GREAT BALLARD

Welcome Pack: Year 1 & 2 "Discoverers"













Staff Lists	3
Communications	4
Setting up My School Portal	5
Parents' Evenings	6
Class Dojo	7-8
Social media	9
Daily timetable	10
Absence and Off Games	11
Individual Lessons	12
Meals, Snacks & Medication	13
Calendar, Sport & Equipment	14
Uniform	15
Bus routes	16
What to do if	17
Great Partnerships	18
Regular Events	19

Staff List

Our senior team are shown below and a full staff list is available on our website by scanning the link at the bottom of this page. Staff lists and contacts can also be accessed via My School Portal. For general queries and issues, your child's form teacher/ tutor should be your first port of call, but for subject-specific enquiries please do contact your child's subject teacher.

Senior Leadership Team



Matt King Head



Alice Hardwick Senior Deputy



Dan JosephPastoral Deputy & DSL



Yvonne Barr Acting Head of Pre-Prep



Tom Anderson Head of Prep & Head of Adventure



Hannah WardBusiness Manager



Katie Morgan Head of Pre-Prep (Maternity Leave)

Key staff



Kate Bresser
Year 1 Form Teacher



Claire du Plessis Year 1 Teaching Assistant



Steffi Wright Year 2 Form Teacher



Kirsty Noble Teaching Assistant, QTS

All staff pictures and contacts can be accessed on the website by clicking this link or scanning the QR code here:



The Great Ballard Way...

Communication

The first rule of communication at Great Ballard is that face to face comes first. We believe that the conversations we have about your children and their education are important and always best expressed in person.

Your first line of contact should always be your child's main teacher or tutor, but it is possible to contact individual teachers (email addresses can be found on My School Portal). For more serious issues, do contact Acting Head of Pre-Prep, Yvonne Barr: y.barr@greatballard.co.uk

There is a place for email of course. It's great for sharing information with a group, for reminders and updates and for sharing news. But when there is something more personal to share or the clock ticks past 8pm, we always advise our team to wait until the following morning and to talk face to face at drop off, via Teams or on the phone. We would ask you to do the same. Instead of spending hours on a perfectly crafted letter, drop a brief email to the teacher you would like to meet, or ask the office to set up a meeting for you.

Our staff endeavour to:

- prioritise face to face contact and meet with you as soon as practicable
- respond to all emails within 24 hours

Our staff won't be immediately available:

- after 5:30pm
- over the weekends
- during the school holidays

If it is urgent, please contact the office (the administrative team is here all year round) and we will ensure your query is dealt with. Senior staff will always be available to deal with important matters and emergencies.

How we communicate

- Weekly bulletins sent out every Friday during term time via Mailchimp to all parents which include news, updates and important reminders for the weeks ahead
- Emails for class/group specific information regarding trips, vaccinations, sporting events etc. You can also access these messages via My School Portal
- My School Portal for school reports, school calendar, clubs, sports fixtures, absence reporting
- Social Media Platforms (Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn) exciting content that all families
 are welcome to follow and engage with as much as you feel able to for a behind the
 scenes look at what is going on in school
- Dojo (Years 1-6)
- Tapestry (Nursery & Reception)
- Form tutor emails regular updates and reminders





Setting up My School Portal

My School Portal is the school's parent engagement platform. In here you can find details of your child's attendance, timetable, activities, results, reports and absences.

You will need to request an account at:

great-ballard-school.myschoolportal.co.uk/request-password

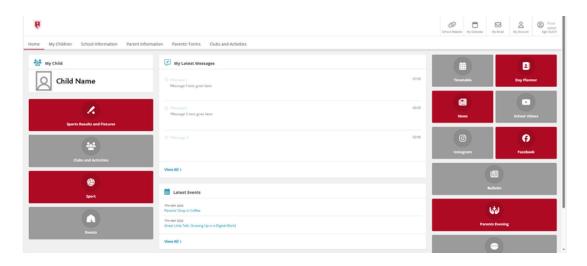
Enter your email address, complete the Captcha and click "Request Password"

This will send you an email with a link in. Click the link to create an account/set a password.

