



GREAT HOCKHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

NEWSLETTER – 6th March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Attendance

Weekly Attendance	Week Ending 6 th February	Week Ending 13 th February	Week Ending 27 th February	Week Ending 6 th March
Rabbit Class	89.4%	98.5%	93%	98%
Owl Class	97.2%	88.4%	95.6%	96.4%
Deer Class	95.6%	97%	99.3%	97.8%
Hedgehog Class	97.5%	92.9%	97.1%	92.1%

Parent Survey

Thank you to all the families who took the time to complete our recent survey. We are delighted to share that every parent either agreed or strongly agreed that their child is happy at school, feels safe, and that the school consistently makes decisions with the child's best interests at heart. Parents also felt that their child receives the right support to help them learn well, including those with SEND.

We are especially pleased that *all* parents said they would recommend Great Hockham to another family.

Thank you for the helpful suggestions shared about ways we can continue to improve our school. Below is an update on the areas that were mentioned:

1. After-School Care

We previously asked families about their need for after-school provision, including preferred days and hours. At that time, the level of interest was unfortunately too low for a regular after-school club to be financially sustainable. We will carry out another survey during the summer term to see whether circumstances have changed and whether there is now a greater need for provision from September 2026.

2. Opportunities to Learn Musical Instruments

As part of our music curriculum, all children currently learn tuned instruments during their time at school:

- Years 1, 2, 5 and 6 learn the recorder
- Years 3 and 4 learn the ukulele through the Norfolk Music Service
- All children from Years 1–6 also learn the chime bars

We would very much like to offer individual or small-group instrumental lessons during the school day. However, our school currently does not have the space required for this type of provision. We continue to enrich children's musical experiences by inviting visiting musicians—for example, last year pupils enjoyed a drumming workshop.

3. More Outdoor Learning

Nursery and Reception classes already take part in weekly outdoor learning sessions to support communication, social development, and problem-solving skills. Across the school, outdoor opportunities are built into the curriculum:

- Science topics include mapped outdoor learning activities
- Geography fieldwork takes place in the outdoor environment
- Some English experience days and wellbeing sessions are also held outside

With the improving weather, staff will be planning additional outdoor learning opportunities throughout the summer term.

Mini Military Trip

Children from our service families were recently invited to attend *A Festival of Friends* at Norwich University of the Arts. This inspiring event brought together pupils from service families across Norfolk for a day of creativity and connection.

During the festival, the children took part in a range of imaginative and hands-on activities, working alongside others who share similar experiences. It was a valuable opportunity for them to express themselves, build confidence, and make new friendships. They also spent time reflecting on the positive aspects of being part of a service family and the unique strengths and perspectives it brings to their lives.

We are proud of the way our children represented our school and embraced this special experience.

They created this fabulous shield, which we have on display in the corridor.



World Book Day

The children looked absolutely wonderful yesterday dressed as their favourite book characters. We enjoyed an exciting day full of stories, with each class taking part in a variety of book-themed activities. One of the highlights was decorating our classroom doors to represent different stories — they look fantastic!



Red Nose Day – Comic Relief

Comic Relief uses the power of humour and entertainment to raise money for people facing poverty and difficult circumstances both here in the UK and around the world. Its mission is to help improve lives by tackling issues such as hunger, homelessness, inequality, and poor mental health. To support Comic Relief this year, the children have chosen to hold a Pyjama Day on Friday 20th March. We invite all children to come to school wearing their pyjamas and, if you are able, to make a £2 donation per family using the link below:

[Just Giving – Great Hockham Primary School & Nursery](#)

Every contribution—big or small—helps to make a real difference to the lives of others. Thank you for helping us support this wonderful cause.

Friends of Great Hockham

The Friends are delighted to announce that our **Easter Fayre will be taking place after school on Friday 27th March!** 🐣 🌸 We are busy planning an afternoon full of **fun games, exciting activities, and lots of delicious baked treats**. It's the perfect chance for families to come together and celebrate the start of spring. **Be sure to save the date** — more details will be coming soon!

We're also launching a new **Ink Cartridge Recycling program**. A collection box has been placed in the **front office foyer**, where you can drop off your **used ink cartridges**. Once the box is full, they will be collected and recycled by the organisation **Think-Inks**, who will donate money back to the school. The funds raised will help support the children's **enrichment days and special activities**.

We're excited to share that a **Buddy Bench** has been ordered for the playground! The Friends would love to make it extra special by painting it in **bright, cheerful colours**. If you have any **leftover outdoor paint suitable for furniture**, we would be incredibly grateful if you would consider donating it.

