GFS News

23 Oct 2026, Issue no 4

Growing Hearts and Minds

Message from the Headteacher



A Sweet Success for Breast Cancer UK!
Last week, our staff room turned into a temporary baker's haven as we came together to raise money for Breast Cancer UK. Thanks to the generosity and baking talents of our team, we raised an impressive £70 for the charity!

Throughout the week, there was no shortage of delicious cakes on offer. A special shout-out must go to Miss Davies, whose star-worthy cake could easily earn a Hollywood handshake on The Great British Bake Off. By the time Friday rolled around, however, the sweet tooth cravings had finally given out, and there was a desperate cry for savoury treats to balance out the sugar rush!

Cancer is a cause close to many of our hearts, with so many of us touched by it in some way. It was wonderful to see the entire staff united in their support for such a vital cause.
A huge thank you to Jo Corley and Ruth Palmer for all their hard work behind the scenes to organise the event and make it happen. Thank you to everyone who baked, bought, and donated!

The Hub's Halloween Party was nothing short of a spooky spectacle! From brewing bubbling potions to masterful pumpkins, the children brought incredible energy and creativity to every activity. Check out the lower school corridor on your next pass by to see our photo display highlighting all the fun.





Paul Sutton

Paul Sutton, Headteacher

Diary Dates

Mon 26 - Fri 30 Oct	HALF TERM
Wed 4 Nov	Badminton Festival @ STAGS
Wed 4 Nov	Boy's Football V Skyswood HOME @ GFS (rematch!)
Thur 5 Nov	Year 2 - Animal Encounter
Thur 5 Nov	Cross Country @ Wheatfields
Mon 9 Nov	Year 5- Ashmolean Museum Trip
Tue 10 Nov	Girls Football vs St Albans High School for Girls (Wheathampstead Prep School Site)
Fri 13 Nov	Children in Need ***Date updated***

Poppy Appeal 2026

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Garden Fields is again supporting the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. There will be Y6 students at the main entrances at the beginning of the school day during the week commencing 2nd November for anyone who would like to make a donation.
The simple act of wearing a poppy sends a personal message of thanks and support for the Armed Forces community to see, and we ask the public not to underestimate the impact that wearing a poppy has on those who serve, and their families.



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Ambition Education Trust - Navigate the Digital World with Confidence!



Join us for a **free** online parent workshop dedicated to online safety and your child's digital wellbeing.

Date: **11th November 2026**
Time: **7.30pm**

As part of our commitment to your child's safety, Ambition Education Trust & Smoothwall are hosting a session to help you stay ahead of the latest online trends. Learn how to navigate the complex world of gaming apps and social media, set effective screen time boundaries, and utilise our free resources to keep your family protected.

What you'll gain:

- Expert tips on managing the latest digital trends.
- A guide to using the Online Safety Hub.
- Hands-on support for setting up your free Qustodio account.

Don't miss this opportunity to gain visibility and peace of mind in your child's online world.

Link to book a place: https://smoothwall.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_fR1k_GMNTH6zqLj9-NT5hw

School Admissions

Hertfordshire County Council is running a consultation on the proposed admissions arrangements for the school year 2028/29 and is seeking responses from parent/carers, schools and community groups.

The proposed changes are:

- To reduce the published admission number (PAN) at five community primary schools.
- Retain the remainder of the county council's existing admission arrangements for 2028/29, including PANs, Relevant Areas and schemes of coordination.

The consultation period runs until 22 November 2026. Please visit www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions2028 for more information and to respond online.

If you have any queries, please email admissions.consultation@hertfordshire.gov.uk

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A Huge Thank You from the OPAL Team!





Thank you so much for your generous OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) donations! We are thrilled to share that **Curlew** collected the most items. As a well-deserved reward, they will be enjoying extra playtime, a drink, and a biscuit after half term! Our student Play Leaders are also doing a fantastic job supporting outdoor activities right across the playground.

Playing Outside in All Weathers

Through our OPAL programme, our goal is to get children outside playing **every single day**, whatever the weather! To help them enjoy year-round outdoor fun comfortably, they need to stay warm and dry.

Playing in the rain comes with wonderful benefits for the children, including:

- **Sensory Exploration**: Feeling raindrops, splashing in puddles, and experiencing wet-weather smells all support sensory development.
- **Building Physical Skills**: Navigating wet surfaces helps build balance, coordination, and strength.
- **Beating Stress**: Active outdoor play helps children burn off energy, regulate their emotions, and focus much better back in the classroom.

What Your Child Needs at School

To keep everyone cozy while playing outside as part of OPAL, please ensure your child has the following in school **as soon as possible**:

- Wellies
- Waterproof jacket & trousers (we recommend two-piece sets as they are easiest for children to put on independently!)

All outdoor weather wear will stay in school. Please bring these items in a named bag that can be kept on your child's peg or in their locker.

There will be another OPAL donation collection next year. Thank you so much for your ongoing support in making playtime amazing for our children!

Kind regards,

The OPAL Team



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Netball



On Wednesday 7th October we played a netball match against Maple School. In the first quarter we scored 5 goals. The rest of the match was to our advantage, we worked really hard as a team. We won 12-1. Colby was awarded 'Player of the Match'.

Colby, Luna and Elsie, *Y6 Curlew*



Boys Football

On Monday 12th October, the B team played against Bernards Heath Juniors. We lost 3-4 but it was a close match, because they scored in the last few minutes. Overall we played well and we are ready to win the next match.

Ronnie Y6 Nightingale

Cross Country



On Thursday 15th October, our cross country team competed in the second event of the season, at Fleetville School. Following a good performance in the first event three weeks ago, our team was confident of building on that with a determined effort at the looping, undulating course that Fleetville had created.

The girls team set off first, with a blistering pace being set by the leaders.

Crossing the finish line first for GFS was Audrey, who finished in a fantastic 4th place. Jessica was close behind in 14th, with Luna and Mirabel finishing strongly in a very competitive field.

The boys then sprinted off, thundering over the dry, dusty ground like a herd of buffalo. Max led the way for GFS, finishing in a highly commendable 9th; Zac and James came 14th and 24th respectively, with Alex and Ethan close behind.

The whole squad should feel incredibly proud of their performance and indeed the manner in which they supported and encouraged each other. We go again on the 5th November at Wheatfields, with a thirst for even greater success!

Mr Dawes



Tag Rugby

On Thursday 15th October, there was a mixed tag rugby festival at OVs (London Colney). Lots of different schools came to take part. Older children from Sandringham and Verulam helped coach us. It was fun and we got striaght into matches. We played around 7 matches that were about 5 minutes each. everyone enjoyed it even if they didnt know much about Tag Rugby. Everyone was able to join in.

Ronnie and Olivia, Y6 Nightingale

Girls Football



On Monday 19th October we played a football match against Bernards Heath. Sadly we lost 3-0. We tried our hardest and we wish for a better outcome next time. We nearly scored several times in the second half but their goal keeper was very good.

Harriet, Y6 Curlew

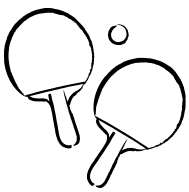


Table Tennis

On Wednesday 21st October, a team of 4 boys and 3 girls went to Veralum School to compete in a teble tennis competition. Everyone fought very hard, the boys won a possible 5 out of 18 and the girls won a possible 7 out of 12 games. In the end the girls came 2nd and the boys came joint 5th!.

James P, Y6 Osprey

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