Once you have created an account, using your email address as the username and the password you have set, you can login at:

great-ballard-school.myschoolportal.co.uk

When you login, you will see the dashboard:



Here you can find widgets with the latest news and updates, and links to the most useful sections.

We believe in the value of face-to-face and regular communication when it comes to tracking your child's academic progress.

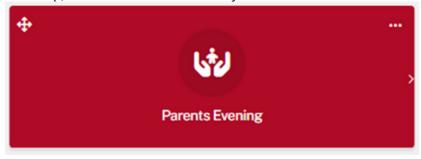
Across the course of the year, we hope you will take advantage of the opportunities to attend our Great Little Talks series, which give an insight into our curriculum and pastoral programmes. Parents are also invited to informal Meet the Tutor events; project presentations; concerts, performances and information evenings, all of which will give you an overview of your child's learning.

In addition, there will be at least one parents' evening every academic year. There may be additional parents' evenings during exam and transition years. Parents will also receive half-termly snapshot reports, which consist of an academic grade for each subject as well as our Ready, Safe, Respectful grades, which inform you about your child's attitude to learning. At the end of the academic year, parents receive a full written report.



Parents' Evenings

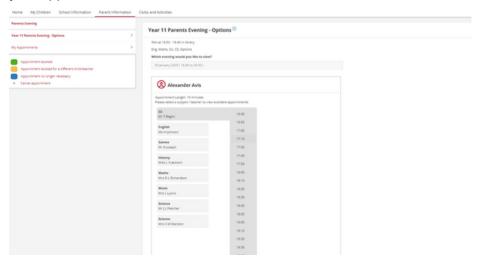
Parents' evenings are booked via My School Portal. The parents evening section is in the "Parent Information" section along the tabs on the top; there is also a link to it on your dashboard.



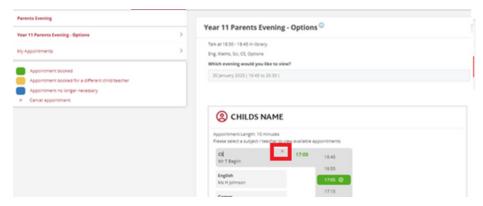
You will only see parents evenings that apply to your child/children, Click on "View" next to the parents evening you would like to make an appointment for.



You will only see the subjects that apply to your child/children, Click the subject you would like to make an appointment for, you will then see the list of available times, click on the time you would like to book the appointment, that's your appointment booked!



To cancel an appointment, just click on the small red cross on the subject you are booked in for and click "confirm cancellation" on the pop up message.



To see a list of booked appointments, click on the "My Appointments" link on the left side of the page

Class Dojo

Class Dojo is an effective communication and reward system which allows parents, teachers and students to connect by sharing photos, videos and messages. At Great Ballard, we use Class Dojo for students in years 1-6.

The Class Dojo app which can be downloaded for free on any smart iOS or Android device through the app store. For specific trouble-shooting, the Class Dojo Helpdesk has a wealth of tutorials and videos. For more specific support, please contact your tutor.

We hope you find Class Dojo a convenient and exciting way of keeping in touch with your child's learning.

Signing up:

Once your child has started at Great Ballard, you should receive either a text or email asking you to sign up to Class Dojo. If you have not yet received this, please email your tutor. Click on the link within this text/email to take you to classdojo.com. A box will appear asking you to confirm you are the parent(s) of that child. Press 'OK' and this will take you to the home page.

There is a menu across the bottom of the app, where you can explore the following menu tabs:

Class Stories

Class stories are where tutors, teachers and school leaders communicate whole-class or whole-school messages. You can respond to these posts by 'liking' and 'commenting' on them, just like Facebook!

Child's Portfolio

One of the features of Class Dojo is that children can be awarded Dojo Points for demonstrating desirable behaviours. On your child's individual portfolio you can view how many Dojo points they have received in school and what they were awarded for e.g. good listening, helping others etc. You can also upload homework photos or videos to your child's portfolio, which can be viewed by the teacher. Children can also personalise their monster avatar here.

