



Newsletter

5th June 2026



Dear Parents and Carers of Greenleas School,

Welcome back to the second half of the Summer Term. Here we are in Sports Day season and the weather is not on our side so far. Please do check your messages from school before setting out to attend Sports Day, as events may be cancelled at the last minute if the weather is poor, or if the grass is too wet.

Today, we conducted a lockdown drill at both sites as part of our ongoing commitment to school safety. The children responded exceptionally well, following instructions calmly and responsibly. The drill was very productive and provided a valuable opportunity to practise our procedures in a safe and supportive environment.

I also enjoyed a delicious lunch with Rebecca, Isobel, Kruz, Paulina, Will and Radville from KS2 at Kestrel Way. We chatted about the lockdown drill, and whether I thought it had gone well (it did) and how the Reception children were still asking about the puppy. We also compared swimming in the sea with swimming in a pool - unanimously the children prefer the pool - and talked about whether we had been away over the half term break.

Our pieces of writing this week are from Fearne and Nate from Year 2 at Derwent Road and Kestrel Way.

I am pleased to inform you that Miss Grossman has now completed the first stage of her cancer treatment and is responding well. She now has a date for surgery before the Summer holidays with a follow up plan into the Autumn. She is planning to come in to Kestrel Way on Thursday 18th June to wish the Year 4 children good luck in their middle schools, and she sends you all her very best wishes and hopes you can hear her ringing the bell for her final chemotherapy today.

I will be taking part in the Milton Keynes edition of the Race for Life this Sunday in support of Cancer Research and all those members of our school community and beyond whose lives have been impacted by cancer. If you would like to make a donation to this very worthwhile cause, my fundraising page can be found [here](#). For those who have made donations already—many thanks!

Wishing you a wonderful weekend.

Rebecca Clarke,
Head Teacher

Greenleas' Value of the Month for June is...

HUMILITY

Humility is freedom from pride or arrogance, a modest opinion of one's self importance.

"Humility is the solid foundation for all virtues."

Star of the Week

Derwent Road:
Caterina
Kestrel Way:
Bobby



Tidy Tortoise

Derwent Road:
Kestrels
Kestrel Way:
Herons



Safeguarding Matters

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SOCIAL MEDIA & MENTAL HEALTH

An estimated one-third of children have a social media account, so it's important that trusted adults know what content young people are consuming, what they're posting and the interactions they're having. On social media, it can be easy to go down 'rabbit holes' that aren't beneficial to our wellbeing. As platforms grapple with managing such 'legal but harmful' content, lives are being impacted – sometimes to tragic effect. We might be daunted by the scale of the tech giants and their content which so enthralls young people, but we can still help children to be aware of their mental wellness; recognising when something isn't OK – and knowing what to do about content that upsets them.

- 1. UNDERSTAND THE ALGORITHM**
Algorithms rank content by user interest: someone who regularly interacts with sports news, say, will see the latest results at the top of their feed. Likewise, if a user browses content that can cause harm, that's what will be recommended to them in future. Someone who's had a bad day and looks for posts which reflect their mood will find similar content being suggested to them more and more.
- 2. AVOID THE MAIN FEEDS**
Avoiding the default feeds on social media platforms limits the amount of recommended content that's shown. Users can opt to only scroll through the accounts they follow, use restricted modes, or highlight posts that they don't want to see more of. Explore the platform safety settings to see how you can take control of what your child's phone shows them when they open the app.
- 3. DISCUSS WHAT THEY'VE SEEN**
Chatting about what your child's seen online keeps you aware of the content they're interacting with. Don't assume that platforms are screening out inappropriate material, or even that your child would recognise content as being harmful. Discuss who they follow, what posts they like and what comes up in their feeds: if a alarm bells ring, it could be time for a more in-depth talk or to seek support.
- 4. LEARN HOW TO HIDE CONTENT**
If your child stumbles across unsuitable content on social media, there's the option to hide that post as well as indicating you'd prefer any similar material not to be suggested in future. On some platforms, you might also be able to block posts that contain specific words, which is an excellent way to start taking control of what your child sees online.
- 5. SET DAILY LIMITS**
Phones and most apps can tell you how much they're being used. Spending too long online can mean a child misses out on other activities that are important to all-round wellbeing. You could set some family rules – for everyone to follow – around device use, such as screen time limits and tech-free spaces. Involving your child in creating this agreement makes them more likely to stick to it.
- 6. MONITOR THEIR ACTIVITY**
Keeping a discreet eye on how your child is using social media can help ensure they're not entering potentially dangerous situations. As they grow up, of course, children need space to exercise their independence – but you can still occasionally ask to see what they're looking at. Be transparent about your own social media use and try not to sound judgemental about your child's.
- 7. TURN OFF PUSH NOTIFICATIONS**
Even for adults, it's tempting to check an email or message as soon as the alert sound rings. Push notifications encourage people to open their apps and spend time on their device, so turning them off will help your child to practice mindful use of tech. Most of us have other things that we need to focus on as a priority – and those notifications will still be there later, when we have more time.
- 8. USE DEVICES TOGETHER**
Giving children internet-enabled devices and complete freedom to explore platforms on their own can result in exposure to hugely damaging content. You could consider making a particular area at home a designated space to use phones, tablets and so on – making it much easier to monitor what content your child is viewing and (if necessary) steer them away from any potentially harmful paths.
- 9. ENCOURAGE OTHER ACTIVITIES**
Mental health professionals often highlight the importance of exercise, quality time with loved ones, a balanced diet and restful sleep for our mental wellbeing. Spending hours on social media can cause us to sacrifice other activities that our brains need to feel well – so encouraging your child to put down their phone and enjoy something that doesn't involve a screen can be immensely beneficial.
- 10. TALK ABOUT PEER PRESSURE**
Most platforms default children's accounts to private, so only people they've accepted as friends can see their posts. This reduces the risk of bullying or unkind comments, but – just like offline life – the digital world can still make children feel as if they need to act or look a certain way to fit in. Talk to your child about peer pressure, and listen to any concerns so you can provide the support they need.

