to Birch who were the winners!

Eco Champions have some exciting news! Great Leighs Primary are taking part in a scheme called School-Cycled. We encourage family and friends to collect clean, PLASTIC bottle caps to recycle at school.

For every kilogram of bottle caps collected, the school earns 250 Earth Tokens. Tokens can then be exchanged for items of furniture and play equipment!

Please bring in clean bottle caps via your class and the Eco Champions will place into the allocated boxes.

Thank you in advance
Eco Champions.







REWARD

For every kilogram of bottle caps collected, the school earns **250 Earth Tokens**. Tokens can be exchanged for items of furniture, play equipment, signage or other recycled plastic items within the ever expanding SchoolCycled catalogue!



Upcoming Events

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
4th Dec 26	FOGLS Festive Tuck Shop after school
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
11th Dec 26	FOGLS Festive Tuck Shop after school
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
17th Dec 26	FOGLS Festive Tuck Shop after school
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
8th Jan 27	KS2 Shakespeare Performance to parents PM - Info to follow
12th Jan 27	CSSP Sports Hall Athletics (selected Yr. 5/6 team) - Info to follow
27th Jan 27	Enrichment Day at St.Pius (selected team) - Letter to follow
2nd Feb 27	CSSP Superstars Yr. 4 PM - Info to follow
9th Feb 27	Parent/Teacher Consultations - Info to follow
11th Feb 27	Parent/Teacher Consultations - Info to follow
11th Feb 27	**LAST DAY OF TERM**
12th Feb 27	**NON PUPIL/STAFF TRAINING DAY**
15th - 19th Feb 27	**FEBRUARY HALF TERM**
22nd Feb 27	**BACK TO SCHOOL**

This Week's Awards	Values Award	Maths Award	Reading Award	Building Learning Power
Squirrels	Grace	Theodore	Thomas	Albert
Robins	Cedric	Dorothy	Elsie	Ralph
Rabbits	Elba	Mackenzie	Sofia	Leo
Bumblebee	Maddie	Ralph	Amari	Isabelle
Kingfisher	Toby	Sophie	Primrose	Ruby
Mole	Darcy	Jessy	Sianna	Adi
Owl	Ruby	Harry	Max	Isolde

ATTENDANCE CUP

for last week.

1st Rabbit Class - 99.6%

2nd Bumblebee Class– 99.3%

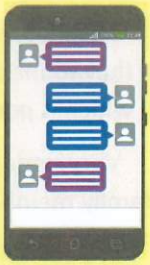
3rd Mole Class - 95%



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.