



**Green Lea First School**  
**'Learn, Explore, Achieve'**  
**Weekly Newsletter**  
**14th of March 2025**



**Dear Families,**

We have had an incredible week here at Green Lea First School. It was so lovely to see so many attend the Standon Bowers Presentation Event. We loved hearing the children's favourite memories and seeing the highlights. If you were unable to make it, do get in touch and we can play the slideshow for you. A huge well done to our footballers this week, who we are all so proud of for representing Green Lea and for giving it their all.

In other news, this year, we are going to have a break from the Easter Bonnets and have another creative competition. More details to follow soon.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Lindsay Harris

Headteacher



March 17th

**This week at Green Lea:**

**Class 1**

This week Class 1 have been sharing the book Rosie's walk. They have enjoyed spotting the naughty fox who tries to catch Rosie the hen but ends up in some funny predicaments! . In Maths, Nursery have been using positional words by describing where things are, which has linked nicely to our story, using words like under, over, through. We've also been trying out our blending skills with reading games. Why not practice some reading skills at home. Remember to record how much reading you do either on tapestry or in your child's reading diary.

**Class 2**

The Outstanding Owls have been busy writing the rest of their Non- Chronological Report on Barn Owls. We have researched so many facts about them; ask them about these amazing birds. In math's, the Year 2 children have been practicing the 2, 5, 10 times tables and the Year 1 children have enjoyed learning about estimation. The Scientist's in Class 2 have been studying life cycles and the names of different animals and their offspring. Can they remember what a baby crocodile is called?

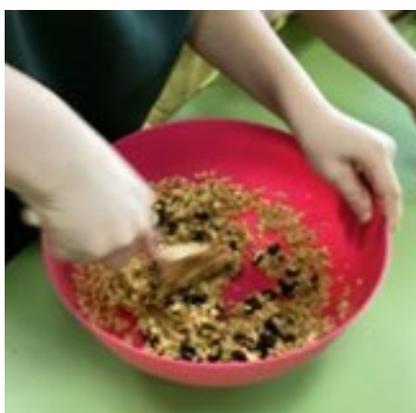
**Class 3**

The Year Three Mathematicians have been adding and subtracting different units of measure. They have also been learning how to find the perimeter of a square or a rectangle. Our Year Four Mathematicians have been finding the perimeter of rectilinear shapes and then finding the missing lengths of these shapes. As Scientists, the children have been learning about the digestive system as well as different types of teeth. This is a good website to check out: [What is the digestive system? - BBC Bitesize](#)

**Upcoming Key Dates**

- **Wednesday 19th of March** Football Match **4-5pm**
- **Monday 24th and Tuesday 25th of March** Parents Evenings
- **Week of the 24th—Mother's Day Forest School Sessions**
- **Friday 4th of April** Spring Spectacular **3.30-5.30pm**

# 'Learn, Explore, Achieve'



Last week, our Key Stage 2 Pupils, tried, designed, made and evaluated delicious, nutritious cereal bars as part of their Design and Technology learning. They demonstrated excellent skills and knowledge.

We hope they shared them with you!

## Science Week 2025



What a week of science we have had! From making wormeries, learning about life cycles to learning about the digestive system and exploring what it is like to be without sight and how we can make playtime inclusive.



# 'Learn, Explore, Achieve'



**WOW!**

A huge thank you to Mrs Smith and Mrs Sutton who have designed and built our epic new mud kitchen.

The children have loved exploring and getting stuck in.

**Thank You**



A big congratulations to our Reading quiz winner Georgina. Thank you to all that took part and to FoGL for organising this. An incredible £75 was raised.



**Well Done!**

A massive well done to all of our girls who took part in this weeks football match against Springfields.

They played incredibly well and were resilient as well as excellent sporting role models.



# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

## 1 CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT

Before integrating technology, consider the types of text that a child engages with. If they need help on occasion, digital reading pens can assist by scanning and reciting words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used in exams if they're part of their routine learning process. Proper training and practice are required, but they can be a great help when tackling printed text.

## 2 READING ON SCREEN

Many devices now allow users to customise text for better readability. Adjusting font type, size and background colour can significantly enhance comprehension. For many readers, white text on a black background is the easiest to see, whereas other styles – such as dyslexia-friendly fonts – are designed to help those who are struggling. Teaching children how to personalise text settings on their devices empowers them to read more comfortably and with greater confidence.

## 3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS

Most modern devices include built-in tools designed to support readers. These features can be found in Settings under Accessibility and may include text-to-speech, speech-to-text and screen magnification functions. Enabling these tools can make digital reading more user friendly, especially for children with learning difficulties or visual impairments, who might have an easier time with spoken language than the written word, or who might simply require a closer look at the text.

