



Greenford CE VC Primary School *Newsletter*



18.9.2026

Welcome

Dear families and friends,

This week seems to have flown by, with so much going on across the school! We've enjoyed dance workshops, arts and crafts, and gardening getting underway. It has also been lovely to see the children's enthusiasm for reading, particularly as they explore books that are new to them.

In Collective Worship on Monday, we talked about the difference we can make simply by giving someone a cheerful "**Good morning!**" – looking at them, smiling and making them feel noticed and welcome.

I've really seen this coming through on the gate this week, and teachers have commented on what a pleasant start to the day it is creating around school. Such a small thing can make a real difference to how our school feels.

Keep it up, children – and **good morning, Greenford!**

Working Together

This week, we have sent home our new **Home–School Agreement**, which sets out the promises we make to one another – our promises as a school, the children's promises, and your promises as parents and carers.

The agreement is rooted in our school values and our belief that **working together really matters**. It is about the simple ways in which we can support one another, live well together as a school community, and help every child to flourish.

Thank you to everyone who has already read, signed and returned their agreement. If you haven't returned yours yet, we would really appreciate having it back on **Monday**.

Magnolia Class will be spending a little more time exploring and understanding the agreement together in class, so their copies will come home next week.

Harvest Service & Macmillan Coffee Morning

Our **Harvest Service** will take place at the church on **Tuesday 13th October at 9.00am**. All of our classes will be performing as part of the service, and we warmly invite parents, carers, friends and members of our community to join us.

As part of our Harvest celebrations, children are invited to bring in **food donations for Dorchester Food Bank**. We will share more information about suitable donations nearer the time.

Straight after the service, we would love you to join us back at school for our **Macmillan Coffee Morning**, which will be organised and run by our **Year 6 pupils**. Please come along for a cup of tea or coffee, something tasty and a chance to spend some time together as a school community.

We hope to see lots of you there!

Can you help us make lunchtimes even better?

We are beginning to develop more opportunities for imaginative and creative play at lunchtime, using simple resources that encourage children to invent their own games and ideas.

Our first project is a **dressing-up collection!**

If you have any clean, unwanted dressing-up clothes — or old hats, scarves, handbags, waistcoats, jackets or other interesting clothes — that children could use in their play, we would love to give them a new home at Greenford.

We are also looking for large, unwanted suitcases that we can use to store our dressing-up collection.

Please send any donations into school. Thank you for helping us make our lunchtimes even more creative and fun!



Bubbles and Squeaks Dance

A big **thank you to the Bubbles and Squeaks team** for visiting us this week! Children across the whole school took part in fantastic dance workshops, learning choreography in preparation for the upcoming River Parade. Year 1/2 also enjoyed a special arts and crafts workshop, creating work that will form part of the event.

It has been lovely to see the children getting involved so enthusiastically, and we are very grateful to the team for bringing such creative experiences into school.

A reminder that the first **River Parade takes place in Cerne Abbas on Saturday, 26 September at 3pm**. We would love to see as many Greenford families as possible there!



PLAY SHED ROTA 2026-27				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Break time Lily G Sophie W	Break time Oscar Max Zack	Break time Alyssia Georgia	Break time Reuben Tommy	Break time Alyssia Georgia
Lunch time KS1 - Elsie & Pheobe KS2 - Darrin Per	Lunch time KS1 - Alfie, Francis, Dominic KS2 - Rosie, Sophie C	Lunch time KS1 - Elsie, Pheobe KS2 - Rosie, Sophie C	Lunch time KS1 - Alfie, Francis, Dominic KS2 - Oscar, Max, Zack	Lunch time KS1 - Rosie, Sophie C KS2 - Lily G, Sophie W

School Council Communication Team Members 2026-27				

Pupil Leadership

It has been great to see more of our children stepping up to take on responsibilities around school this week.

Our new **Play Shed Leaders** have now been chosen and will be helping to make sure that everyone can enjoy our play equipment and have positive, active lunchtimes. The rota is attached to this week's newsletter.

Our **School Council Communication Team** has also now been elected! Their individual roles are still to be allocated, but we are delighted to introduce the new team. You can also find our newly updated School Council team on the school website.

Well done to all of the children who have put themselves forward to help make a difference to our school!

Oak Class – Pok-A-Tok!

Oak Class have been bringing their learning about the **Ancient Maya** to life this week by having a go at the Maya ball game **Pok-A-Tok!**

The children researched how the game was played, the equipment used and some of the customs and traditions associated with it, before heading up to the MUGA to try it for themselves.