Messages

Parents can directly message teachers through Class Dojo. We ask that all parents adhere to the "Dos and Don'ts" set out on the following page.



Do...

- Do message your child's teacher if you want to share something positive from home or congratulate your child on something they have done in school.
- Do message your teacher if you are struggling to access the home learning resources.

Don't..

- Please do not message your child's teacher to notify them of collection arrangements, absences or illnesses - this should be done via the school office or MSP as normal.
- Please do not use Class Dojo for urgent messages; please call the school office.



- Please do not message your child's teacher if you have a concern or complaint. Please ring/e-mail the school office and a call back will be arranged.
- Please do not message through Class Dojo for sensitive or behavioural issues. Please ring the school office and a call back from the class teacher will be arranged.

Social Media

As a school we embrace social media as a great way of celebrating our community and their achievements and giving parents an insight into what goes on during the school day and bringing them closer to their children's education. However, we are also very aware of the pitfalls and of the different attitudes of individual families. We educate our students about the negative aspects of social media and aim to ensure that our own use of these platforms is respectful and positive, knowing that nothing affects children more than the example the adults in their lives set.

We do recognise that even the most seemingly harmless tools such as WhatsApp can have a negative impact on parents, teachers and, above all, children.

"face to face is always better than email or social media"

There is a lot of advice out there on using WhatsApp to communicate as a parent group. Below, we have gathered some advice from various sources. It is not a policy or an edict, but we are grateful for your consideration and care:

- The group should not be used as a platform to air views/or grievances
- The group should aim never to discuss other pupils, parents or teachers
- The group is not a political platform for airing opinions on current affairs
- The group should mostly function to allow key information sharing, organisational reminders and general support
- Focus on: events, facts, school activities, logistics, lost property, community, kindness
- Avoid: gossip, personal issues, grievances, opinions, discussions, individual people, heightened emotions



Daily Timetable

Your child's specific timetable and an outline of the homework expectations will be issued at the start of term, but the following table outlines the timings of the school day:

Period	Time	Details
Registration	8:15am	Nursery to Year 2 drop-off
	8:25am	Registration (after 8:25am pupils will be marked as late)
Session 1	8:30am- 9:00am	Form time (including assemblies and hymn practice)
Session 2	9:00am- 10:00am	Literacy/ Maths lessons
Break	10:05am- 10:45am	Fruit snack to be provided at first break
Session 3	10:50am- 11:50am	Literacy/ Maths lessons
Lunch	12:00pm- 1:10pm	Lunch and break time
Registration	1:10pm- 1:15pm	Registration and reading
Session 4	1:15pm- 3:15pm	Topic Lessons/ PE/ Music
	3:15pm- 3:30pm	Story Time and snack
End of the day	3:30pm	Home time for Nursery- Year 2
Club Session	3:35pm- 4:15pm	After-school clubs
After-school care	3:30pm- 5:30pm	After-school care available if required

Early start

We offer morning supervision from 7:45am, when pupils from Reception upwards can join Mr. King for his early morning dog walk. There is no need to book in advance, however, do arrive promptly for 7.45am and sign in with Emily on reception.

After-school Care

We offer a range of after-school enrichment activities each day. The clubs lists will be published during the holidays preceding each new term and parents will be able to sign their children up for these via My School Portal.

Clubs will run from the first week of every term.

For Pre-Prep, clubs run from 3:35pm-4:15pm, and for Prep and Senior, clubs run from 4:35pm-5:30pm.

Please note that there are no clubs on the last week of the Autumn and Summer Terms and the first Wednesday after each half term break, due to staff training.



Absences

Our Attendance Policy, which can be viewed on the school website, reflects the regulations stipulated by the Department for Education and, while we will always do our utmost to support your child, we are unable to authorise absences for holidays during term time.

All absences must be reported to the school office via My School Portal. There are two forms available:

- an absence form for on the day notifications due to your child being unwell, these should be submitted by 8.30am.
- a leave request form, whereby you can submit a request in advance to take your child out of school for medical appointments, weddings and other exceptional circumstances. Wherever possible, we encourage appointments to be made outside of school hours to avoid pupils missing curriculum time.

