

NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 26TH JUNE 2026



Preparation for life's journey

Dear Families,

This term is flying by, and we still have so much to look forward to! We hope that as many of you as possible will be able to join us for our rescheduled Sports Day on 15th July. The timings will remain the same as previously shared.

Over the past few weeks, children in Years 2–6 have been completing their summer term assessments. We have been incredibly impressed with both the progress they have made and their positive attitudes—each and every child should feel very proud of their efforts.

Last week, we were also delighted to collaborate with Gresham Village Hall on a special art project. Children from Starlings and Goldfinches classes spent the morning working together and had a fantastic time. We received lovely feedback about their behaviour and enthusiasm—well done to all involved!

If you would like to see some photos from the day, please follow us on Instagram at @greshamvillageschoolandnursery.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Have a fantastic weekend,

Faye Herron and the Gresham Village School & Nursery Team

REMINDER

As the weather continues to change, we kindly ask that children come to school prepared for all conditions each day. Please ensure they have sun cream, a sun hat, and a waterproof coat.

We enjoy spending time outdoors during break and lunchtime in all types of weather, and having the right clothing helps us make the most of these opportunities.

Thank you for your support.

WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING IN...



PUFFINS?

We have been working really hard over the last two weeks in Puffin Class! We started the half term with the Year 2 tests. The children all worked incredibly hard and should be very proud of themselves for their effort and determination throughout the assessments. In English, we have begun exploring our new book, *Grandad's Secret Giant*. We started by looking carefully at the front cover and blurb before writing our own predictions about what might happen in the story. In Maths, we completed our unit on Money. We recapped our learning from before the half term before exploring different ways of making £1 using pence. In Science, we continued our learning about *Animal Survival*. We have been investigating life cycles and have explored the stages of development in frogs, butterflies, humans, and hens. We also finished our History unit, *Magnificent Monarchs*, with a final lesson about Queen Elizabeth II. We learnt that she was the Head of the Commonwealth, the longest-reigning British monarch, and was well known for her wonderful colourful outfits – always complete with a matching hat! In Design and Technology, we started our new topic, *Push and Pull*. We explored different mechanisms and even acted out being mechanisms such as watches and cars. We have also thoroughly enjoyed our Forest School sessions. The children have been busy exploring the woods, crafting with Mrs Dunnett, using the rope swing and hunting for minibeasts. This week, we found lots of worms!



STARLINGS?

Starlings have had a fantastic first two weeks back after half term. During our test week, they showed so much focus, determination, and perseverance. The children were able to apply the knowledge they have been learning and used the skills and strategies they know to help them answer the questions. They remained so positive every day, some even cheered when I told them which tests were coming up!

In Maths, we have been learning all about time, so it would be wonderful to continue this at home by encouraging discussions about the time, reading clocks, and linking the time to your daily routines to help deepen the children's understanding.

We also had a wonderful time with Goldfinches at the village hall on Wednesday, working collaboratively on an art project to celebrate the hall's anniversary. We can't wait to return and see the children's artwork displayed on the walls.

The children are really enjoying learning their songs and lines for our Bee Musical alongside Puffins and Skylarks classes, which we can't wait to share with you.

WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING IN...



SKYLARKS?

For the second half of the summer term, Skylarks will be rehearsing their play along with Puffins and Starlings. They are really excited about it and I know you will **Bee** looking forward to seeing it! The rehearsals will take place most afternoons as we have finished our units on science and history.

In maths, the children have just started learning about decimals and we will continue with that for the next couple of weeks.

We will be doing art and the children will be learning about Islamic art, particularly patterns and the star motif, then creating their own piece.

In writing, the children are finishing their information text and will be moving on to a different type of non-fiction text next week, as well as focusing on core skills.

In PE, the children are practising for Sports Day and as of *next* week, they will be doing forest school on Fridays. In PSHE, the unit is all about change, focusing on changes to their lives and bodies as they grow older. You will shortly receive a letter detailing the subject matter and the key lesson objectives before it is taught.



GOLDFINCHES?

Dear Parents,

With the play rehearsals fully underway, we have been doing lots of singing, prop making and script readthroughs. Mr Davies and I will send costumes information out this week. We are keeping it very simple so there is no need to purchase anything!

In the afternoons, we are completing our Nature's Art Unit where we have been learning about artists like Andy Goldsworthy and creating small pieces out of natural materials we have found around the school field.

WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING IN...



KESTRELS?

Kestrels have continued to work hard on rehearsing their play and are very excited to perform *Peter Pan* for you next month. Rehearsals are going really well, and it has been wonderful to see the children growing in confidence as they prepare for the production. In Maths, we have been completing some work to prepare for the Year 7 curriculum, including algebra and topics involving shape, space and measure. We are also continuing to enjoy our class text, *Holes* by Louis Sachar. It is a mysterious and exciting story, and the children are becoming increasingly engaged by the suspense as the plot unfolds. Our recent trip to Gresham's School for the science competition was a great success. The children thoroughly enjoyed visiting the Dyson Building and taking part in a range of STEM challenges, which provided an excellent opportunity to apply their teamwork and problem-solving skills in a new environment.

