GREAT HOCKHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

NEWSLETTER

Friday 13th November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Reading in the Spotlight

Reading has been firmly in the spotlight at our school this week, and it has been a joy to see our children so enthusiastic about books.

Today, our pupils were delighted to welcome author Phil Burnham to school. Phil told the children all about his role as an author and shared some of his books with them. Pupils listened with real interest and gained a window into what the work of an author can be like. It was a memorable experience that I hope will inspire many budding writers and readers. We are very grateful to Phil, who gave his time free of charge to enrich the children's reading experience. Thank you, Phil, for such a generous and inspiring visit.

Our Friends also made the end of the week extra special. On Friday after school, they sold hot chocolate, and what a lovely way to finish a busy week: enjoying a warm drink and the chance to read. Thank you to the Friends for their hard work and for helping to make our school community such a welcoming place for families.

Celebrating Our Community

I would also like to say a huge thank you to everyone who donated to our Just Giving page for Children in Need. Your generosity is truly appreciated, and it is wonderful to see our community come together for such a worthwhile cause. Our Dress Down Day was also a real success. I am sure the children enjoyed a day of relaxed dress just as much as they enjoyed supporting the appeal, and it was lovely to see everyone taking part with such good humour. Watch this space for the total monies raised!

Thank you all for your continued support. It makes a real difference to our children's experiences, and I am proud of the way our whole school community continues to come together.

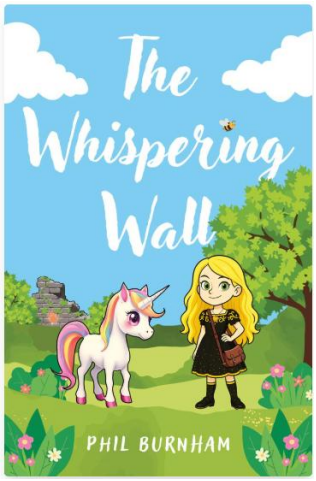
Attendance

Weekly Attendance	Week ending 13th Nov 2026
Rabbits	97.8%
Owls	96%
Deer	98%
Hedgehogs	97.9%

Well Done!

We were delighted to receive a letter from the Head of Libraries at Norfolk County Council congratulating our school on our participation in this year's Summer Reading Challenge.
An impressive **24% of our pupils took part,** compared to the county average of 12%, placing Great Hockham Primary School in the **top 10% of schools across Norfolk**. This is a wonderful achievement and reflects the strong culture of reading for pleasure that exists within our school.
Thank you to all of our families for supporting reading at home and encouraging children to take part. Together, we are helping to foster a lifelong love of reading. Well done, everyone! 📚 ⭐

Book of the Month



We are excited to introduce **Book of the Month**, a new feature in our newsletter that was suggested at last half term's **Parent Forum**. We are always keen to act on parents' ideas, and we hope this feature helps families discover great books to enjoy together.

Our first Book of the Month is ***The Whispering Wall*** **by Phil Burnham**, who many of you will have met during his visit to school this week. If you were unable to visit the hall after school to purchase a copy, here is a little more about the book:

With the help of a whispering voice, a brave and determined princess, Maddy-Grace, embarks on an adventure through a forgotten forest to uncover an ancient secret hidden within an old crumbling wall. Along the way, she encounters memorable characters, discovers clues from the past and learns the importance of friendship, courage and remembering.

If you would like to purchase a copy, it is available from a range of retailers, including **Troubador Publishing** via their website. Happy reading! 📚✨

📚 Book Fair - Arriving 2nd December

Our Book Fair arrives on 2nd December, and children will have the opportunity to visit after school with their families.

There is no need to bring cash or a bank card. Simply scan the QR code at the Book Fair and pay digitally.

Unable to attend? You can purchase a **Book Fair Gift Voucher online**. Vouchers are emailed to you, can be printed and given to your child, and may be purchased up until midnight on the day before your child's visit. Your child can then use the voucher to buy books at the fair.

Every purchase helps the school earn rewards towards free books for our classrooms and library. Thank you for your support and happy reading! 📖✨

🎄 ✨ Help Us Fill Our Christmas Tombola! ✨ 🎄

The festive season is just around the corner, and we would love your support in helping us create a fantastic **Christmas Tombola** for our **Christmas Fayre on Thursday 17th December**!

To help us gather prizes, we will be holding two festive **Dress Down Days**:

🎅 **Friday 20th November** - Dress Down Day in exchange for a donation of **sweets** for our Christmas Tombola.

🎁 **Friday 27th November** - Dress Down Day in exchange for a **£1 cash donation** or **£2 card payment**.

Every donation helps us create a wonderful community event for our children and families. Thank you for your generosity and support. We look forward to celebrating the festive season together at our Christmas Fayre! 🎄 ⭐ 🎅

Kind regards,

H Mitchell

Date	Event
Wednesday 18th November, 9am	Nursery Maths Café
Friday 20th November	Dress Down Day for PTA tombola
Friday 27th November	Dress Down Day for PTA tombola
Tuesday 1st December	Our Advent Window is on display
Wednesday 2nd December, 3.15pm	Scholastic Book Fair Arrives
Wednesday 9th December	Rocksteady Concert
Thursday 10th December	Nativity at Village Hall
Tuesday 15th December	Talent Show
Wednesday 16th December	Christmas Dinner Day Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 17th December	The Friends Christmas Fayre
Friday 18th December, 2pm	Church Christmas Service


Hockham's Got Talent
Deer
Hedgehog
Rabbit
Owl
Perform individually or as part of a group within your class.
Initial auditions will take place in class, with three acts from each class going through to the final show on...
Sing, dance, tell jokes, perform magic or any other talent!
Tuesday 15th December 2026!