Absence reporting: a guide to My School Portal

You will find the forms by:

- Clicking the "Parents' Forms" option from the menu along the top, then selecting either "Absence Form" (last minute absence i.e. sickness) or "Leave Request Form" on the left-hand side.
- If you have multiple children at the school, select the child you are reporting/requesting the absence for, choose the reason from the dropdown box (only if you are requesting leave), set the date/s, add comments and an attachment if required by the schools' policy.
- Click "Submit" to send the request.

At the bottom of the page is a log of previous absences and leave requests; this is also where you will find if the leave request has been approved or declined.

We have a more in-depth guide that our network team has put together here for parents to follow.

Off Games

If your child is well enough to come in to school, but not well enough or injured and therefore unable to take part in Games, please email the office and "Cc" both the form tutor and the Sports Department (sports@greatballard.co.uk). In these circumstances, it is likely that the Sports Department will find an alternative, related activity for your child to participate in.



Individual Lessons

Music

Music is a thriving area within the school, with individual instrument lessons taught by peripatetic staff during normal class time. Subject teachers may request that pupils complete work to catch up on any lessons missed. Please contact Mrs. Lyons (l.lyons@greatballard.co.uk) if you are interested in the possibility of your child learning a musical instrument.

LAMDA

If your child is keen to develop their performance skills, our Head of Drama, Mrs. Mustafa, oversees lessons in Verse Speaking & Prose, Acting and Public Speaking. These lessons will take place during the school day, and are either individual or in groups. Please contact k.mustafa@greatballard.co.uk if you would like further information about LAMDA tuition.

Specialist Sessions

SEN

We benefit from the expertise of three specialist individual needs teachers in school: Mrs Brooks, Miss Mathew and Mrs Brittain, who deliver 1-1 lessons to children from Year 1 to Year 11, supporting students who may be performing below their year group expectations, or lacking confidence in the subject and would benefit from the 1-1 focussed time.

If you feel your child needs additional support then please contact our school SENCO Mrs Brooks (s.brooks@greatballard.co.uk) who would be happy to discuss this further.

EAL

At GB we value and celebrate all languages and cultures. Our full time EAL coordinator ensures the successful integration and education of students using English as an additional language. Please contact Mrs Willis (m.willis@greatballard.co.uk) for further information and to discuss additional support.

Mental Wellbeing

We have a full-time Mental Health Lead within school, as well as visiting qualified counsellors and play therapists, who provide young people with opportunities to discuss and address concerns and worries or other complex mental health difficulties. We are able to arrange group and/or individual sessions for pupils. This would always be part of a consultation with parents. If you would like to discuss these sessions, please contact our Mental Health Lead, Mrs Willis (m.willis@greatballard.co.uk).



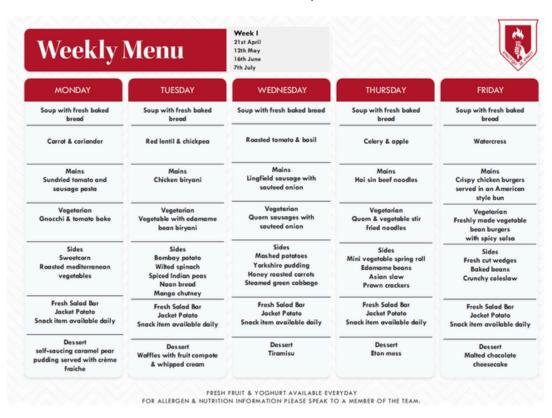
Snacks and Meals

Snacks and fruit are available at morning break and afternoon snack. We are a nut-free school and, in order to ensure everyone's safety, we respectfully ask that you do not send your children into school with any snacks - fruit will always be available for them.

We do, however, allow pupils to bring in birthday cakes to share with their friends on their birthdays, should they wish. These should be shop-bought and in packaging which clearly shows that there are no nuts ("may contain traces of nuts" products will not be accepted). Sainsbury's and Morrison's offer a good range of suitable products.

