

Graveley Primary School Newsletter

Newsletter - Summer Term 2 2026

Dear Parents,

As we reach the end of another incredibly busy and successful school year, I would like to take a moment to thank our wonderful children, dedicated staff and supportive families for making it such a memorable one. This final half-term has certainly been jam-packed with learning, adventure and celebration!

A Summer of Sport

This half-term has been filled with fantastic sporting opportunities for children across the school.

Our Year 4 and 5 pupils enjoyed a visit to Thomas Alleyne Academy, where Year 8 Sports Leaders organised a variety of exciting activities. It was wonderful to see our children embracing new challenges while working alongside older students who were such positive role models.

Badgers Class had a brilliant day at Fairlands Valley Park celebrating the Commonwealth through sport. From dance and weightlifting to judo, bowling, netball and basketball, the children threw themselves into every activity with enthusiasm and determination.

Some of our Year 1 and 2 children represented the school at a Rounders Festival alongside other local schools, while pupils from across the school travelled to Datchworth School to compete in the annual Intervillage Festival. It was fantastic to see so many children demonstrating teamwork, resilience and excellent sportsmanship.

Of course, one of the highlights of the term was our own Sports Day and Summer Picnic. Thank you to everyone who came along to support and cheer on the children. Congratulations to **Blue Sapphire**, who were this year's overall champions! More importantly, every child showed great determination, encouragement and team spirit throughout the day.

Learning Beyond the Classroom

Our learning has extended well beyond the classroom walls this half-term.

We began with our much-anticipated overnight residential at Cuffley Camp. There were campfires, adventures, plenty of laughter and, unsurprisingly, a few midnight feasts! Judging by the tired faces on the return journey, both children and staff had made the most of every minute—even if some were woken by the birds at first light!

Foxes Class enjoyed a fascinating visit to the Verulamium Museum in St Albans, bringing their history learning to life, while Squirrels Class had a wonderful day at the Fruit Farm, making the most of the glorious summer sunshine.

These experiences create memories that last a lifetime and help enrich the curriculum in ways that simply cannot be recreated in the classroom.

Thank You, FOG

A huge thank you goes to our fantastic Friends of School (FOG) for organising another fun-filled Summer Fete. It was wonderful to see so many families enjoying the afternoon together, and the event was a huge success.

This year, two of our long-standing and dedicated FOG members, Amanda Otto and Emma Homes, are stepping down after giving countless hours of their time and energy to support the school. On behalf of everyone, I would like to offer them our sincere thanks for everything they have done.

As they step aside, FOG urgently need new volunteers to help continue this invaluable work. The funds raised have made a real difference to the children's school experience, including helping us further enhance playtimes and providing opportunities that benefit every child. Whether you can offer a little time or a lot, your support would be hugely appreciated.

School Uniform

There seems to have been a little confusion regarding school uniform for September, so I would like to clarify the position. There are no changes to our school uniform requirements for the coming academic year. Following feedback from parents, we have introduced an additional sweatshirt-style jumper and cardigan, which can be purchased from either of our uniform suppliers. These are simply an alternative option alongside our existing knitted jumpers and cardigans, which will continue to be available and remain part of our uniform.

Kids Connection – <http://www.kidsconnection.co.uk>

Smarty Schoolwear -<http://www.smartyschoolwear.co.uk>

Pre-loved school uniform can be also be purchased by clicking on the following link:

<https://uniformerly.co.uk/search-listings/?q=&c=9483>

For further information, here is a link to our school uniform page from our website:

[School Uniform – Graveley Primary School](#)

Saying Goodbye

As another school year comes to an end, we prepare to say goodbye to our wonderful Year 6 pupils. They leave us with so many happy memories, and we are incredibly proud of the kind, resilient and confident young people they have become. We wish them every success and happiness as they begin the next exciting chapter of their education.