## 4 INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES

Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.

## 5 VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS

Many video games require players to read instructions, character dialogues and mission objectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve storytelling, puzzles or problem-solving often include large amounts of text – encouraging children to read these texts aloud or discuss them can improve their comprehension and vocabulary in a fun, engaging way.

## 6 SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS

Watching videos with subtitles or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or online videos, they can follow along with the text, gaining a better understanding of how written words sound when spoken aloud. This is particularly beneficial for reluctant readers, as it exposes them to words in a familiar, engaging context. Repeatedly watching content with subtitles reinforces word recognition and comprehension.

## 7 USING AUDIOBOOKS

Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop listening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the text while listening to a narrator, reinforcing word recognition and fluency. For struggling readers, listening to an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and comprehension.

## 9 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY

Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built in. When enabled, users can highlight a passage or sentence and press Play to hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.

## 8 VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING

Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children see the connection between spoken and written language. By using text-to-voice to have their dictated words read back to them, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.

## 10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13–16 years old, making parental guidance essential. Many social media videos include captions and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's important to use the platform's parental controls (such as time limits and content filters) to create a safe and educational online environment for children. Encouraging responsible social media use can ensure a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy.

## Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lowri is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SENCO. She recently launched her own site, Neuroteachers, which offers a library of short, 'how-to' and explanation videos for educators. Catrina also writes and delivers online training and events for multi-academy trusts, businesses, schools and training organisations.



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## Green Lea First School

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### Spring Term Key Dates and Events

January	February	March	April
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> <b>INSET Day</b></li><li>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> Return to School Spring Term</li><li>Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> Reception Library Visit am</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Week Beginning 3<sup>rd</sup> Maths Family Stay and Play Sessions Class One 4<sup>th</sup> 8.45-9.45am Class Two 5<sup>th</sup> 8.45 to 9.45am Class Three 6<sup>th</sup> 8.45 to 9.45am</li><li>Friday 7<sup>th</sup> NSPCC Number Day</li><li>Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> Standon Bowers (Year 4 whole time Year 3 Wednesday Only)</li><li>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> Half Term</li><li>Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> 'Gotta Sing' Choir at The Gatehouse 7pm</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> World Book Day</li><li>Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> Standon Bowers Presentation Event 5.30pm</li><li>Week Beginning 24<sup>th</sup> Mother's Day Forest School Sessions Class One (25<sup>th</sup> March) 2.15-3pm Class Two (27<sup>th</sup> March) 2.15-3pm Class Three (28<sup>th</sup> March) 2.15-3pm</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Friday 4<sup>th</sup> Spring Social 3.30-5.30pm</li><li>Friday 11<sup>th</sup> Spring Assembly 9.10am and 2.30pm</li></ul>



**Green Lea First School**  
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**Summer Term Key Dates and Events**

April	May	June	July
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Monday 28<sup>th</sup></b> Return to School - Summer Term</li><li>• <b>Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup></b> Year 4 Families Multiplication Screening Check Meeting &amp; Year 1 Families Phonic Screening Check Meeting 3.30pm and 5pm</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> -</b> Bank Holiday</li><li>• <b>Week Beginning</b> 26<sup>th</sup> May Half Term</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup></b> INSET DAY</li><li>• <b>Week</b> Beginning 9<sup>th</sup> Father's Day Forest School Class One (10<sup>th</sup> June) 2.15-3pm Class Two (11<sup>th</sup> June) 2.15-3pm Class Three (12<sup>th</sup> June) 2.15-3pm</li><li>• <b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup></b> Sports Day 1.15pm <u>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup></u> <u>Reserve Sports</u> <u>Day</u></li><li>• <b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup></b> Summer Fayre 3.30pm - 6pm</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup></b> Nursery Graduation 2.30pm</li><li>• <b>Thursday 17<sup>th</sup></b> Year 4 Graduation 9.15am</li><li>• <b>Friday 18<sup>th</sup></b> Last Day of Summer Term 2025</li></ul>



## Term Dates & Inset Days 2024-2025

### Autumn Term 2024

Inset Days: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September and Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September

Term Starts: Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September

Holiday: Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October - Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November

Inset day: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November

Term Ends: Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December

Holiday: Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December - Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January

### Spring Term 2025

Inset day: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January

Term Starts: Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January

Holiday: Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February - Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February

Term Ends: Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April

Holiday: Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April - Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April

### Summer Term 2025

Term Starts: Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April

May Day: Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May

Holiday: Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May - Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May

Inset Day: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June

Term Ends: Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July

Inset Day: Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July