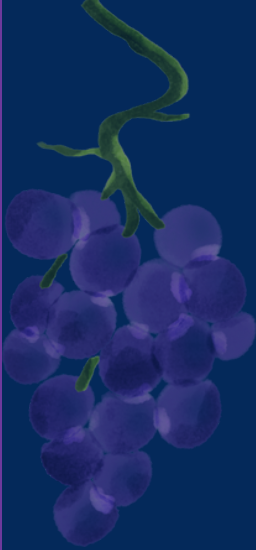




Great Horwood CE School

NEWSLETTER



Updates

Squeaky Nursery visitors



We had some visitors to nursery this week in the form of Caramel & Fudge...the guinea pigs! They were eagerly anticipated and the children enjoyed a full day of looking after them, feeding them and stroking them. They showed great care and gentleness in handling them.

This week's attendance data:

We are continuing to improve!
Well done everyone for your attitude towards being in school.

ATTENDANCE

PUTTING THE GREAT INTO HORWOOD

G GET HERE
R READY TO LEARN
E EVERY DAY
A ARRIVE ON TIME
T TAKE PART

2016 ACORNS

ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

2016 CONKERS

ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

2016 MAPLES

ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

2016 HAWTHORNS

ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

And the Winner is...



Maples
WITH
98.3%

Highlights this week

As we end our 5th week of this year, we are still enjoying great weather and a host of opportunities within school.

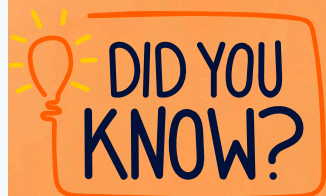
Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Harvest Festival this week, including so many friends from the wider Great Horwood community. It was wonderful to come together to celebrate and give thanks. A huge thank you to Carolyn for so kindly opening the church to us and for the warm welcome she extended to all who attended. We are also looking forward to welcoming parents into school for our parent meetings next week, which provide a valuable opportunity to let you know how your child has settled in this term.

At the recent AGM, it was clear just how valuable our PTFA is to the life of the school. Their dedication, enthusiasm and generosity of time make an enormous difference to the opportunities we can provide for our children. As a school, we are incredibly grateful for everything they do and particularly thankful that, as busy working parents, they are willing to take time out of their own schedules to support the school community. We would love to grow the team further and warmly encourage anyone who is interested to get involved. The overview below highlights just some of the ways the PTFA has supported the school over the past year, with even more exciting opportunities and events planned for the year ahead.

Finally, some great news to share... I am delighted to report that this week was our HIGHEST attendance this year, and indeed over the last year too. This time last year, our attendance for the first month was 92.1%, this month we have averaged 94.1% which sounds like a small increment, but is a huge improvement. In fact, this week, we have peaked at 95.6% which is absolutely great! Our target is 96% and I have a firm belief we can get there if we work together. We have already improved from 92.5% in our first week to 96.2% this week.

If your child is feeling a bit under the weather, send them in, we will keep a close eye on them and call you if they deteriorate. We know that if you aren't feeling too well, you feel at your worst in the morning but often children improve once they get going! Thank you so much for helping us improve attendance, it really does matter to us.





**The PTFA raised over £13,000 last year!
Money that enriched the experiences of
all our pupils.**



Great Horwood School PTFA

2025 - 2026

Thankyou for making this possible

Small events, big impact!

What we did

- Tuck Shop
- October Disco
- Christmas Raffle
- Elfridges
- Christmas Fair
- Golden Ticket Bars
- Tea Towels
- Sports Day
- Summer Festival
- Frozen Fridays
- Uniform Sales
- GH Village Fete
- Winslow Show

Where your money went

- Year 6 SATS Books
- Learning Materials (ipads)
- Christmas Pantomime
- Class Budgets
- KS1 Floor Rugs
- Forest Reading Chair
- Kapla Club Visit
- Advent Calendars
- New School Sound System
- Heatwave Classroom Fans
- Leavers Hoodies
- Easter Eggs
- Dojo Prizes

Every penny counts & makes a difference

A huge Thank You to everyone for your support over the last year! We could not have done it without you!!



THANK YOU



It was incredible to see the generosity and kindness of our school community in action during the Harvest Festival. Watching the endless donations of packets, cans, boxes and bottles heading towards the altar at St James' was a humbling sight. Thank you so much to each and every person who brought something along. It will all be taken to the MK Food bank and distributed from there to people in need.



