



Gretton Primary School

SEND and Wellbeing
Newsletter Summer 2 2026

I hope you and your families are well and looking forward to the summer break. This edition of the SEND and Wellbeing newsletter focuses on supporting reading and wellbeing over the summer.

As we reach the end of another school year, it is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate how far all of the children have come. For some children, aspects of school life can be particularly challenging, but I am incredibly proud of each and every one of them for their resilience, determination and achievements throughout the year.

I would also like to wish our Year 6 pupils every success as they move on to secondary school. We are all so incredibly proud of all they have achieved and know they will embrace the opportunities ahead.

Finally, I would like to thank our incredible staff team for their dedication, care and commitment to supporting every child to thrive. The children at Gretton are very lucky to have such a wonderful team supporting them!

Wishing you all a happy, healthy and restful summer!

Mrs Dodd

National updates



A few parents have recently asked me about the government's SEND reforms, including the SEND White Paper and the School Inclusion Fund, so I wanted to provide a brief update and offer some reassurance.

The SEND White Paper outlines proposals and recommendations for the future and does not introduce immediate changes to the support currently in place for children with SEND. As more information becomes available, schools will continue to review any developments and consider how they may affect future provision.

We will share further details with families next term once there is greater clarity about what any changes may mean in practice.

At Gretton, our commitment remains unchanged. We will continue to do all we can to support every child, ensuring they feel valued, included and able to achieve their full potential.



Supporting reading over the Summer

The summer holidays are a wonderful opportunity for children to enjoy reading and maintain the skills they have worked so hard to develop during the school year. Regular reading helps prevent the 'summer slide' builds vocabulary, improves fluency and comprehension and supports children to return to school feeling confident and ready to learn.

As a staff team, we are keen readers ourselves and even have a book swap shelf in the staff room, where staff regularly share and recommend books!

There are many simple ways you can support reading at home. You may find it helpful to visit the [class pages](#) on our school website, where you will find a range of recommended books and reading suggestions tailored to each year group.

Taking part in the [Library Summer Reading Challenge](#) is a fantastic way to motivate children to read regularly, discover new authors and celebrate their achievements. The local libraries have lots of fun events planned too!

Try "My Page, Your Page" reading, where an adult reads one page and the child reads the next. This provides support while building confidence. Another effective strategy is modelling reading: read a few sentences aloud with expression and then ask your child to read the same sentences. Hearing fluent reading helps children develop pace, accuracy and expression.

Other ideas include reading together for 10 minutes each day, listening to audiobooks and letting children choose books that match their interests. Most importantly, keep reading enjoyable and celebrate every success.

Summer holiday activities



The summer holidays can be a welcome break from school routines, but they can also leave parents looking for new ways to keep children entertained. For many families, the summer holidays are a balancing act. Therefore, I thought that it would be useful to share a few ideas you may like to try.

1. Get Outdoors

We are fortunate to live in a beautiful part of the world. Whether you visit a local park, head out on a nature walk or on a bike ride, time outdoors provides opportunities to stay active and helps everybody feel good!

2. Make Reading Fun

Encouraging children to read over the holidays doesn't have to feel like homework. Sharing books, starting a mini book club with friends or giving the library challenge a go can help keep reading enjoyable and maintain key literacy skills over the break. There's lots of ideas above to try too!

3. Try Creative and Hands-On Activities

Arts, crafts, simple science experiments and DIY projects are great ways to encourage problem-solving and creativity. Activities such as growing plants, building bird feeders or creating artwork can keep children engaged without requiring too much planning or expense.

4. Cook and Create Together

Following recipes, measuring ingredients and trying new foods can help build confidence. It's always lovely to have a yummy treat to enjoy at the end of it too!

5. Balance Activities with Downtime

With work, childcare and family commitments to juggle, it's easy to feel pressure to fill every day with activities. In reality we know that the children need some downtime too. Leaving space for relaxation and unstructured play is essential too!

Making Summer Work for Your Family

There is no perfect formula for the summer holidays, particularly for working parents trying to manage competing demands. A mix of simple activities, family time and opportunities to explore new interests can help keep children engaged while still allowing everyone to enjoy a well-earned break. The most important thing is finding a balance that works for your family!

Summer Support for Families with SEND

Gloucestershire Parent Carer Forum (GPCF) has highlighted a range of inclusive activities and support available for families with SEND over the summer. Opportunities include relaxed Stay and Play sessions, family fun days, peer support groups and access to the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme. Families can also find information about discount and access cards that may help reduce costs and make days out more accessible during the holiday period. Read the full articles [here](#)



Useful links

Please see below for agencies and details of further support available to families.

- [Gretton SEND Information report](#) – outlines how we support children with SEND at Gretton
- [SENDiass](#) provide information, advice and support on matters relating to children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. The service is offered to parents and carers of children and young people aged between 0 and 25 years old.
- [Early Help](#) – provide further details about support for families including parenting courses
- [Gloucestershire families directory](#) - The Service offers a wide range of information to support families, children and young people from 0 – 19 years of age (25 for young people with additional needs) They can also provide information on family support, tax credits, benefits, funding and much, much more.
- [Gloucestershire County Council SEND](#) – details about EHCPs, webinars and alternate provision