Another exciting project we are hoping to bring to life is **painting new markings on the playground** with colourful games and activity markings for the children to enjoy. A very kind parent has offered

their time to do the painting, but we are still looking for **donations of suitable outdoor paint** from local businesses or families. **Every little bit helps bring this project to life!**

If you would like to donate, get involved, or have any questions, please feel free to contact the Friends at **friendsghps@outlook.com**.

As always, thank you so much for your **ongoing support, generosity, and enthusiasm**. The Friends couldn't do these wonderful things for the children without you! ❤️

Road Safety Reminder

We have recently been approached by several parents who are concerned about children crossing the road near our school. To help keep everyone safe, we kindly ask all families to:

- Park considerately and avoid blocking pavements, driveways or visibility.
- Turn off your engine while waiting, to reduce pollution and keep the air cleaner for our children.
- Please do not park in, or use, the bus bay to drop off children.
- Drive slowly and safely, remembering that the speed limit is 20 mph during the school day.

Thank you for your support in helping to keep our children safe!

Dates for your Diary

March 2026

Tuesday 10th March 3.30pm- 6.30pm: Parent- Teacher Meetings

Thursday 12th March 3.30pm – 6.30pm: Parent- Teacher Meetings

Friday 13th March from 2pm: SEND Café by appointment

Wednesday 18th March @ 1.45pm: Curiosity Café- all parents invited

Friday 20th March: Hedgehog and Deer homework due in

Monday 23rd March: Rabbit and Owl class homework due in

Monday 23rd March – Wednesday 25th March: KS2 Hilltops Residential trip

Tuesday 24th March @ 8.40am: Owl homework celebration

Wednesday 25th March @ 8.40am: Rabbit homework celebration

Thursday 26th March @ 8.40am: Hedgehog homework celebration

Thursday 26th March – Friday 27th March: Computing Enrichment Day

Friday 27th March @ 8.40am: Deer homework celebration

Friday 27th March: Last day of the Spring Term

Friday 27th March @ 3.15pm: Friends Easter Fayre

April 2026

Wednesday 15th April: Children return to school

Have a lovely weekend,

Best Wishes

Lisa Hazard

What's on at the Breckland Best Start Family Hub March.....

Find more information



www.norfolk.gov.uk/familyhubs

DAILY

The Family Hub offers daily access to advice and support you may need for families with babies, children and young people - from conception until they reach the age of 19, or up to 25 for young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities. Various groups and activities are on offer, free of charge, as well as representatives from various services such as DWP; the Relocation, Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity (REDI) team; Norfolk Community Law Service (NCLS). Come along and say hello. We are open daily from 9am to 4.30pm, and you do not always need an appointment

Tuesdays

Anna from the Relocation, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Team will be attending the Family Hub on Tuesdays between 9am and 1pm. Ana is able to support parents/carers who have relocated to England from another country and are struggling with barriers to accessing support for their children with SEN or social, emotional and mental health needs.

Emma from Department of Work and Pensions will be available on Tuesdays 10am to 2.30pm and can support with:

- Benefit related queries
- Finance difficulties and debts
- Childcare funding
- Opportunities around training, qualifications or new skills

Wednesdays

11th March 1.15 - 2.30pm - SEND Café - A relaxed and informal group designed to offer support, friendship and expert guidance on SEND related topics

11th and 25th March 10 - 11.30am - Infant Feeding Drop-In - Infant feeding is all about how we nourish our little ones; from breast and bottle feeding to starting them on solids

18th March 10:30 - 12.30pm - KIDS - A session for parent carers

11th and 25th March 9.30 - 11:30 - Healthy Child Under 5 Years - No appointment required to attend, you can just drop in and ask any questions about your baby or child's health development or growth.

Other up and coming events and activities:

SEND café in Dereham, every first Monday (second Monday if a bank holiday), 1.30pm - 2.30pm with Family Action, Norfolk & Waveney Autism/ADHD Support Service



SEND café at Thetford Library, every 4th Wednesday of every month, 1:30pm - 2:30pm

Thursdays

Routes Employment Service - 26th March

Join Bethany between 9.30 and 11am to support you with your journey into work - Your Way:

- Confidence building with support
- Matching you with the right employers
- Help with writing CVs and job applications
- Job interview coaching
- Support with speaking to employers

Fridays

Homestart - 6th March 10am - 12noon

Home-Start Norfolk helps children and changes lives. Working with families with young children, we support them to cope with whatever life throws at them. Our volunteers are parents, they understand how hard it can be. Come along and chat to us about how Homestart can support you.

