Our School Newsletter 12th January 2024

Our School Vision -

"In all things, treat others as you would like to be treated."

Matthew (7:12)

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to another new term - I hope everyone had a lovely Christmas and wish you all a very Happy New Year. The children have returned to school full of stories of wonderful Christmases and already seem really engaged in this term's topics, which is lovely to see.

For Agents of Change this half term, class projects will be -

Ducklings and Sparrows - Finding the answers to your questions (about dinosaurs in Ducklings and wild animals in Sparrows)

Robins - invent something to solve a problem

Woodpeckers - take part in a debate (about Anne Boleyn and the Reformation)

These are the projects children will complete in class but please keep the home projects coming, we love to see what the children have been up to!

Best wishes, Mrs Overton

RAAC Remedial Work

As you may remember on the news in September, a number of schools, including ours, have a particular type of aerated concrete called RAAC in their roofs. We have been much luckier than some schools as we have a steel system called Metsec supporting our roof so we have not have to close as other schools have. We have had a number of surveys to ensure that the school is safe for children, staff and visitors. One survey found that, in parts of the school, there is a small gap between the Metsec system and the wall and so we currently have builders in each evening after school and over the weekend to remedy this. This is not affecting the children during the day and there are no immediate safety concerns, it is purely to ensure that the METSEC system provides a long term solution to the problem. Please do get in touch if you have any concerns.

GREAT TEY Church of England PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Attendance News

Current School Attendance for this year - 93.67%
Target for the end of the year - 96%

Y6 - 96% Y5 - 93% Y4 - 93% Y3 - 93% Y2 - 96% Y1 - 85% Rec - 98%

Despite all the bugs going around, loads of children got their 100% attendance reward today for last week, which is great. Please remember that we can give medications in school if needed - this includes Calpol / Nurofen as well as antibiotics. Please complete a form in the office if needed, thank you.

Well Done Sparrows!

Sparrows won the Class Attendance award this week with 95% attendance, so they have a £10 Argos voucher to spend on a new toy for the class.

Ducklings Class

This term, Ducklings are learning about Dangerous Dinosaurs!

Molly said " We have been learning about dinosaurs. We've been drawing them and I drew the one with horns."

Wilf said " We've been learning about being extinct. That means they are not alive anymore."

Mabel said " I like playing dinosaurs."

Bridget said "Me, Wilf, JJ and Freddie have been playing armies outside and we like it."

Ducklings are looking forward to their trip to the zoo but they don't think they'll see any dinosaurs there!

Sparrows Class

Sparrows' topic this term is Paws, Claws and Whiskers.

Annaliese said " We thought of questions to ask Mr Longman. He brought a snake and a tortoise to show us. He has 6 snakes! We found out that snakes used to have legs a long time ago."

Phoebe said " We all stroked the snake but it wasn't slimy. It was quite sticky and squidgy."

Monty said " One of the snakes was called Monty!"

Julian said " We have been learning how to make the Beebot move around all the houses and shops."

Caden said " We gave it instructions called algorithms to make it move."

Robins Class

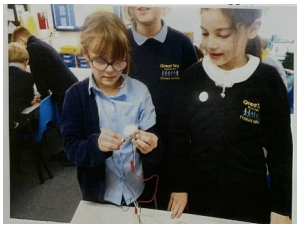
Robins Class are learning about Urban Pioneers this term. They have begun by finding out all about electricity.

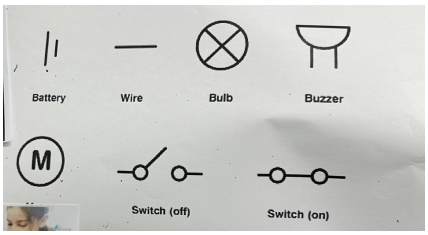
Nahdia said " We found out how circuits work. It was fun - we all made our bulbs light up!"

Sam said " We found out all about conductors. Things that are metal like steel are conductors and electricity can pass through them. Things that aren't made of metal, like plastic and wood, don't let the electricity pass through. Theya re called insulators."

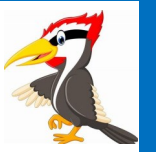
Rosalie said " We have been learning about graffiti and talking about whether it is art or vandalism. I think it is vandalism - they shouldn't just put their names on things, they should do something that looks fantastic."

Etholle said " When we were learning about graffiti we found out about a picture by Banksy. It has a lady, a bin and a pair of legs coming out of the bin. When the bin men take the bin away, it is just the lady and a pair of legs flying in the air!"





Woodpeckers Class

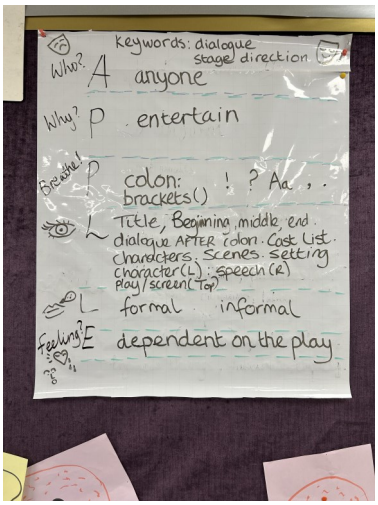


Woodpeckers are learning about The Tudors this term through their topic "Off With Her Head!".

Gracie D. said " Our topics this term are really fun - I am really excited about our trip to Layer Marney Tower because I love History!"

Charlotte said " I like the idea of dressing up - I'm excited to see everyone's costumes and to learn more about the Tudors because Matilda has told me a few bits. We've been learning about secondary and primary sources - secondary sources are written by people who weren't actually there at the time of the event, primary sources are by people who were actually there."

Meredith said " In English we've been learning about playscripts and stage directions. Today we have drawn our own stage and moved the actors around."



Alana said "In maths, we have been learning about fractions. Some bits were really hard but also lots of fun! Today we learned about improper fractions where the top number is bigger than the bottom number. At first, no-one understood it but then it was easy!

Diary Dates

Monday 15th January - closing date for Reception 2024 applications

Monday 15th January - all clubs start (if they haven't already!)

Thursday 18th January - please book your child a school meal if you possibly can as this affects our funding

Monday 22nd January - Reception and Y6 height and weight checks

Monday 29th FoGT Parent First Aid course after school - please see a member of FoGT for more information

Tuesday 30th January - Class photos

Wednesday 31st January - Woodpeckers trip To Layer Marney Towers

Friday 2nd February 11am - Candlemas Community Worship in Church - all welcome

Friday 16th February - Glow Disco after school

Monday 19th - Friday 23rd February - Half term

Monday 26th February - Non-Pupil Day for staff training

Thursday 7th March - World Book Day. We would like the children to dress up as a favourite book character, but this could be as simple as wearing PJs and coming as Sophie from the Tiger Who Came To Tea or Harry from Harry and the Bucketful of Dinosaurs.

Thurs 26th March - Ducklings and Sparrows Trip to the Zoo

Weds 27th March - Clubs finish

Thursday 28th March 11am - Easter Community Worship in the Church

Thursday 28th March 3.15 - FoGT Easter Egg Hunt

Friday 29th March - First day of Easter holidays

Monday 15th April - first day of Summer Term