Meet Our Expert
Shazia Sarwar-Azmi is executive headteacher at a specialist primary school and, as an emotional therapy coach, works with school leaders to focus on the SEND, mental health and wellbeing agenda. A passionate advocate for vulnerable learners, Shazia is a Fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching and the author of *The Rainbow Within*, a book which supports children with SEMH needs.

National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

www.nationalonlinesafety.com @natorlinesafety /NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 30.11.2022

If you wish to report any safeguarding concerns, please contact the below staff members in the first instance:

	Designated Safeguarding Lead: Rebecca Clarke Kestrel/Derwent		Derwent Road: Sarah Horne		Derwent Road: Bindia Sexton		Derwent Road/Kestrel Way: Alexia Cook		Kestrel Way: Amanada Wallace		Dorothy Smith Safeguarding Governor
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All about Nate



Nate is 7 years old. His family is called the Desouza family.

Nate lives in the Leiton Buzzard. The number of Nate's house is 9046.

What does Nate like?

Nate likes Nintendo Switch 2, his family, reading books and his tablet.

What does Nate dislike?

Nate dislikes bossy people.

Nate

What say do this do that.
~~the~~ mazing parts
did you know Nate like
Mario.

By Nate

All about Fearne



Fearne has a big brother in year 4. Fearne has been in Green Nouns School and Fearne was in Reception and Fearne was in ducks. What does Fearne like?

Fearne like going skipping. Another thing Fearne likes is swimming on Saturday. Another thing Fearne likes is going out with my family on the weekend on Sunday.

All of these bring Fearne happy nes. What does Fearne dis like?

Fearne does not like people saying

mean stuff to me. Another thing Fearne does not like is pepper on her pizza and Fearne does not like any of the cutlers of pepper. Fearne does not like noty people being mean to people like cicing.

Amazon Fact

Did you know that Fearne is moving down to Deven and it is to the sea and Fearne can go on the beach after school at Deven.

SAFETY IN THE SUN

As we enjoy the warmer weather, it is timely to remind everyone about protecting your child against the harmful effects of the sun.

Please apply sunscreen at home—there are several brands available that last for the whole day. Any sunscreen sent in to school will be returned as it will not be applied here. Please also provide a named water bottle so your child can stay hydrated.

Provide a named, brimmed hat or cap to protect against heatstroke, and to offer shade to the face and eyes. This is preferable to sunglasses. On hot and sunny days, children without hats will not be allowed to play out in direct sunlight, so please ensure your child has a hat in school. This is also important for PE.

Named sunglasses may be worn, offering UV protection, but not fashion sunglasses. These should be named and are the responsibility of the child. They must be removed for PE unless they are prescription sunglasses or worn for medical reasons. Children may be asked to remove their sunglasses if deemed appropriate for health and safety reasons by a member of staff.

Where possible, please can you avoid sunscreen products with nuts/nut oils. This may be labelled as *prunus amygdalus dulcis* (sweet almond).

1 in 4 children starts Reception not fully toilet trained. This has a significant impact- not only on children's confidence and wellbeing, but on teachers, support staff and classmates too.



Our free **Potty Training Guide** offers families clear, practical advice on how and when to potty train children. It includes top tips and signposts additional support for those who may need it.

