GREAT HOCKHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

NEWSLETTER

Monday 9th November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It may only be a week since we returned from the holidays, but what a busy and happy start it has been. There has been so much going on that I hardly know where to begin!

Thank you to everyone who attended our parents' consultation evenings. Your time, interest and questions mean a great deal to us. We hope you found the conversations helpful and informative, and that you left with a clearer picture of your child's progress. Working together in this way is one of the most valuable things we can do for our pupils, and it was a pleasure to welcome so many of you through the door.

It was also wonderful to see so many of you at our Harvest Festival Celebration at Great Hockham Church. I am incredibly proud of our pupils. Their poems, their singing and their overall performance were a joy to watch and a real credit to every class. Standing up in front of an audience takes courage, and our pupils rose to the occasion with confidence and enthusiasm.

The Harvest Festival also gave us a valuable opportunity to pause and reflect. We remembered the hard work of farmers, whose dedication puts food on our tables, and we thought about those who serve our country in conflict. This was a fitting reminder ahead of Remembrance next week. I hope it encourages our pupils to think about the importance of gratitude, respect and remembering others, values we will continue to nurture in the days ahead.

Finally, I want to celebrate something that has brought smiles across the playground this week. Our newly installed play equipment has been thoroughly enjoyed by pupils at both break and lunchtime. It is wonderful to see our children active, happy and engaged in their play.

Thank you for your continued support as we settle into the new term. It is a privilege to work alongside such a caring community, and I look forward to sharing more of our pupils' successes with you soon.

Kind regards,

H Mitchell

Reading Spotlight Term at Great Hockham

Following the great success of our Music Spotlight term in Autumn 1, we are excited to let you know about some of our plans for this half term. We are making Autumn 2 a **Reading Spotlight Term** (we got ahead a little bit in the summer by refreshing our library – see pictures below). We have invited a couple of authors to come into school and speak with the children. The first of these will be visiting next Friday and you can read a little about the lovely Phil Burnham below. As you can see, he will have some copies of his book for sale at the end of the day, but he has very kindly given his time completely free of charge, and he has planned some amazing and exciting activities for the children throughout the day. (This is Children in Need Day so there will also be the excitement of a dress-down day!)



From Wednesday 2nd December, we will be hosting a **Scholastic Book Fair.** There will be books for all primary ages, with a **3 for the price of 2 offer**. More details nearer the time. Any commission we earn from this event will be used to purchase new fiction books for the library.

We will also be joining authors and illustrators for live online sessions run by Scholastic where children can learn about how authors come up with their stories and how illustrators decide how to bring them to life with pictures.

We will let you know about our other activities throughout the half term but can confirm we will be enjoying a whole day in celebration of reading in our school when we will create another exciting display for the library. We will, of course, also let you know about the visit of our second author once we have confirmed a date.

All our history, geography and science topics now have a box full of brand-new non-fiction books to enrich children's learning



Reminder: Children in Need 2026 - Friday 13th November 💛

Just a friendly reminder that next **Friday 13th November** we will be taking part in **Children in Need 2026** with a **non-uniform day**. We would love to see the children come to school in their favourite clothes as we join schools across the country in supporting this wonderful cause.

If you would like to make a donation, please do so via our **JustGiving page: Just Giving > Great Hockham > Children in Need**. Every donation, however small, will help support children and families who need it most and make a real difference to young lives across the UK.

Thank you, as always, for your kindness and generosity. We are incredibly grateful for the support of our school community and look forward to a fun day of fundraising together. 💛

Rabbits Class Reminder 🐰

A gentle reminder for all families in **Rabbits Class** that children should bring their **wellies to school every day** so they are ready to access our outdoor learning opportunities, whatever the weather.

On **Fridays**, please also ensure your child has a **spare pair of socks** to change into after Forest School.

We would also be very grateful for donations of **old socks, small items of clothing and pants** for our spare clothes supplies in sizes **3-4, 5-6 and 6-7 years**.

Thank you for your support in helping us keep children comfortable and ready for learning and play both indoors and outdoors. 🌿 😊

💚 Come and Join the Friends! 💚

The Friends would love to invite all parents and carers to join us for a friendly meeting at **the Café at The Stag on Tuesday, 10th November at 1:30 pm.**

📍 London Road
Attleborough
NR17 1AY

Whether you're interested in becoming more involved, sharing ideas, or simply finding out what we do, we'd love to see you there!

Can't make the meeting? No problem at all! You can still be part of the Friends without attending meetings. We always appreciate an extra pair of hands, whether it's donating baked goods, or lending a hand at the events we organise throughout the year.

Every little bit of help makes a difference, and it's a lovely way to get involved in our school community and make a positive impact on the children.

We'd love to welcome some new faces and have you be part of our team! 💚

Have questions or want to get involved? Feel free to email us at **friendsghps@outlook.com**. We'd love to hear from you!