It was a brilliant way to experience a little piece of Maya history first-hand – although we decided to leave some of the more gruesome traditions firmly in the past and **not sacrifice the losing captain!**

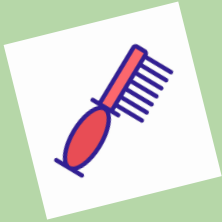


Mobile Phone Reminder

In line with **government expectations around mobile phone use in schools**, a quick reminder that any children who bring a mobile phone to school must hand it into the school office as soon as they arrive. Phones will be kept safely during the school day and can be collected at home time.

Please also remind children that phones **must not be used anywhere on the school site**, including at the end of the day. They should only be switched on and used once children have completely left the school grounds.

Thank you for helping us keep expectations clear and consistent for everyone.



Head Lice

We have received a few reports of **head lice** this week. As head lice can spread easily among children, we would be grateful if all families could take a few minutes to **check their child's hair this weekend**.

If you find head lice, please treat them promptly and continue to check the whole family regularly. Regular checking and early treatment really do help to reduce the spread around school. Thank you for your support.

Free School Meals – A Reminder

A reminder that Free School Meals eligibility has changed from September 2026, and many more families may now qualify.

- If your household receives Universal Credit, your child may now be eligible for Free School Meals, even if your earnings are above the previous £7,400 threshold.
- All families need to apply or reapply for the 2026–27 academic year, even if your child received Free School Meals last year, as eligibility no longer rolls over automatically.
- There are now two levels of eligibility: one provides Free School Meals and Pupil Premium (for lower-income households), and an expanded group provides Free School Meals only.

If you think you may be eligible, please complete your application as soon as possible: <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/free-school-meals>

If you're unsure whether you qualify for Universal Credit, it is well worth checking, as many families are now eligible under the new rules.

Our New Buddy System

As part of developing **pupil leadership** across Greenford, we have selected a group of children from Key Stage 2 to become **buddies for our youngest pupils**.

Our older buddies will be there to support Reception children at different points in the school day. In the mornings, they will meet their younger buddies at the gate and help them make their way into class and settle happily. They will also be able to support them at other times, such as sitting together and modelling positive behaviour when we visit the church.

There are benefits for both our younger and older children. For Reception pupils, having a familiar older child provides another friendly face and helps them feel secure and part of the wider school community. For our older pupils, being a buddy is an opportunity to develop **responsibility, kindness, confidence and leadership**, as well as understanding the importance of being a positive role model.

On Monday, we will give the buddies some time together to get to know one another and begin building those relationships. Then, from **Tuesday morning**, our older buddies will be ready at the gate to meet their new young friends!

We're really looking forward to seeing these friendships develop across the year.

Dates for your diary

26.9.26 - Bubbles and Squeaks parade - Cerne Abbas

13.10.26 - 9.00 Harvest service in church (all welcome) followed by MacMillan Coffee morning

17.10.26 - Y5/6 tag rugby tournament – Bridport - selected children – details to follow

17.10.26 - Bubbles and Squeaks parade - Powerstock

20.10.26 - Open morning for prospective parents

21.10.26 - 8.45 Golden Star morning assembly (parents invited)

4.11.26 and 11.11.26 – 3-5pm Parent consultations





October Timetable

All regular sessions delivered live online via zoom. 90 minutes long

£24 each or FREE with School Membership

Book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk

Recordings available for 48 hours

Raising Self-Esteem	5 Oct 10am
Supporting Healthy Sleep	5 Oct 7pm
Decreasing Depression	6 Oct 10am
Introduction to OCD	6 Oct 7pm
Improving Family Communication	12 Oct 10am
What is ACT?	12 Oct 7pm
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	13 Oct 10am
Supporting a Child with ADHD	13 Oct 7pm
Understanding Anger	19 Oct 10am
Understanding the Teenage Brain	19 Oct 7pm
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	20 Oct 10am
Autism: Improving Communication	20 Oct 7pm
FREE - ADHD and Homework	22 Oct 7-8pm
Facing Defiance	26 Oct 10am
Cannabis & Ketamine Awareness	26 Oct 7pm
School Anxiety	27 Oct 10am
Anxiety Explained	27 Oct 7pm

Visit the **PARENTS – Live Talks** page of the FACE website (facefamilyadvice.co.uk) Choose a topic and click through the booking calendar to find a date and time that suits you. Click on the time box.

At the payment stage of booking, keep moving through the pages as instructed until you get to the page that has the **ADD PROMO CODE** box on it.

Enter the code **GF010425** This will reduce the price from £24 to £0.