Lizzie from Norfolk Community Law Service (NCLS) will be at the Family Hub on Friday 6 March 1.30 - 4.30pm. NCLS provide free, independent and confidential legal advice and advocacy for individuals and families who cannot afford access to justice. The focus is for vulnerable or disadvantaged groups. Services include:

Family law and court support, welfare benefits, debt and money advice, immigration advice, discrimination and employment.



BRECKLAND FAMILIES



Join our Monthly SEND Parent Café
Looking for a warm, welcoming space to connect and unwind
Come along to our FREE Drop-in session on the
LAST Wednesday of every month at

Thetford Library Raymond St, Thetford IP24 2EA
1:30PM -2:30PM

Chat with other families, we will have activities for children, young people and you!!

Pop in when you can, no need to book, we would love to see you, for more details you can e-mail us
communityfocusbreckland@norfolk.gov.uk

Breckland Family Hubs
Norfolk SENDIASS

Family Action -Norfolk and Waveney Autism /ADHD Support Service

*please check facebook for any updates to sessions



Norfolk County Council



Where I am



March 2026

Community Drop-ins for Parents and Carers & Young People

Michelle from the family hub team will be available at these community venues to answer your questions, share information on a wide range of activities, groups and organisation that can help you and your family, please pop in we are here!

Date	Where	Time
4th, 11th, 18th, 25th	Watton Library	10:00 to 11:30am
24th	Watton Medical Practice	13:00 to 14:30pm
31st	Watton Community Centre Family Fun Day	10:00 to 13:00pm
9th, 30th	Dereham Library	10:00 to 11:30am
5th	Attleborough Town Hall	11:00 to 12:30pm
27th	Attleborough Library	12:00 to 14:00pm

You can call the Family hub 01362 654584 or look on the family hub website or click on the QR code for more information and how you can contact us

Please keep an eye out this month for the family hub visiting your child's school, we are happy to chat through any worries



In the community



March 2026



Where will I be this month?

Family hubs can provide information, advice, and guidance to families.

Andreia from the family hub team will be available to answer your questions, big or small, at these venues;

Monday 2nd March	Thetford Library 10:30 - 12:00
Monday 9th March	Thetford Library 10:30 - 12:00
Monday 16th March	Thetford Family Hub 14:00 - 16:00
Wednesday 18th March	Benjamin Foundation 9:30 - 11:30
Wednesday 25th March	Thetford Library 13:30 - 14:30

If you need a more convenient time for you and your family

Call 01362 654584

to book an appointment with Andreia or the team

* Please keep an eye out this month for Family Hub visiting your child's school for pre booked appointments.

We are happy to chat through any worries



Family Hub support



MARCH 2026



Where will I be this month?

I'll be out and about across Breckland this March. Parents, carers, young people and any family member who needs support are welcome to drop in for advice, a chat or to chat through any worries.

You can find me at the venues listed in this month's timetable.

Date	Venue	Time	Notes
Monday 2nd	Dereham Library	13:30-14:30	SEND Parent/Carer Café
Tuesday 3rd	Swaffham Library	10:00-11:30	—
Monday 9th	Dereham Well-spring Centre	13:30-15:30	Foodbank
Tuesday 10th	Swaffham Library	10:00-11:30	—
Tuesday 17th	Swaffham Library	10:00-11:30	—
Monday 23rd	Dereham Well-spring Centre	13:30- 15:30	Foodbank

Family Hubs may also be visiting local schools this month for pre-booked appointments.

If you and your family need a more convenient appointment, please call: 01362 654584

We're always happy to help.



Family Hub support →



BRECKLAND FAMILIES



Join Our Monthly SEND Parent/Carer Café
Family Action - Norfolk and Waveney Autism /ADHD Support Service in partnership with Breckland Family Hub invite you to attend our FREE drop-in sessions at
Dereham Library NR19 1DZ
1st Monday of EVERY month, 1:30-2:30 PM.

Enjoy a cuppa, chat with other families, we will have fun activities for children, young people—and you!
with guest services like:
ASD Helping Hands
KIDS - Parent carer support
SENDIASS
Early Childhood and Family Service
...and many more!

Keep an eye on our Facebook group (QR code below) for who is in each month
Pop in when you can - no need to book!

For more details - email us at communityfocusbreckland@norfolk.gov.uk

*Please note: Children remain the responsibility of their parent/carer and must be supervised at all times.

*Any date changes will be shared on Facebook



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