ONLINE SAFETY



Whatsapp – whilst it is a regular part of our everyday lives and seemingly harmless, there is a need to raise awareness about both the age limit and potential risks in children using it.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about WHATSAPP

WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service, with around two billion users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, as well as making voice and video calls. Its end-to-end encryption means messages can only be viewed by the sender and any recipients; not even WhatsApp can read them. Updates to its privacy policy in 2021 (involving sharing data with parent company Facebook) caused millions to leave the app, but the new policy was widely misinterpreted – it only related to WhatsApp's business features, not to personal messages.

UK AND EUROPE 16+
13+ REST OF THE WORLD

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SCAMS

Fraudsters occasionally send WhatsApp messages pretending to offer prizes – encouraging the user to click on a link to win. Other common scams involve warning someone that their WhatsApp subscription has run out (aiming to dupe them into disclosing payment details) or impersonating a friend or relative and asking for money to be transferred to help with an emergency.

DISAPPEARING MESSAGES

Users can set WhatsApp messages to disappear in 24 hours, 7 days or 90 days by default. Photos and videos can also be instructed to disappear after the recipient has viewed them. These files can't be saved or forwarded – so if your child was sent an inappropriate message, it would be difficult to prove any wrongdoing. However, the receiver can take a screenshot and save that as evidence.

ENABLING FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp has unfortunately been linked to accelerating the spread of dangerous rumours. In India in 2018, some outbreaks of mob violence appear to have been sparked by false allegations being shared on the app. WhatsApp itself took steps to prevent its users circulating hazardous theories and speculation in the early weeks of the Covid-19 pandemic.

POTENTIAL CYBERBULLYING

Group chat and video calls are great for connecting with multiple people in WhatsApp, but there is always the potential for someone's feelings to be hurt by an unkind comment or joke. The 'only admins' feature gives the admin(s) of a group control over who can send messages. They can, for example, block people from posting in a chat, which could make a child feel excluded and upset.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a WhatsApp chat, you only need the mobile number of the person you want to message (the other person also needs to have the app). WhatsApp can access the address book on someone's device and recognise which of their contacts also use the app, so if your child has ever given their phone number to someone they don't know, that person could use it to contact them via WhatsApp.

LOCATION SHARING

The 'live location' feature lets users share their current whereabouts, allowing friends to see their movements. WhatsApp describes it as a "simple and secure way to let people know where you are." It is a useful method for a young person to let loved ones know they're safe – but if they used it in a chat with people they don't know, they would be exposing their location to them, too.



Starting school in September?

Open Day



Contact us:



01296 712622



office@ghw.odbst.org

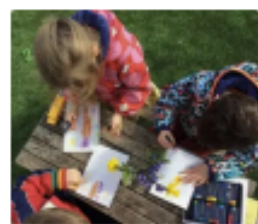
9.30am

Wednesday 14th October

Friday 6th November

Tuesday 1st December

Great Horwood School



We're a small school with a big heart!

COME & MEET US
see what
we're all
about!

Enriching curriculum
small, friendly school
Experienced staff

Wrap around care
Great location



OUR CORE VALUES: LOVE ~ PERSEVERANCE ~ RESPECT

I AM THE VINE; YOU ARE THE BRANCHES





Autumn themed
with **SPOOKY**
ACTIVITIES

19TH – 23RD & 26TH – 30TH



OPEN TO ALL
CHILDREN

BOOK THROUGH
MCAS



OUR CORE VALUES: LOVE ~ PERSEVERANCE ~ RESPECT

I AM THE VINE; YOU ARE THE BRANCHES





Autumn term diary dates. Please speak to your child's class teacher if you need clarity on any of these events.

Date	Event
Tuesday 6th October	Parents' Evening - 3.30 - 5.30pm
Thursday 8th October	Parents' Evening - 4-5pm
Friday October 16th	PTFA Non - Uniform Day
Friday 16th October	End of half term
Monday 2nd November	Autumn 2 Term begins
Wednesday 11th November	Remembrance Worship 10.40am
Friday 13th November	Children in Need & GHS Talent Final

DECEMBER



Date	Event
3rd December	Dressing of the tree, 2pm School Hall
4th December	School Christmas Fete
8th December	Acorns & Conkers Nativity Performance 10am
9th December	Acorns & Conkers Nativity Performance 2pm
11th December	PTFA: Elfridges!
17th December	Christmas Carols 2pm, School Hall
Friday 18th December	Last day of term

Still to be confirmed...

**School
Christmas
Dinner**

