



GREAT KINGSHILL

Church of England Combined School



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Great Kingshill CE Combined School 4th April 2025

Aspiring to be our best with kindness, respect and faith

It is hard to believe that we have reached the end of the Spring Term - the children have been extremely busy! They have enjoyed a range of trips and enrichment days, with all year groups going out and about or having visitors in to support their curriculum learning; we are proud that our children get to experience learning opportunities that extend beyond the classroom.

The children in our Preschool seem to be growing so fast and it is hard to believe that in just a term's time they will be moving on to Reception! This term they have enjoyed going into the forest school to learn about spring and just last week, they hosted a special afternoon tea to celebrate Mother's Day.

Reception had a visit from the dinosaur museum as part of their topic on 'Digging for Dinosaurs', and they enjoyed dressing up and digging for fossils. The second half of the term saw them learning about traditional tales and dressing up for World Book Day.

Year 1 spent the day as pirates to support their learning about the high seas; the children came to school dressed as pirates and took part in activities including learning to walk the plank. In the first half of the term they learnt about Heroes and Heroines, they were visited by lots of modern day heroes including a paramedic and the fire service, they also came dressed up as hero with some children choosing to come dressed as their teachers!

Year 2 have enjoyed learning about the Great Fire of London. They came to school dressed in costume from that period of time, they had a visit from a travelling museum and got to set fire to the houses they had made.

Year 3 visited the Chiltern Open Air Museum to support their learning about the stone age and iron age. During the day they experienced a range of workshops and visited buildings from the period.

Year 4 had a visit from 'Spirit of the Wild' to support their learning about the rainforest, the children had the opportunity to hold a range of animals and a particular highlight was the meerkats and the very large snake!

Year 5 was invaded by Vikings and Anglo Saxons, they had a visit from Eric the Viking and the children came to school dressed as Vikings. Throughout the day they had the opportunity to take part in a range of in school activities to support their learning. This included having a very fierce battle.

Year 6 travelled to Norfolk for their residential trip, they experienced a wonderful week of adventure, and were blessed with beautiful weather! They were a credit to our school with their manners and behaviour, and myself and the Year 6 team and I were incredibly proud of them.



As a whole school we have enjoyed celebrating World Book Day, Comic Relief, Holi, Eid and Easter. These opportunities have given the staff and the children many chances to dress up and celebrate together. The PTA have also hosted community celebrations for both Holi and Eid. Our Year 6 children have visited St Michael's and All Angels to learn about Easter Explained, and they have also been fundraising through their Easter Egg Raffle. The term has concluded with the children in Year 1 leading our Easter Service.

I hope you have a wonderful and restful Easter holiday, and I look forward to welcoming you all back to school on Tuesday 22nd April.

Mrs Best

Attendance

This week, we have seen an increased amount of sickness, as well as a number of children who are missing more than the odd day due to illness - this is a pattern we often see towards the end of a term or half term.

Mrs Marks and I would like to make you aware that we are obliged to follow up on any absence that is likely to be longer than three days - we do this by conducting welfare visits to homes to check that everything is ok. I have conducted several of these in the past two terms, and they have been positively received by our families. This week however, I have visited a number of homes where children are reported to be unwell and there has been no one at home. We know that it is tempting both financially and practically to take holidays before the end of term, and whilst we can not authorise these, we do appreciate those

families who have been honest with us and completed the relevant paperwork, as this has saved us a significant amount of time.

If you are taking your child away on holiday in term time, please be honest about it and do not report them as sick. We do follow it up and often their friends will tell us where they are and the absence will be marked as unauthorised.

Thank you.

Mrs Best

PTA Newsletter

The graphic is a colorful newsletter for the GKCS PTA, dated April 2025. It features a red header with the school crest and title. The main content is divided into three sections: a pink 'Half Term Round Up', a blue 'Easter Colouring Competition', and an orange 'Walk to School Week' announcement. A footer contains contact information for the PTA.

PTA NEWSLETTER GKCS PTA
APRIL 2025

HALF TERM ROUND UP

Holi Festival kicked off our fun-filled half term of events, with the unveiling of the MUGA, sunflower seed planting, Holi traditions and penalty scoring.

Quiz Night was a huge hit with a special mention to our winners, team **"Only here for the heating"**. A big thank you to Barnaby Moore for being a brilliant Quiz Master and our sponsors, Village Hotels.

Finally our **Eid Party** took place this week to mark the end of Ramadan, and what a celebration we had!

