Our School Newsletter December 2024

Our School Vision -

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

Matthew (7:12)

Dear Parents,

What a wonderful end of the term we have had, with the lovely Nativity on Tuesday and yesterday afternoon and the Carol Concert yesterday evening - all of the children involved (and the adults!) have worked exceptionally hard and it was lovely to get the Christmas holidays off to such a fabulous start, at the end of what has been a very hardworking term for everyone. The children also loved the Panto earlier this month, which was booked and paid for by FoGT - thank you!

Many thanks for all the lovely cards and gifts the children have been bringing in - they are all much appreciated by us all, and we really value the time and care that goes in to ensuring gifts are exchanged with all the adults that support the children, not just the teachers, so thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

In January, we are looking forward to three new children joining the school - Thea in Y4 and Gail in Y3 are joining Robins Class, and Hendrix is returning to Y2 in Sparrows - we hope they and their families will be very happy at Great Tey and extend a warm welcome to them all.

Just a quick reminder that Monday 6th January is now a non-pupil day to allow us to sort the class-rooms back out after building work - we look forward to seeing everyone, bright and refreshed after the holiday, on Tuesday 7th January.

WISHING YOU ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A WONDERFUL 2025, MRS OVERTON

A huge thank you to -

Olivers Plants, who donated our lovely Christmas tree again this year.

Mr Simonelli, Mr Tarman and Giovanni who came in to cook our Christmas lunch in Mrs Harvey's absence - it was delicious!

Chris Percival and Silver Threads, who donated £3,000 towards our sensory room.

The Village Fund, which donated £1,500 towards our sensory room.

Everyone who contributed to our Go Fund Me page to raise funds for our wall and sensory room - thank you!

Mr Canning, who is building our wall over the holidays!

Everyone who has taken home a Colour Monster sewing kit.

FoGT, for purchasing the panto, more laptops, games and classroom equipment (but not the Bugatti one of the children requested)

All the staff, parents and pupils for another fabulous term!

GREAT TEY Church of England PRIMARY SCHOOL

Email: admin@greattey.essex.sch.uk **Website:** www.greatteyprimary.org.uk

Tel: 01206 210415 **Headteacher:** Lucy Overton

A quick note about home / school communication ….

School Ping is our main communication platform and we use it to alert you to all kinds of things in school so, if Ping doesn't work for you, please contact the office for advice. There is an up-to-date calendar on Ping and a copy of term dates on the school website

Concerns about your child

Teachers are around after school most days to discuss any worries you may have about your child's learning, behaviour or friendships. You can grab teachers at the gate or, preferably, phone the office earlier in the day to ask to talk to your child's teacher after school. If there is an urgent concern, such as a bullying issue, please ask to speak to Mrs Overton in the morning as teachers are busy with classes first thing.

If you have more serious worries about learning or behaviour that have not been sorted out, or that may indicate your child needs more support, please contact Mrs Overton on head@greattey.essex.sch.uk to arrange a meeting.

Accidents

If your child has an accident, we would usually carry out First Aid and send home a slip after school to let you know about it. If they have bumped their head, you will also receive a Ping to inform you just in case the bumped head letter or accident form go missing. The bumped head letter offers advice to go to A&E if your child appears nauseous or dizzy after a head injury and we monitor them for any concerns in class. If we are concerned about any injury, we phone to inform you of our concerns and give you the option to come in and check your child yourself - in more serious circumstances, we would phone for an ambulance then keep you informed. We do not phone about every bumped head as this occur fairly frequently and are not usually serious, but we do phone if there is cause for concern.

Medications

We can give prescription and non-prescription medicines in school as long as you have signed a consent form. Please ensure any medications you give to the school are in the original packaging and within date and, if they are prescribed, that they have your child's name and the dosage clearly printed on the bottle or box. Medications cannot be given unless this is the case.

You are welcome to keep your own, named bottle of Calpol or other painkilling medication in school for use with your child, or we keep Calpol and Piriton in school for emergency use. Before these are given, we will phone for your consent. Due to the number of bottles we are currently getting through, **from January we will charge 50p per dose of school medications.**

Absences

If your child is unwell, please leave a message on the school answerphone - 01206 210415 - each day of absence. For planned absence, please contact the office so that a Ping absence form can be sent to you. Please note that holidays are rarely, if ever, authorized and 10 sessions (5 days) of unauthorized absence can lead to a fine.

