THE BUCKINGHAM SCHOOL

An Ofsted Graded Good School

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Interim Executive Headteacher: Mr A McGinnes
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9th October 2026

Dear Parent / Carer,

Gawcott Solar Farm, Gawcott
3rd, 4th and 5th November

We are pleased to announce an upcoming educational visit to Gawcott Solar Farm. This field experience is free of charge and will give students an opportunity to see renewable energy technology in action and deepen their understanding of how solar power is produced and integrated into our energy systems.

The trip is being supported by Earth Energy Education, a group who are passionate about nature and work with renewable energy sites committed to a strong biodiversity focus.

To ensure students get the most out of the visit, we will complete an hour-long hands-on Renewable Energy session during the week starting 9th November. Students will be off timetable for this hour session and will remain in school. This lesson will cover:

- **Introduction to Solar Energy**
  Students will explore how sunlight is converted into electricity, the basic components of a solar panel, and why renewable energy matters for our environment.
- **How a Solar Farm Works**
  We will discuss the layout and function of a large-scale solar farm, including photovoltaic arrays, inverters, and monitoring systems.
- **Energy Consumption and Sustainability**
  Students will examine everyday energy use and consider how renewable technologies can support more sustainable communities.
- **Safety and Expectations for the Visit**
  Students will review site rules, appropriate behaviour, and the importance of respecting equipment and staff during the tour.

These lessons will ensure students arrive at the solar farm with a strong foundation, ready to engage, ask questions, and make meaningful connections to what they've learned in class.

Trip Details
As the Farm can only take limited numbers at one time, your child will visit on one of three dates, these being 3rd, 5th or 5th November.

- **Date & Time:** 2-hour session, 3rd – 5th November
  - Tuesday 3rd November – 8 Chandos & 8 Swan
  - Wednesday 4th November – 8 Silverstone & 8 Whittlebury
  - Thursday 5th November – 8 Claydon & 8 Stowe
- **Location:** Gawcott Solar Farm
- **Transportation:** minibus provided by Gawcott Solar Farm

The Buckingham School is committed to ensure that every student should have the opportunity to attend school activities/obtain equipment, regardless of their financial circumstances. As such, it may be possible to subsidise those students who would otherwise be unable to attend trips/purchase items. Please feel free to write in confidence to finance@buckinghamschool.org, if you wish to seek assistance, or obtain more information about Pupil Premium funding.

- **What to Bring:** Comfortable walking shoes or wellies (closed toe shoes as a minimum), long trousers, weather-appropriate clothing, water bottle, suncream, rucksack. Sandals are not permitted on site.
- **School day:** Students will be in normal lessons for some of the day, so need normal equipment and lunch as usual.

You will be sent a Trip / Medical Consent Form via email from Buckinghamshire Council (please check your spam folder in case it is delivered there) prior to the trip date; please ensure this is completed and submitted by Sunday 1st November 2026. Your child will not be able to take part in this trip if we have not received this consent form.

Please ensure you read the Parental Agreement that has been along with this letter. You will be asked to agree to this in the Trip / Medical Consent Form.

Should you have any questions regarding this trip, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs L Palmer
Assistant Curriculum Leader, Science
lpalmer@buckinghamschool.org

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