Newsletter

13th November 2026



Dear Parents and Carers of Greenleas School,

As the weather turns colder I had a super start to the week when I enjoyed a steaming hot cup of hot chocolate with Mason H from Cranes, who is their unsung hero.

This has been an exciting week for children in Year 2 across both sites. The school has been visited by a local firefighting crew, who have shown the children all around their fire engine, including squirting water from the hose and tooting the horn, and demonstrated their protective clothing and why they wear it. As well we being fun for the children, understanding fire safety is an important part of the curriculum. Don't be surprised if your children are reminding you to check the batteries on your smoke alarm this week.

We had a midweek visit from our school improvement advisor, Kerrie Lewis from the local authority at Derwent Road. Kerrie is part of the team supporting the Head Teacher recruitment process at Greenleas, and also joined us for a learning walk around the school, and to observe the Act of Remembrance at 11 am.

On Wednesday at Derwent Road, I had lunch with children from Key Stage 2 who had been chosen by the midday supervisors for their excellent behaviour. Vanessa, Oliver, Noah, Ettie, Olive, Jaymee, Oscar and I talked about many things whilst we munched our way through roast dinners or packed lunches. Some of us chatted about how much we enjoy playing Minecraft with our friends. Others had different opinions about if it was better to be a hider or a seeker when playing hide and seek. Some of us were looking forward to sleepovers with our grandparents whilst others have moved in while building work is being done. As it was Remembrance Day, one of us talked about how their Great Great Relative was a bomber in the war.

At Kestrel Way this week the children enjoyed a Movie Night after school on Thursday, hosted by the PTA. Popcorn at the ready, the children settled in to watch a film in their classroom, and raised funds for the school.

At Kestrel Way from today, the children will have an opportunity to visit the Book Fair, organised by our Reading Lead Mrs. Iley. The children will be able to browse the books and talk about the different titles and which ones they would like to read or add to their wish list. Thank you to those parents who make purchases – the school receives a contribution towards books from the total spend, and books make wonderful gifts.

On Friday 20th November we will be supporting Children in Need, or "Pudsey Day". Thank you in advance for your generous donations towards this very worthy cause.

With best wishes for the weekend.

Rebecca Clarke,

Head Teacher

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

Tolerance

Tolerance is accepting myself, even when I make mistakes. Tolerance is accepting others, even when they make mistakes. We are all unique and have something valuable to offer and share. Tolerance is accepting others and appreciating differences.

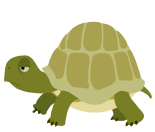
To help deepen our children's understanding of our value of Tolerance this month, here are some questions you could discuss with your child at home: How can we show Tolerance of ourselves?

Star of the Week

Derwent Road:
Liam
Kestrel Way:
Jack

Tidy Tortoise

Derwent Road:
Doves
Kestrel Way:
Wrens



Safeguarding Matters

parentzone

UNCOVERING THE HIDDEN FINANCIAL RISKS IN CHILDREN'S GAMING

With 88% of UK children playing online games, digital play is an important part of childhood. However, current age rating systems fail to flag the financial risks endemic in gaming.
Parent Zone has been a leader in researching and responding to online financial risks and harms affecting families for many years. In 2018 our independent research uncovered young people's exposure to skin gambling, we led the Child Financial Harms consortium and recently we have developed the Gaming Risk Index.

GAMING RISK INDEX (GRI)

By analysing millions of reviews across thousands of Google Play Store games, the Gaming Risk Index scores titles against ten child financial risk categories, including loot boxes, subscription traps, skins, and pay-to-win mechanics.

We are still in early stages of analysis but so far we have found that over 99% of the games we have looked at contain financial risk indicators and that risks occur fairly uniformly across all age ratings.

We also found that whilst educational games may score lower on risks like gambling, they have the highest prevalence of subscription traps – showing how business models shift so that the reality of what's in a game may not match our expectations.