Ducklings Class

Some thoughts about appearing in our first school Nativity -

Zachary : " I'm a shepherd in the Nativity and I have to look after the sheep. My grandma came to see me."

Arthur: " I'm a King and we have to pretend to follow the star. We give Baby Jesus a present."

Maisie: " I'm the innkeeper so I go behind the door and people knock on the door then I say 'No room!"

Jack: "I'm a shepherd and I look after the sheep like Tilly and Zachary. My Mummy and Daddy saw me."

Rowan: "I think the Nativity is really cool and I'm really excited. I'm a King and they carry presents for Baby Jesus."

William: "I drive the tractor. I'm a farmer."

Tilly: "I like the Nativity. I play with Stanley after the singing parts because I'm a sheep. My aunty and my mummy are coming today, even though my Aunty has a bad cough."

Annie: " It's fun doing the Nativity. I'm an angel. We have to flap around the chairs and sing."

Paisley: " I sing in the Nativity because I'm an angel and we do an angel dance. My daddy, my mummy and my baby came to see me."

Wren: " I'm a shepherd and we have to catch the sheep. I liked mummy and daddy coming to see me."

Lucy: " I'm an angel and we sing and do a dance. We have pretty dresses on. Pappy and Peg came to see me."

Sparrows Class

Sparrows Class have also enjoyed their nativity -

Zac: "I liked being a sheep in the Nativity,. We do baaing and it's fun. I like carrying the star for the kings and the camels to follow"

Jack: "I'm a little mouse and it's so fun."

Stanley: "I like being a sheep in the play and I like doing loud talking. I say 'A King? A real King?' in a really loud voice.

Wilf: "We ask what a census is because I'm a mouse and it's really fun. I have mouse ears and a tail."

Evelyn-Rose:" I say 'Your shortcuts never work. I'm camel number 2 and I wear brown clothes with a hump on my back."

Dolcie: 'I'm a mouse and I say 'Wait until we tell our friends.' I like the outfit you wear to be a mouse but I wish I was a cow like Molly."

Tommy: "I'm Joseph and I have to walk around with the donkey and Mary. Sometimes Joseph sits down and sometimes he does knock, knock on the door. It's a nice Nativity."

Otto: " I'm a donkey and I like it because I have a few words but not too many. I say 'This little baby is a King.'"

Johnny: I'm a dog in the Nativity. He say's 'perhaps he'll play' because he wants to play with Baby Jesus and he gives him a bone. And I do the star with Zac.

Meryl: " I'm a cockerel and I say cock-a-doodle-doo really loud. My favourite part is every-thing and I like the songs. I like the camels best.

Bridget: "I like being a cow because I like to say 'What a shock for poor Mary!' I wear a costume made of cow skin.

Leo: "My best thing is probably singing Born In A Barn because it's fun to sing. I'm a sheep. I like when cockerel goes cock-a-doodle-do because it's really funny."

Arabella: "My favourite line is 'Who are you?' because I'm an owl. I like being an owl because I like staying up at night."

Zennor: "I like it when we do the songs. My favourite is the first one. I'm a cat and I have paws and my nana made my costume and it has a tail."

Mabel: I like being Mary because I keep doing two actions - knocking on the door and walk-ing with the donkey. I look after baby Jesus and sometimes I touch him gently."

Molly: I like being a cow and I like singing the songs. He's A King is my favourite song."

Bella: "I'm Sheep 5 and I wear a fluffy costume. I like singing the songs, especially the camel one."

Rosemarie: "I like being an angel and doing the angel dancing. I look after Annie because she's little."

Clara: "I'm a camel and I like singing the songs really loud!"

Lacey: I'm a sheep and I say lots of lines. I love everything in the Nativity and the songs as well."

Robins Class

Robins have been writing about their favourite things this term -

Ben - This term, my favourite activity was our Science day because I had lots of fun and I learnt a load of new things.

