Our School Newsletter September 2024

Our School Vision -

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

Matthew (7:12)

Dear Parents,

This term has got off to a fantastic start and we have been very pleased to welcome Jake and his family, and Florence and her family, to Y3 in Robins Class. We have also been delighted to welcome Annie, Arthur, Jack, Lucy, Maisie, Matilda, Oliver, Paisley, Rowan, Saint, William, Wren and Zachary and their families to Ducklings Class. All of our new children have settled in brilliantly and we hope they will enjoy their time here at Great Tey.

Over the holidays, our school website has had an upgrade and has hopefully become much more 'mobile-phone' friendly. There are lots of lovely new photos of the children that were taken by our photographer, Belinda Grant - please check the website out and let us know what you think. On the website, you will find lots of information about the Curriculum, parent leaflets, school menus, school policies and much more but if there is information you would like us to include, please let us know.

On Tuesday next week we are looking forward to an exciting Science Day organised and paid for by Friends of Great Tey. Each class will take part in a Potty Potions workshop, so I hope the children will have lots to tell you about when they get home. Many thanks to FoGT for organising this, and to everyone who has contributed to their fund-raising.

Best wishes, Mrs Overton

Attendance News

Please bear in mind that, in line with new Government guidance, schools are taking a harder line on unauthorised absence including term-time holidays, days off for birthdays or family days and so on. 10 sessions (5 days) of unauthorised absence within a ten-week period (which can span school terms or even years) leads to a fine of £80 per parent per child, rising to £160 if not paid in 21 days. Second offences within 3 years lead to a fine of £160 per parent per child and any third offence within that 3 years could lead to prosecution. Please be aware of this, as we would hate for it to cause bad feeling between home and school, thank you

GREAT TEY Church of England PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Ducklings Class

This term, Ducklings are learning about Creep, Crawl and Wriggle. They have been investigating minibeasts in the outside area using magnifying glasses and have had a go at drawing their own minibeasts. They have also been working hard at learning their phonics and making spider's webs!

Wren told me " We've been learning a for apple" and Annie said " We've been learning about t for teacup and p for pear." Zachary liked learning about s for snake and could do a good impersonation of a snake to go with it! Arthur remembered learning lots of letters and that, in the story they read, the funny dog was called Pat. Tilly said she has been enjoying dough disco, which helps the children build up the strength in their fingers they will need for letter formation. Saint said "I like playing outside with the wheelbarrows!"

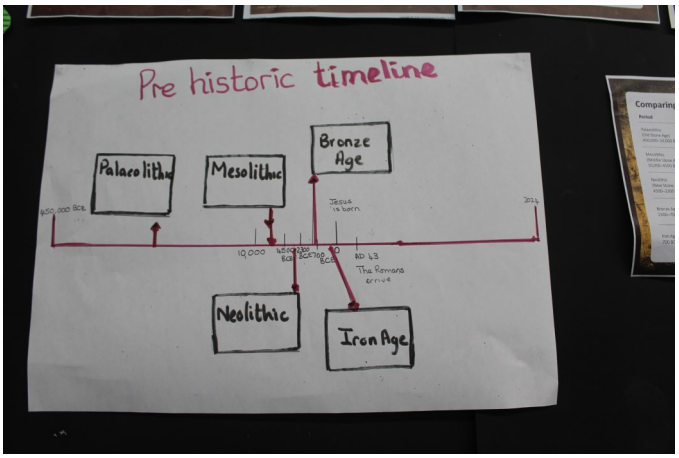
Sparrows Class

Sparrows class have had an exciting week as part of their Moon Zoom topic. On Monday they discovered an alien rocket had crashed on the school field! Later investigation showed that there was an alien hiding in the school who liked helping him/ herself to Cheerios and crumpets from Breakfast Club box. The children set up a bed for the alien and left out some favourite foods. They have also designed a new rocket to help get him back home as they are worried he might be lonely. Bridget told me that the alien is called Zig and Zennor knew he had eaten all the crumpets. Molly also knew he didn't like jam because he spat it out on the table. Stanley tells me they are building a new rocket and the paint is nearly dry so hopefully it will take off this weekend.

Robins Class

The topic in Robins Class this term is Tribal Tales and, as Phoebe told me, they are learning all about ancient times - Paleolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic as well as the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age (well done for remembering all those tricky words, Phoebe!) Oscar told me they had hillforts that were high up so they could throw rocks down on their enemies and Paige knew the hillforts were mostly near beaches. Reg told me Robins have been learning all about archaeology, which involves digging up fossils and pottery to tell us about the past.

Buddy came in through the school gate this morning creating flint pieces by banging two stones together and Annaliese and Eliza were doing the same at lunchtime. Annaliese said " Mrs Tucker showed us. You bang two flints to make a sharp bit. You can use it to make arrows to kill wild animals. It's a bit hard and sometimes you hit your hand!" Eliza told me that flints could also be used to make spears and to draw on cave walls.



Robins Class have also started reading their new class text - The Twits by Roald Dahl (thank you FoGT for buying a class set of books!)

Woodpeckers Class

Woodpeckers Class have begun this year with a mini-topic based on the book Aviary Wonders Inc. by Kate Samworth. They have been designing their own birds - Alana said "We're making our own birds, designing wings, bodies, heads, legs and beaks and then tracing them, cutting them out and eventually painting them." Meredith has based her model on a bower bird, which has a completely black face and a red stripe across its head. Lillie has used a tern's tail, a plover's body and the feet of a cormorant. Ellie told me they were making the whole bird and she's looking forward to seeing how hers turns out.

In Preparation for their next topic on Ancient Civilisations including the Egyptians and Greeks, Woodpeckers have started to read The Phoenix Code by Helen Moss (thanks again FoGT!)

Diary Dates for Autumn Term

September

Tuesday 24th - Whole School Science Day

October

Mon 7th – Fri 11th – donations for Colchester Food Bank welcome

Friday 11th October – Harvest Festival Worship in Church 11am

Wednesday 23rd / Thursday 24th – Y6 Bikeability

Monday 28th October – Friday 1st November– Half Term Week

November

Monday 4th November – Non-Pupil Day (Staff Training)

Tuesday 5th November – School Photographs

Wednesday 6th November – Parent Consultation Evening 3.30-5pm

Thursday 7th November – Parent Consultation Evening 3.30 – 7pm

Monday 11th November – Remembrance Service 10.45am in Church

Tuesday 12th November – Open Afternoon for prospective Reception parents

Thursday 14th November – Open Afternoon for prospective Reception parents

Mon 18th – Fri 22nd November – Book Fair Open

December

Thursday 5th December – FoGT Pantomime in School

Wednesday 11th December – Christmas Lunch / Christmas Jumper

Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th December – KS1 Nativity 2.30pm

Thursday 19th December – KS2 Carol Service in Church 6pm

Friday 20th December – Last Day of Term

Breakfast and After School Bear Club

We now have Breakfast Club every morning from 7.45 - 8.45 and After School Bear Club on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 3.15 - 5.30pm (Mondays could be arranged if needed, please let us know). Bookings can be made termly, and ad-hoc bookings can usually be accommodated. Tax-free childcare vouchers can be used in payment- please contact the office for more information.