We also say farewell to a much-valued member of our team, **Mrs Forster**, who leaves us to begin an exciting new chapter as a Headteacher. Whilst we are incredibly sad to see her go, we are also immensely proud of her and know she will be an outstanding leader. Mrs Forster has made an enormous contribution to our school over the years. She has been the driving force behind so many memorable events and enriching experiences that have created lasting memories for our children. Whether organising exciting curriculum opportunities, planning special events or finding new ways to inspire learning, her enthusiasm and dedication have always shone through. In her role as SENCO, Mrs Forster has also been an unwavering source of support for countless children and families. Her compassion, commitment and determination to ensure every child receives the support they need have made a lasting difference to so many lives. She has always gone above and beyond, and her kindness, professionalism and genuine care will be greatly missed by children, staff and parents alike.

On behalf of our whole school community, I would like to thank Mrs Forster for everything she has given to our school. We wish her every happiness and success in her new role and know she will continue to make a positive difference to the lives of many children.

As one chapter closes, another begins, and we are delighted to welcome **Mrs Paige McNeilly** to our team in September. Mrs McNeilly joins us as an experienced SENCO, bringing with her a wealth of knowledge and expertise. We are looking forward to welcoming her to our school community and know she will be a wonderful addition to the team.

Finally, thank you to all our families for your continued support throughout the year. Working together allows us to provide the very best opportunities for our children, and we truly value the partnership we share with you.

I hope you all enjoy a well-deserved, restful summer break filled with fun, laughter and time together. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September, refreshed and ready for another exciting year of learning.

Best wishes,
Nicky Hand
Headteacher

A Message from David Marriot (Chair of Governors)

Well, somehow, we've reached the end of another school year! It only seems like yesterday we were welcoming everyone back, and now we're preparing for six weeks of sunshine (hopefully!), family adventures and a well-earned rest.

Before everyone heads off for the summer, I'd like to take the opportunity, on behalf of the Governing Board, to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who makes Graveley such a wonderful school.

To our fantastic staff, thank you. Your dedication, patience, creativity and endless enthusiasm are what make Graveley such a special place. Every day you inspire, encourage and support our children to achieve their very best, and we are incredibly grateful for everything you do. While the children enjoy a well-deserved break, I hope each and every member of staff finds time to relax and recharge too, you've certainly earned it!

This term we also say a fond farewell to Mrs Forster. Whilst we're naturally sad to see her leave Graveley, we couldn't be happier for her as she takes on the exciting role of Headteacher at Datchworth School. We thank her for everything she has contributed to our school over the years and wish her every success in this well-deserved next chapter.

As one door closes, another opens, and we are delighted to welcome Mrs McNeilly, who will be joining us as Deputy Headteacher and SENCO. We're looking forward to welcoming her to the Graveley family and are excited about the experience, enthusiasm and fresh ideas she will bring.

No end-of-year message would be complete without saying a huge thank you to our incredible Friends of Graveley (FOG). The Summer Fete was another fantastic success and a real highlight of the year, but it's just one of the many events organised by this amazing team of volunteers. Their hard work raises valuable funds that enhance opportunities for all our children, but just as importantly, it brings families together and helps create the warm, friendly community spirit that makes Graveley such a special place. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered, supported events or simply turned up with a smile, you've all played your part.

Finally, thank you to all of our parents and carers for your continued support throughout the year. Education works best when school and home work together, and we're incredibly fortunate to have such a supportive school community.

I hope all of our children have a fantastic summer filled with fun, laughter and adventure (and perhaps even a little reading!). We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September, refreshed and ready for another exciting year at Graveley Primary School.

Have a wonderful summer!

David Marriott
Chair of Governors

A Message from the FOG (Friends of Graveley) Team

As another school year comes to an end, we would like to say a huge **thank you** to everyone who has supported FOG this year. Whether you've made a donation, volunteered your time at an event, baked a cake or simply came along to support our fundraising activities, every contribution has made a real difference to our wonderful school.