Stanley - This term, I enjoyed the Christmas drawing.

Oscar - I like making biscuits and eating them and learning about Romans and dividing in maths. I like doing the Science, like playing with dry ice safely and blowing up balloons with oil and stuff.

Etholle - My favourite lesson was Topic because you learn about history. My favourite topic lesson was the Romans. They are very interesting.

Buddy - This term, I've enjoyed maths and Christmas maths.

Woody - I liked the gingerbread cookies and laptop time.

Florence - This term, I really liked everything that we did this term and the movie that we are watching on Friday.

Caden - I enjoyed all the fun things in PE, like dodge ball, tag games and more.

Annaliese - I enjoyed this term, learning about the Romans. I also enjoyed making a bug hotel.

Grace - This term, I enjoyed doing the Roman timeline.

Jake - I liked eating the gingerbread men that we made.

Reg - I enjoyed spelling and maths.

Louis - This term, I've enjoyed French because I like France.

Eliza - I liked making a bug hotel.

Phoebe - I enjoyed every single thing, e.g. learning about the Romans.

WELL DONE, ROBINS, FOR YOUR EXCELLENT RESEARCH AND FABULOUS SINGING AT THE CAROL SERVICE. HAVE A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS

Woodpeckers Class

Woodpeckers have written about their favourite things this term -

Lincoln - I liked learning about chocolate, being a chocolatier and tasting it.

Archie - I liked Christmas lunch day when we did crafts.

Pia - I liked making the Mayan out of terracotta clay.

Emmett - my favourite day has been the Christmas chill-out day!

Ellie - I loved Christmas lunch and tasting the chocolate!

Damir - singing Christmas songs.

Isla-Mae - I enjoyed the Science day, especially the cola drink and Mentos experiment.

Lillie H & Sam - we enjoyed the chocolate tasting because it made you learn about flavours and taste different types of chocolate.

Nahdia - what I really enjoyed this term was when we tested out different painting techniques, like using tissue to paint with.

Meredith - I have enjoyed learning about Ancient Civilisations, especially the Egyptians and River Nile.

Harmony - I have enjoyed handwriting and spellings this term as I want to improve them.

Seb - This term, I really enjoyed Science day.

Lilly - My favourite about his term was learning about English and how I can improve my sentences and paragraphs.

Paradise - I liked the Egyptian maths.

Ronan - I enjoyed the Science day, especially the cola and Mentos

Gracie Davis - I enjoyed art, like when did our faces for the hallway and painting the birds.

Georgie - I enjoyed doing the self-portrait.

Connie - I enjoyed trying all the different types of chocolate.

Alana - My favourite part of this term was when we learned about watercolour different techniques.

Charles - I liked learning about Microbits.

WELL DONE, WOODPECKERS, FOR YOUR FABULOUS SINGING AT THE CAROL SERVICE.

HAVE A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS

Diary Dates for Spring Term

January

Monday 6th January – new non-pupil day following building work

Tuesday 7th January – first day back for pupils

Friday 24th January – launch of training for pupils in Y4,5,6 to become mental health and wellbeing ambassadors - children can sign up if interested.

Friday 31st January – Candlemas Community Worship in Church 11am

February

Monday 17th – Friday 21st February – half term week

Friday 14th February – FOGT Glo Disco 5.30 – 7pm

Monday 24th February – first day back (no longer a non-pupil day)

March

April

Friday 4th April – Easter Community Worship in Church 11am

Monday 7th – Monday 21st April – Easter Holidays

Diary Dates for Summer Term

April

Tuesday 22nd April – First day back

May

Mon 12th – Thurs 15th May – KS2 SATs week

June

Thurs 5th June – Mental Health Workshop for pupils

Fri 6th June – Pentecost Community Worship at Church, 11am

Tues 17th June – KS2 Consortium Sports Afternoon

Tues 24th – EYFS Multiskills morning

July

Weds 9th – Fri 11th July – Woodpeckers Residential Trip

Proposed dates for KS2 Performance (subject to change!)

Thurs 4th July 2pm and Fri 5th July 6pm