Through this work we have evidenced what many parents already tell us, that game ratings are confusing, don't reflect parents' concerns and miss key risks. And, our findings align with broader research on persuasive design. An Ofcom study identified manipulative features, such as dissociative in-game currencies and impulse-activating countdown timers, that encourage unchecked spending, while a University of Sydney report identified misleading monetisation in 14 out of 15 games they sampled on Roblox.
Gaming has a valuable role in children's lives. It brings many positives – but also hidden risks and challenges for families. Improvements are underway, but broader system changes are still needed. In the meantime, we will continue to help parents make sense of it all.

LEVEL UP…

Take a deeper dive into the Gaming Risk Index and Child Financial Harms, tune into Tech Shock, or get practical parenting guides.

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

Come to the Book Fair at Kestrel Way after school on 13th, 16th and 17th November from 3:40—4:15pm. Every book purchased helps the school to buy more books. Thank you for your support. If you would like to purchase any books from your child's wish list, please ensure that you complete the section at the bottom of the form and return it to school. This will allow us to arrange for the books to be ordered for your child.



Transfer to Starting School 2027

Central Bedfordshire



Was your child born between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023?

They will start school in September 2027, so you need to apply for a school place by 15 January 2027.

Apply online at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/admissions

You can also complete a paper application form by downloading it from our website or by contacting School Admissions **admissions@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk** **0300 300 8000**

A great place to live and work.

Transfer to Junior/ Middle 2027

Central Bedfordshire



Is your child due to start Junior/Middle School in September 2027?

Then you need to apply for a school place by 15 January 2027.

Apply online at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/admissions

You can also complete a paper application form by downloading it from our website or by contacting School Admissions **admissions@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk** **0300 300 8000**

A great place to live and work.



YOUR SCHOOL HAS BEEN ADOPTED

by your local Everyone Active Centre

WHAT IS THE ADOPT A SCHOOL PROGRAMME?

Everyone Active's Adopt a School programme is a brilliant opportunity for both Everyone Active and local Schools to work together in an effort to get the local community more active.

WHAT IS AVAILABLE TO YOU?*

During the 2 week period that your school is adopted, a variety of perks will be available to **parents/guardians, school pupils & school employees**, these will include the following:

- FREE **Swimming** for School Pupils (Aged 10 & under)
- FREE **Junior Gym** & Swimming for Pupils (Aged 11-15)
- FREE **Membership** for Parent/Guardians (Aged 16+)
- FREE **Membership** for School Employees (Aged 16+)

*Please note, the offers may vary by centre depending on the facilities available at your local centre.

Your adopting centre:

Leighton Leisure Community Centre

Scan here for more information on the programme:

everyone ACTIVE

everyoneactive.com | everyoneactive | @everyoneactive | @everyoneactive

NOT MY CHILD

A PARENT'S GUIDE TO:

* EXPLOITATION
* KNIFE CRIME
* COUNTY LINES

6:00PM - 9:00PM
THURS 19 NOV 2026
STOPSLEY HIGH SCHOOL
LUTON · LU2 7UX

BOOK YOUR TICKET

VEPP BEDFORDSHIRE VIOLENCE & EXPLOITATION PREVENTION PARTNERSHIP

Luton

CALLING ALL PARENTS & CARERS!

JOIN US FOR A FREE EVENT AIMED AT RAISING AWARENESS AND EQUIPPING YOU WITH THE KNOWLEDGE TO PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN FROM EXPLOITATION, KNIFE CRIME, & COUNTY LINES.

WHY ATTEND?

- **HEAR REAL STORIES:** Hear lived experiences from parents whose children have sadly fallen victim to such crimes
- **RECOGNISE THE SIGNS:** Learn how to spot the early warning signs that your child is being exploited
- **EXPERT ADVICE:** Get practical advice on what to do if you have concerns about your child's safety
- **SUPPORT NETWORKS:** Connect with organisations that can offer further support and guidance

ANY YOUNG PERSON CAN BE A VICTIM OF THESE CRIMES. IT'S CRUCIAL THAT PARENTS AND CARERS HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE TO IDENTIFY THE SIGNS AND KNOW WHERE TO TURN FOR HELP.

BOOK YOUR TICKET

Luton

VEPP BEDFORDSHIRE VIOLENCE & EXPLOITATION PREVENTION PARTNERSHIP

KESTREL WAY PTA NOTICEBOARD







DERWENT ROAD PTA NOTICEBOARD