PARKING REMINDER FOR FAMILIES

We have recently noticed an increase in vehicles stopping on the zig-zag lines outside the school during drop-off and collection times. These markings are there to help keep all children safe by ensuring clear visibility around the school entrance.

We kindly ask all families to use the visitor car park where possible, or to park safely in surrounding areas and walk the short distance to school.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SPORTS BETTING ONLINE

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Sports betting online involves placing wagers on real-world sporting events through websites, apps, and linked accounts. In the UK, licensed gambling is illegal for under-18s, yet young people may still encounter betting through sports coverage, social media, gaming spaces, friends, or adult accounts. With gambling content increasingly visible online, parents and educators should help children understand the risks, financial impact, pressure, and how to make safer choices.

EASY ONLINE ACCESS

Online sports betting sites and apps are widely available and can be accessed through phones, tablets, computers, and, indirectly, gaming or social platforms. Some young people may attempt to bypass age checks using false details or someone else's account. Digital wallets, prepaid cards, and saved payment details can also make spending harder to notice, increasing the risk of discreet or impulsive betting.

PEER AND INFLUENCER PRESSURE

Social media influencers, online tipsters, and sports content creators can make betting appear fun, profitable, or part of being a committed fan. Young people may feel pressure to copy this behaviour, especially when friends talk about odds, accumulators, or predictions during matches. Gambling advertising rules aim to protect under-18s, but children can still see persuasive betting content in online spaces.

FREE BET OFFERS

Online betting platforms often use free bets, bonus credits, or 'risk-free' promotions to attract users. These offers can make gambling seem safe or low commitment, but they usually include terms and conditions that young people may not understand. A free incentive can lead to real spending, repeated deposits, or the belief that gambling is easier to control than it is.

NORMALISING GAMBLING BEHAVIOUR

Online sports betting can make gambling feel like a routine part of watching sport. Young people may begin to see odds, predictions, and wagers as harmless entertainment rather than as financial risk. This can also blur boundaries with other gambling-like activities, including loot boxes, skins betting, or casino-style games, making later gambling feel more acceptable or familiar.

ADVERTISING AROUND SPORT

Young people can be exposed to betting brands through sports broadcasts, social media, sponsorship, pitch-side advertising, and content linked to major fixtures. Repeated exposure may make gambling seem normal, glamorous, or expected as part of the sport. Without adult guidance, children may connect betting with excitement, loyalty, and success, rather than understanding that gambling is designed to make money from customers.

CHASING WINS AND LOSSES

A winning bet can create excitement and encourage a young person to try again, while a losing bet may lead them to place another wager to win back the money. This is known as chasing losses. Because online bets can be quick, small, and available at any time, children may not recognise how rapidly repeated decisions can become costly and emotionally harmful.

Advice for Parents & Educators

START EARLY CONVERSATIONS

Talk openly with children about how betting works, including odds, losses, advertising, and the fact that gambling companies are commercial businesses. Use examples they may recognise, such as betting adverts during football matches, influencer predictions, or online tipsters. Keep the tone calm and curious, so that children feel able to ask questions, share concerns, and discuss pressure from friends without fearing punishment.

EXPLORE ONLINE EXPOSURE

Ask which apps, websites, games, sports channels, and social media accounts children use around live sport. Betting content may appear through adverts, sponsorship, livestreams, tipster pages, or discussions between friends. Watching a match together can help you point out gambling messaging in real time and explain how it is designed to influence choices, normalise betting, and encourage spending.

SET SAFER BOUNDARIES

Use device, app store, and bank settings to limit spending, block gambling transactions where possible, and require adult approval for purchases. Check payment histories for unfamiliar withdrawals, digital wallet use, or repeated small transactions. These safeguards work best alongside clear conversations, helping children understand that online payments are still real money, even when they feel quick, hidden, or invisible.

NOTICE AND SEEK SUPPORT

Look out for secrecy around devices, sudden interest in odds, requests for money, unexplained spending, mood changes linked to sports results, or late-night phone use. Respond with support first, then gather information and seek specialist advice where needed. Organisations such as GambleAware, Ygam, GAMSTOP, and the Gambling Commission provide information about gambling harms, education, blocking tools, and support routes.

Meet Our Expert

Bubba Gaedert is a Senior Lecturer and the Head of Events at the University Campus of Esports. He is also the President and Co-Founder of the Videogames and Esports Foundation, a charity that supports safe and inclusive gaming environments. With over 25 years of experience in esports, education, and media, Bubba is a global leader in promoting positive gaming practices for youth and families.



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