Thank you to everyone who has attended and volunteered at our events. We raised more than **£1,700** this term (excl. Eid Party).

A big thank you for all your support ?

EASTER COLOURING COMPETITION

Looking for something to keep the kids entertained over Easter? Enter our Easter Colouring Competition

Theme - What does Easter mean to you?

Ideas include:

- Design & colour your own **Easter Egg or Spring scene**
- Re-tell the **Easter Story** in pictures
- Draw your **Easter holiday** memories

Entries cost £1 paid via <https://gkcs-pta.sumupstore.com>

Drop off entries at the box in reception from 22nd - 25th April and remember to include your **child's name and class**.

WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK - 19TH - 22ND MAY

Get your walking shoes on and walk to school during national **Walk to School Week!**

Teachers and the PTA team will be leading walks to school from three designated drop off points with some music and fun along the way. More information to follow.

CONTACT US: ✉ pta@gkcs.school Instagram: [gkcs_pta](https://www.instagram.com/gkcs_pta)

GKCS PTA



GK FUNFEST

FREE
SATURDAY 21ST JUNE
12pm - 3pm

Save the date for our Summer extravaganza - GK FUNFEST!

Games & Crafts - Raffle & Tombola - Giant Inflatables -
Live Entertainment - Food Trucks - Bar & Refreshments

WE NEED YOUR HELP

VOLUNTEERING: Can you help set up on the morning of the event, clear down after or help on a stall? More details on how you can support will be shared soon.

DONATIONS: To make the event an even bigger success and raise money for the school, we would be grateful for your donations. Please add these dates to your diary:

- **Lucky bag drop off - Friday 6th June**
- **Children's tombola prize drop off - Friday 13th June**

In return for the donations, children can wear MUFTI on these days. More details to follow soon.

LOCAL BUSINESSES: If you are small local business and are interested in having a stall to sell your products, please get in touch.

CONTACT US:  pta@gkcs.school  [Instagram: gkcs_pta](https://www.instagram.com/gkcs_pta)

PTA Calendar

GKCS PTA



PTA Event Dates For Your Diary...

February	
Crazy Hair Don't Care Disco	Friday 7 th February (After School)
March	
Festival of Holi	Friday 14 th March (After School)
Adults Quiz Night (School)	Saturday 15 th March
April	
Eid al-Fitr Festival	Wednesday 2 nd April (After school)
Easter Competition	Monday 7 th - Monday 21 st April
PTA General Meeting	Thursday 24 th April
May	
Walk To School Week	Monday 19 th - Thursday 22 nd May
June	
National Doughnut Day	Friday 6 th June
School Sports Day Refreshments	Tuesday 17 th - Wednesday 18 th June
National Thank A Teacher Day	Wednesday 18 th June
Summer Fair	Saturday 21 st June
Weekly Sports Sessions (MUGA)	More information coming soon
Weekly Running Club	More information coming soon
July	
Summer Disco	Friday 11 th July
PTA General Meeting	Thursday 17 th July

More information on these upcoming events will be shared in due course

 https://www.instagram.com/gkcs_pta

Forest School News

Spring is finally here after some very dark, wet and cold months and we are starting to see more growth around the school. The blossom is blooming, the leaves are growing and the sun has been shining.

So far this half term, we have been very busy planting seeds and bulbs to hopefully attract some more wildlife. We have even used some of our own compost, comparing it to the shop bought bags and hopefully we will see some results soon.

We have been tying knots to make all manner of items from fishing rods to jewellery, bird swings to bows, and the children have been quick to pick up some of the simpler knots. Year 5 have been enjoying Viking Kubb, and we are coming to the end of our “World Championship” matches.





We have also conducted fire safety training for Reception ready for when they have a campfire at some point in the Summer term. Year 1 to Year 6 have been using their training to successfully cook popcorn. The birds and squirrels particularly like it when we do this as there is always a scattering of kernels and popped corn lying around the woods for them to nibble.

Next half term's timetable is posted below, and it is getting warmer. Please have a look at the weather forecast each day as it is never consistent. Although it is shady in our woods, it is a good idea to have a hat and suncream. We still expect the children to wear long trousers and long sleeves to protect them from cuts and grazes as much as possible. The thick waterproof suits may have to go back into the cupboard!

Have a lovely Easter break, and we will see you all soon.