[Click here for the Potty Training Guide](#)



Kestrel Way PTA

Father's Day Surprise Room

Children will have the chance to choose a gift for someone special this Father's Day

£5 per gift paid via the Arbor app, just change the quantity if you wish to purchase more than one

Payments will need to be made by Friday 5th June for gifts to be chosen on Monday 15th June

Available to all year groups including pre-school and pre-reception



FATHERS DAY SURPRISE ROOM

MONDAY 15TH JUNE £4



Children will have the opportunity to pick a gift for their Dad or other special person during the school day. Siblings will go in together so there are no duplicates.



Payments will be taken via the school app only. No cash payment will be accepted on the day, so please book by **Friday 12th June**



Any questions please email
ptafrogs@hotmail.com

Thank you for your support
Derwent Road PTA

KESTREL WAY PTA

SUMMER BONANZA

THURSDAY 25TH JUNE
3:30- 5:30PM

BOUNCY CASTLE
ICE CREAM VAN
WATER DODGEBALL
CRAFT ACTIVITIES

£10 PER CHILD PAID VIA
THE ARBOR APP BY
TUESDAY 23RD JUNE

COLLECTION FROM
CHILD'S CLASSROOM

GREENLEAS
DERWENT ROAD

SUMMER SOCIAL 2026

Inviting all Greenleas families and friends to bring a picnic and enjoy fun and games after school!

FUN!

GAMES!

FRIENDS!

EVERYONE
WELCOME!



THURSDAY
25TH JUNE 2026



3:30 - 5:30PM

READ to the BEAT

The **Summer Reading Challenge** is an annual challenge run jointly by The Reading Agency and public libraries. This year the challenge is **Read to the Beat**, all about being musical and ties in with the National Year of Reading 2026.

It runs **Friday 17th July to Saturday 5th September 2026.**

Children are encouraged to read whatever they choose for the challenge, recognising the importance of reading for pleasure in increasing empathy and improving well-being, as well as in children's educational success. The theme this year is all about music! Children will be able to find books linked to their favourite creative arts, and access activities at the library.



The Challenge

- ❖ Children must be members of the library service. **Join the library** [here](#) or go to your local library.
- ❖ The challenge invites children to read six library books or more during the summer holidays.
- ❖ Children can borrow books or read our e-books, magazines and audiobooks available on our BorrowBox and PressReader app. [More about e-resources](#)
- ❖ Families can sign up for the challenge at any library, at any stage in the summer from Friday 17th July.
- ❖ Children are awarded a certificate and a medal for reading 6 books.
- ❖ Children completing the challenge (6 books) will be entered into a lucky dip at their library for the chance to win a £40 voucher for The Works to buy arts, crafts and books.

Struggle with reading?

We can help!

- ❖ For dyslexia, we have collections of shorter books, with special fonts and paper – and great stories.
- ❖ The BorrowBox app has special accessibility features, which allow customers to select font, background and font size.
- ❖ Picture books aren't just for toddlers! Libraries have collections of older picture books for young readers.
- ❖ Get hooked on graphic novels (comic style books).
- ❖ Learning to read? Select from beginning to read or short chapter books
- ❖ Booklists with lots of ideas available on our Virtual Library [Books and Reading - Children and Teenagers Pages](#).
- ❖ Some children (especially boys) prefer non-fiction. Dinosaurs, transport and space are particularly popular.
- ❖ Enjoy stories through audiobooks. Free to borrow on CD or download with BorrowBox.



All libraries will have **activities** for children available throughout the summer.

All libraries offer a **Treasure Hunt** to children when they complete the reading challenge

GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK
LEIGHTON BUZZARD 2026

PHOTO CONTEST

Green in Unexpected Places

Capture the hidden **GREEN** moments around town!

HOW TO ENTER:

- Email: totallyleightonbuzzard@gmail.com
- Submit via: bit.ly/GreenJoyLB
- WhatsApp: <https://bit.ly/whatsapp/LEIGHTONBUZZARD2026>

Winners announced at the Repair Cafe LB
Saturday 27 June at the Royal British Legion

In partnership with Leighton Buzzard Photographic Club

For other GB&LB events go to: <https://linktree.co/leightonbuzzard>

100% LB Photo Competition

LB PC

Leighton Buzzard Photographic Club

Leighton Buzzard

**THE GREAT
BIG GREEN
WEEK**

Let's **swap** together for good

Event name	Learn to Ride cycle sessions with Cycle4Life
Event location	Astral Park
Event date and time	14th June sessions at 1 pm and 2 pm

visit cycle4life.org to book