We've had a fantastic year of events, including our Christmas Fete, school discos, Stay and Play sessions, non-uniform days and, of course, our brilliant Summer Fete. These events don't just happen overnight—they take a great deal of planning, organisation and teamwork. A special thank you goes to our fantastic FOG committee members – **Amanda, Emma, Kirstie, Jenn and Carly** – whose dedication, enthusiasm and hard work have made these events such a success.

This year hasn't been without its challenges, however, and unfortunately we have had to cancel some events due to a lack of support and attendance. As we look ahead to next year, we really do need your help.

Sadly, our wonderful Treasurer, **Amanda**, and Secretary, **Emma**, are stepping down from their roles in September. They have been an enormous part of FOG, and their commitment over the years has been invaluable. We simply cannot thank them enough for everything they have done. Their hard work has directly benefited every child in our school, and we wish them and their families all the very best for the future.

We are now looking for new volunteers to join our team. Whether you can help at an occasional event, become a committee member or even take on one of these important roles, your support would be hugely appreciated. If you would like to find out more, please speak to **Meg** or **Mrs Hand**. Without enough volunteers, it will become increasingly difficult to continue organising many of the events our children enjoy. More importantly, the money raised by FOG helps fund so much more than just fun events. This year alone, FOG has helped to provide our fantastic new play equipment shed and the resources to fill it, replaced the football goals and contributed towards coach transport for school trips, helping to keep costs down for families.

Every pound raised goes straight back into enriching the children's experiences at school, and with your help we can continue to provide these opportunities for years to come. Thank you once again for your continued support throughout the year. We hope you all have a wonderful, relaxing summer break, and we look forward to seeing you in September for another exciting year.

**With best wishes,
Meg and the FOG Team**

Some Dates for the Diary

Date	EVENT
Tuesday 21 st July	1:15pm – Break up for the summer holidays.
Wednesday 2 nd September	Children return to school. <i>If your child keeps medications in school, please bring these into the school office and ensure the relevant forms are filled in.</i>
Tuesday 8 th September	6:00pm - Curriculum Evening.
Friday 11 th September	2.30pm Booknic.

Badgers and PE will have a PE lesson on Friday 4th September. No other PE sessions this week.

P.E. arrangements for week beginning 7th September

Hedgehogs – Monday - Reception and Year 1

Thursday – Year 1

(Receptions - bring P.E. kit into school to get changed into.

Year 1 - come to school wearing P.E. kit).

Squirrels - Tuesday and Friday – come to school in P.E. kit.

Foxes – Monday and Wednesday - come to school in P.E. kit.

Badgers – Tuesday and Friday – come to school in P.E. kit.

Read to the Beat

Summer Reading Challenge 2026

[Information for families](#)

[Information for schools and teachers](#)

For families

In partnership with The Reading Agency, Hertfordshire Libraries are proud to present this year's Summer Reading Challenge: Read to the Beat.

The challenge aims to keep children reading throughout the summer holidays and rewards them for reading for pleasure. Your children can sign up for FREE at any Hertfordshire Library from 4 July 2026. The Challenge finishes on Saturday 5 September 2026 (or Sunday 6 September if your local branch is open).

Children are encouraged to read any 6 library books over the summer holidays. This could include listening to an e-audiobook, reading independently, or reading with parents or carers – any reading is good reading in our book!

There are also some reading and library related challenges as part of Read to the Beat. These challenges are listed in the packs that children receive when they sign up for the challenge and children can complete them to earn reward stickers if they choose to.



We invite children to visit their local library each time they have:

- read 2 books
- completed 2 challenges
- read a book and completed a challenge

to tell library staff or volunteers all about it. In exchange, we will give them some stickers which they can collect in their pack.

Once they have completed the challenge, children will receive a personalised certificate, a medal (whilst stocks last), and an entry into our prize draw to win a ticket to a book-themed musical workshop with Gareth P Jones, an award-winning author.

Last year Hertfordshire Libraries had more than 17,500 children take part in the challenge. We'd love to help each and every Hertfordshire child to enjoy reading this summer.

To find out more about the challenge and access brilliant online reading resources, visit the [Summer Reading Challenge website](#).

Summer Reading Challenge