Mr Smith

Timetable for SUMMER 1		
Day	AM	PM
Monday	Oaks/Willows	5H
Tuesday	Reception	3S
Wednesday		2G
Thursday	1F	4P
Friday		6H

April SuperKind Challenge

Earth Day is celebrated every year in April. It is a chance to raise awareness and inspire people to take action to tackle the environmental issues facing our planet. It is also a time to celebrate those who have done a lot to help our planet. This year's theme is 'Protect Our Species'.

In Collective Worship, we have discussed some of the environmental issues facing our planet including **climate change**, **loss of habitat** due to land use change and **polluters** such as litter, pesticides or greenhouse gases. We've lost nearly half of the world's wildlife in the last 50 years and thousands of life forms are going extinct.

For this month's challenge, SuperKind have suggested that you write a letter to your local council about this important issue. You could include:

- Why species are important to us
- Why species are endangered
- Why it is urgent that we take action
- What you'd like them to help with (for example, by adding more public recycling bins in your local council)

If you decide to take on this month's challenge, don't forget to share a copy of your letter with us so that we can award your SuperKind letter writer stickers. You could pop a photo of your letter onto Class Dojo and even better if you get a reply, let us know so we can share these in Collective Worship.

Mrs Gandini

Preschool admissions - September 2025

Places are rapidly filling up for Preschool admissions starting September 2025. If you would like to apply for a place, please email preschool@gkcs.school as soon as possible to ensure we can offer you the session(s) you require.

Thank you.

Smashing Tennis



SMASHING TENNIS

BOOK NOW email
caroline@smashingtennis.co.uk

Saturday Morning Tennis Coaching
Running 10 weeks of summer coaching
On WHS newly resurfaced courts
Starting 26th April and finishes 5th July
Opening up summer tennis for 12-18 age group.

Venue: Wycombe High School
Timings & Age Groups
9-9.40 am - 3-4 Yrs (Pre-school)
9-10.15 am - 5-11 Yrs (Reds/Orange/Green ball)
10.00-11.15 am - 12-18 Yrs (yellow ball)

Bookings now open



Easter Tennis Camps
Venue: Wycombe High School
Dates: 8/9 and 14/15 April
Timings & Age Groups
9-9.40 am - 3-4 Yrs (Pre-school)
10am-3pm or half day options: 10-12.30am /12.30am-3pm
5-11 Yrs & 12-18 Yrs

Bookings now open



SMASHING TENNIS COACHES
Led by LTA qualified coaches who specialise in providing coaching for primary and secondary schools in the local area. All lead coaches are DBS checked and First Aid Trained. There will also be additional coach assistants to ensure good coach: child ratios.

Caroline Neil-Dwyer, Lead Coach
30 years experience of coaching and is the founder of Smashing Tennis. Current schools: Great Kingshill Primary, RGS High Wycombe, Wycombe High, Pipers Corner, Cedar Park. Also senior coach at Wycombe Abbey and a coach at Hazlemere Tennis Club. Played National level as a junior, still playing for Bucks and Halton Tennis club.

Get Your Kicks

EASTER HOLIDAY CAMP

Easter Egg hunts

Out-door Football Matches, skills & games

Indoor Camp Sports, Games, craft, Nerfs & talent shows.





APRIL 8TH, 9TH, 10TH, 15TH, 16TH, 17TH

- Easter egg hunts
- Lots of games
- Making new friendships

TIMES

LONGER TIMES
9AM-4PM

9:30-3pm

DATES

4-12 YEARS
£30.00 per day

£25 per day

LOCATION

Great Kingshill combined School
Cryers Hill Rd, Great Kingshill, High Wycombe
HP15 6JP

Registration Link

www.bookwhen.com/getyourkicksfc

More Information

07492299987 Email: info@getyourkicksfc.com
07767387836

Dates - Summer Term

Below are the current dates for the Summer Term. Please note that these may be edited, and more dates added, as the term progresses.

Monday 7 th – Monday 21 st April 2025		PTA Easter Competition
Tuesday 22 nd April 2025	08:30	School opens for Summer Term 1
Thursday 24 th April 2025		5H swimming begins
Thursday 24 th April 2025		PTA General Meeting
Wednesday 30 th April 2025		Year 5 trip to Sri Singh Sabha Gurdwara
Monday 5 th May 2025		BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY – NO SCHOOL
w/c Monday 12 th May 2025		Year 6 SATs Week
Tuesday 13 th May 2025		Year 1 trip to Maidenhead Synagogue
w/c Monday 19 th May 2025		Walk to school week
Thursday 22 nd May 2025	15:15	School closes for half term