Home-cooked lunches are prepared on site by our lovely Catering Manager, Lynne, and her team. There are various options available to choose from each day and we are able to cater for any dietary requirements. If your child has specific dietary requirements or their diet changes once they have joined us, please put this in writing to office@greatballard.co.uk and we will then send you a form to complete.

Our lunch menu changes each term, and we operate on a 3-weekly cycle. The menus are available on the website before the start of each term, with an example from Summer Term 2025 shown here.



Medication

If your child is required to take any medication during the school day, you will need to complete a medication form with Lindsay, our school nurse, and provide her with the medication. The medication should be clearly labelled with the child's name and any prescribed medication will need to be in the original packaging with the pharmacy label attached, with the child's name and dosage clearly stated. It will then be stored in a secure location on-site until it is no longer required. Please note that EpiPens will be kept with the child at all times. Inhalers should be handed in to form teachers. We have spares of both EpiPens and inhalers in school for emergency use. It is the responsibility of parents to provide new medication and to dispose of and replace any out-of-date medication.



Calendar

We produce an electronic calendar which is available to all parents via My School Portal. This will outline key dates for each term, trips, open mornings, parents' evenings, school concerts, and special events in which your child may be taking part.

Key upcoming dates are listed each week in the Friday Bulletin.

The dates for the next academic year are as follows:

Autumn Term 2025

Term Starts - Monday 8th September Half Term - 20th October - 31st October Term Ends - Friday 12th December

Spring Term 2026

Term starts - Wednesday 7th January Half Term - 16th- 20th February Term Ends - Friday 27th March

Summer Term 2026

Term starts - Tuesday 21st April Half Term - 25th - 29th May Term Ends - Friday 10th July

Sports

In Dicoverers the focus is on children's fine and gross motor skills using a range of activities designed to support their coordination, skills in using tools and confidence in moving in a variety of ways. The children will learn to understand the importance of being healthy, safe and understanding their own bodies' physical needs. In addition to PE lessons with specialist staff, children in Explorers will also benefit from swimming lessons in the Great Ballard pool with Puddleducks.

Uniform

Main uniform items such as blazers, pinafores, ties, jumpers, cardigans and kilts can be purchased online through Monkhouse, and the PE kits can be purchased online through Surridge Sport. Other items like trousers, school shoes, bags etc. are purchasable from generic uniform shops. Aprons are provided by the school for Art and cookery lessons. Blue aprons (which all children wear for lunch), waterproof dungarees and school swimming hats can be purchased from the school.

Up until the Autumn Half Term break, either the summer uniform or winter uniform may be worn as the weather can be so variable. After half term all children must wear the winter uniform. Pupils need to have wellies, the school coat and waterproof overalls in school every day.

All uniform must be clearly named either with name tags or permanent marker. The school cannot be held responsible for lost items, although we will always endeavour to return named clothing to pupils. The complete uniform list and guidance can be found on our website on the Information & Policies page.

Equipment

All pupils should bring to school a named book-bag (from Monkhouse) and a named, reusable water bottle. All stationery will be provided by the school.

Years 1 & 2

Compulsory all year

- Great Ballard Blazer*
- Great Ballard school coat (maroon)*
- Great Ballard waterproof dungarees purchased via school
- School shoes black, no boots or trainers
- Wellington boots any style/ colour
- Apron blue painting smock, purchased via school
- Water bottle

PE Kit (*supplied by Surridge Sport)

- Great Ballard drawstring bag*
- Great Ballard fuse performance 1/4 zip top**
- Great Ballard tracksuit bottoms**
- Great Ballard PE dual games shirt**
- Great Ballard PE shorts/ skort**
- Great Ballard maroon sun cap*
- Plain white sports socks
- Trainers any colour, must be sport appropriate
- Swimsuit/ trunks (plain black, lycra only)
- Swim towel
- · Pool shoes Crocs or sliders, no flip flops
- Goggles
- Great Ballard Swim hat maroon, purchased via school

Optional extras

- Great Ballard dual navy leggings**
- Plain navy baselayer (generic, no branding)

All Nursery and Pre-Prep bespoke uniform is supplied by Monkhouse and Surridge Sport and can be ordered via their websites:





*Monkhouse

**Surridge Sport

We hold sample sizes and some stock in school, as well as second-hand items. Please book an appointment to try on sizes via the school office: office@gretaballard.co.uk

Additional compulsory items

Trouser Uniform

Autumn & Spring Terms

- Long sleeved white shirt
- Great Ballard tie* (standard, not clip-on)
- Trousers (school grey, full length, tailoredno leggings, skinny fit, jeans or chinos)
- Great Ballard grey jumper*
- Grey socks

Summer Term

- Short sleeved white shirt
- Great Ballard tie* (standard, not clip-on)
- Great Ballard grey jumper*
- Shorts (school grey- no jeans or chinos)
- Grey socks
- Great Ballard maroon sun cap*

Pinafore Uniform

Autumn & Spring Terms

- Long sleeved white shirt
- Great Ballard tie* (standard, not clip-on)
- Great Ballard tartan pinafore*
- Great Ballard cardigan*
- Grey knee-length socks or tights

Summer Term

- Great Ballard summer dress*
- Great Ballard cardigan*
- White socks
- Great Ballard maroon sun cap*

We ask that pupils arrive and leave school wearing their blazers.

The uniform list can be found on our website within the FAQs at the bottom of the page: https://www.greatballard.co.uk/pre-prep



We operate five bus routes, with each service running nine trips per week, mornings and afternoons, excluding Wednesday afternoons*. The bus is scheduled to arrive at school in the mornings between 8:00am and 8:15am, and leaves school in the afternoons at 5:40pm after clubs and prep have ended.

The routes we operate are:

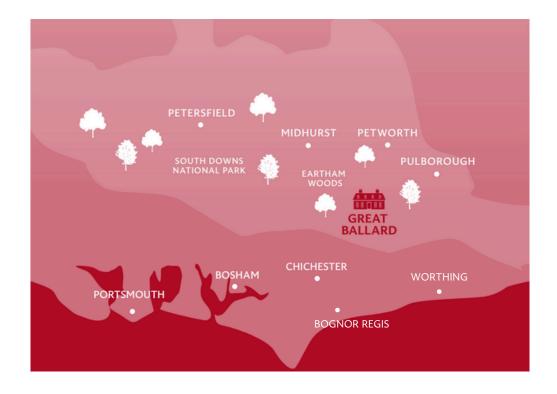
- Worthing & Arundel Route (includes Patching, Worthing, Goring-by-Sea, Rustington, Arundel)
- Petworth Route (includes Loxwood (pm), Northchapel, Petworth, Westhampnett & Tangmere)
- Bognor Regis Route (includes Bognor Regis, Felpham, Yapton & Tangmere)
- Witterings Route (includes Birdham, Sidlesham & Bracklesham)
- Chichester Route (includes Emsworth, Chichester & Lavant)

The pricing structure for our bus service is detailed in the table below. Please note that due to high levels of demand for the morning routes, if you are signing up for the morning bus service we ask that you commit to all 5 mornings, Monday to Friday. Billing for the minibus service will occur in advance of each term.

*Please be aware that we are unable to offer a return trip on Wednesdays after school as the minibuses are in use for sports fixtures. You will need to make alternative arrangements for Wednesday afternoon pick-ups.

If you wish to use the minibus service for the 2025-2026 academic year, please contact Hannah Ward: h.ward@greatballard.co.uk

Number of trips p/week:	Cost p/term:
1-5	£200
6-9	£400





What to do if...

Your child's medical records ever need updating:

To ensure we always have the most up to date medical information, please contact the school nurse at l.young@greatballard.co.uk or office@greatballard.co.uk and "cc" your child's tutor. This allows us to keep the medical records current.

Your child has any worries/concerns:

Please contact your child's form tutor as a first port of call. If they are unable to resolve these concerns, they may then refer you to the Acting Head of Pre-Prep, Ms Barr.

You feel your child requires additional learning support:

Please contact our SENCo Mrs. Brooks at s.brooks@greatballard.co.uk, who would be happy to observe your child and assess their needs.

You have difficulty accessing My School Portal for Parents' evenings, bookings or reports: Please contact Ben Grinham, who is our IT Network Manager - b.grinham@greatballard.co.uk

You are running late and your child/ children will arrive after morning registration has closed (at 8:20am):

Please contact office@greatballard.co.uk or call 01243 814236 to let us know. Once you arrive, you must drop your child/ children off at the main front doors and we will ensure that they are signed in before attending their lessons.

Your child has misplaced part of their uniform:

Please email your child's form tutor first, as they will be able to provide initial support. If the item still cannot be located, please speak to Emily on Reception as we do have a small "lost property" cupboard.

Your plans change last minute and your child/children will need to stay at school past 3:30pm: Please contact office@greatballard.co.uk or call 01243 814236, and a member of the team will be able to assist with the planning of after-school care.



Great Partnerships

How to get involved...

An introduction to FoGB

A warm welcome from the Friends of Great Ballard (FoGB for short), a group of parents, carers, friends and staff committed to encouraging a strong sense of community within our school. We arrange and help at events that bring the whole school together, such as the Christmas Market and the Summer Fair, with extra events throughout the academic year for both children and adults to enjoy. Importantly, these events give us the opportunity to raise funds to support activities and resources within the school.

We believe that every parent has something they can contribute to our school, whether that be skills, time, ideas or donations. Doing so doesn't have to be onerous, but a willingness to help our school thrive is important, especially during this period of exciting growth and change. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to hear about what's happening and please do respond to our requests for support as the whole school will really benefit from your involvement. We look forward to meeting you and finding out how you might be able to help.

Hilary Graham Chair of FoGB



Facebook: facebook.com/friendsofgreatballard Instagram: @friendsofgreatballard Email: team@fogb.co.uk

Sharing your experience...

It's one of our ambitions at Great Ballard to align what we teach with what goes on in the real world. From our youngest Explorers and Discoverers to our Prep School environmentalists and engineers, right up to our Senior School entrepreneurs and leaders, our pupils are always looking forward and seeking relevant inspiration.

We are always grateful for the wealth of experience and expertise in our parent body. While our staff are experts on education and life within school, new perspectives and real-world talents can really support what we are doing and teaching here at Great Ballard. We would welcome support from any parents who are willing to contribute to the curriculum, from delivering short talks on enterprise or business to offering work experience, careers advice, interview practice or staff

training. Whether you are more comfortable teaching cookery to five year olds or technology to teens we would love to have you on board.









Events

Parents may attend the following events throughout the year. Please note that this list is not exhaustive:

Weekly

- Wednesday Cafe drop-in coffee mornings for parents
- Weekly sports fixtures –
 spectators are always welcome,
 as are dogs, providing they are
 kept on a lead and any mess is
 picked up!

Seasonal Highlights

- Harvest Festival Service
- Fireworks Night
- Christmas Carol Service at Arundel Cathedral
- Festive Singing around the Christmas Tree
- Pre-Prep Nativity
- Christmas Fair
- Easter Service at Boxgrove Priory
- FoGB Summer Fair
- Pre-Prep Swimming Gala
- Summer Concert

The school calendar can be accessed through MSP and found here:





Sports fixture information will be emailed before matches but can also be found here:

Half Termly/ Termly

- Groundforce days we welcome any volunteers who are willing to come and help us to shape and improve our outdoor spaces
- Informal music concerts
- Parents' Evenings
- Park Runs
- Great Little Talks e.g. Phonics and Early Reading
- Service & Leadership Dinners aimed at students in Prep and Senior schools but also open to parents

Annually

- New Parents' and Pupils' Afternoon
 Tea Friday 5th Sept, 3:45pm
- Meet the Form Tutor Weds 10th Sept, 4pm
- Teddy Bears' Picnic a social event for Pre-Prep families - Friday 12th
 Sept
- Deputy Heads' Evening a carousel of talks and a chance to meet key staff (Friday 12th Sept, 6pm)
- Mothers' and Others' Day
- Fathers' and Others' Day
- Sports Day (Summer Term)
- Remembrance Service (November)
- Prizegiving (Summer Term)

