Our School Newsletter
February 2023

Dear Parents,

Welcome to our bumper edition newsletter!

Thank you to everyone who managed to join us for last week's Candlemas Community Worship at church - we hope you enjoyed it. The children enjoyed finding out about the story of Candlemas and drawing or creating their beautiful candle pictures. Thank you to Rev'd Ian for blessing our candles during the service. Over the last few weeks the children have also loved the Dance Days workshop and our First Aid Training Day - thank you to everyone who helped ensure both events could go ahead.

After half term, we have our Parents Forum meeting on Friday 24th February at 9am - please join us to talk about the proposed change to the school day or any other issues you wish to raise. Also shortly after half term we have World Book Day on Thursday 2nd March - we would like the children to dress up as favourite book characters and there will be opportunities during the day for them to share a favourite book with a friend if they would like to bring one with them. We also hope to hold a book sale after school where children can use their World Book Day vouchers.

Monday 20th February is a non-pupil day, so we look forward to seeing the children back on Tuesday 21st February - wishing everyone a very happy half term.

With best wishes, Mrs Overton

Attendance News

Thank you everyone - there has been a noticeable improvement in our attendance data since we introduced new rewards this term. This week, attendance for each class has been -

Ducklings - 96% (90% so far this year overall)

Sparrows - 99% (95% so far this year overall)

Robins - 97% (92% so far this year overall)

Woodpeckers - 100% (94% so far this year overall)

Well done, Woodpeckers, you are this week's attendance award winners!

GREAT TEY Church of England PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

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

Diary Dates

New or changed dates are shown in red.

Monday 13th - Friday 17th February - Half Term

Monday 20th February - Non-Pupil Day (staff training)

Tuesday 21st February - first day back. Clubs will run as normal on this day.

Friday 24th February 9am - Parents Forum

Thursday 2nd March - World Book Day. Children are invited to dress up as favourite book characters. Ideas sheet with easy costume suggestions came with the last newsletter).

Thursday 30th March - Clubs finish for this term

Friday 31st March - Easter Community Worship, St. Barnabas Church, 11am. All Welcome.

Easter Egg Hunt after school - more info to follow

Monday 3rd - Friday 14th April - Easter Holidays

Monday 17th April - first day of Summer Term

Monday 1st May - May Day Bank Holiday (school closed)

Monday 8th May - Bank Holiday for the Coronation of King Charles III (school closed)

Tues 9th - Fri 12th May - KS2 SATs

Fri 26th May - Pentecost Community Worship, St. Barnabas Church, 11am. All Welcome.

Tuesday 6th June - 2 Johns e-safety day for all classes

Tuesday 13th June - 2 Johns e-safety parent meeting - time to be confirmed

Friday 16th June - Fathers' Day Community Worship at St Barnabas Church, 11am

Monday 10th July - Friends of Great Tey Disco (times to be confirmed)

Wednesday 19th - Friday 21st July - Residential Trip for Y5 and Y6

Thursday 20th July - final day of term

Pascal's Wager

In Religious Education, Woodpeckers have been thinking about the Big Question - Is Faith Reasonable?

Blaise Pascal (a French philosopher 1623-1662) once said :

" We can not prove whether or not there is a God. The safest, wisest thing to do is to believe in God as then you might go to heaven . If you don't believe in God you risk eternal damnation."

These are our responses:

How do I make myself believe in something I don't believe in?

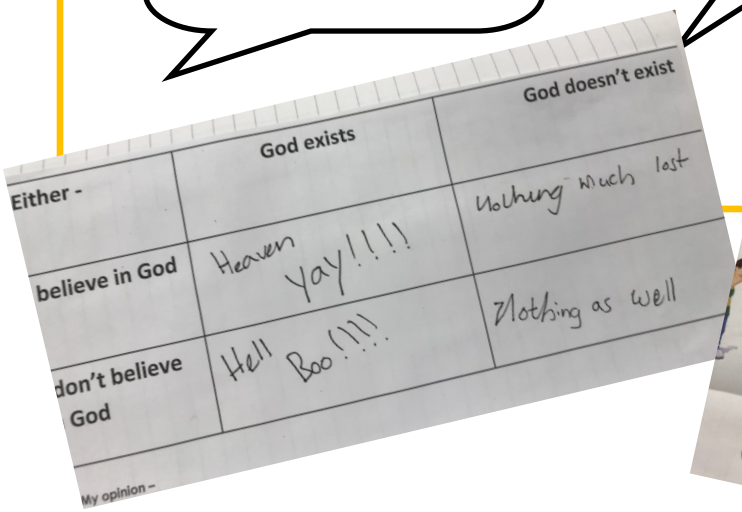
God is not stupid. He'll know I'm pretending to believe.

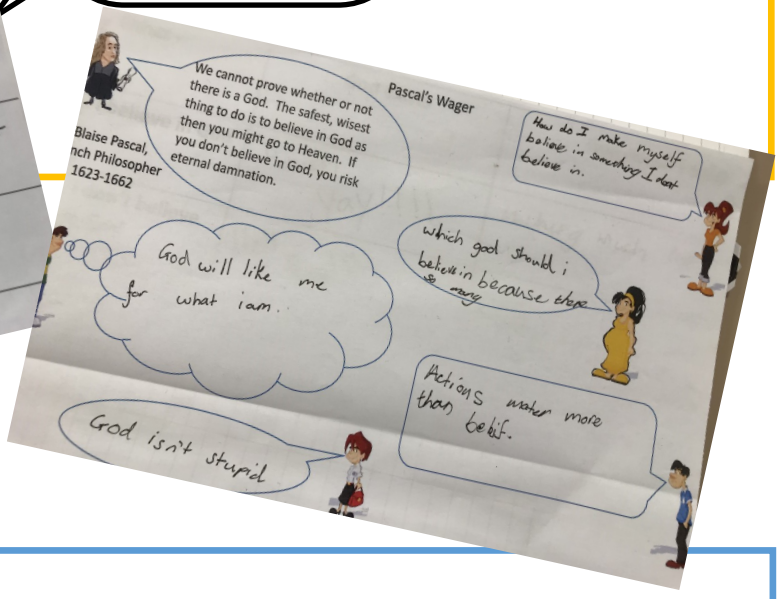
God will like me for what I am.

Which god should I believe in, there are so many?

Actions matter more than beliefs.

Report by Aria.





Woodpeckers Topic: Alchemy Island

You're probably wondering what Alchemy Island is? Well, in Woodpeckers class they received a letter from someone called Professor Karlson. First they didn't have any idea what it was but then decided to do the task that Professor K sent. The task was to find where the treasure was hidden. They got sent a map, a key to the map, a riddle and some coordinates. First they figured out the riddle and the answer was The Kingdom Of Winterbourne and that was where to start. Then they used the coordinates to discover the path and the treasure was located at Dragon Vine Towers so they emailed Professor K the findings and some questions. The next day they got a reply and one was that her name is Gabriella and also said to try to keep our letters more simple. But they also got sent samples to test on transparency, flexibility, magnetism, electrical conductivity, hardness and thermal conductivity. And we are now sending the results to Gabriella K and I will update you next week.

By Olive

Street football

I love football, especially street football, because unlike normal football you just get to show off skills and really have fun. In street football you get to wear trainers unlike really annoying studded football boots that can be too grippy. However, there is one issue with street football, it can be quite dangerous because of oncoming cars, slippy ice (in the winter months usually) and sometimes dangerous insects. When you play street football, because you don't have goals you usually use bags, coats, bottles or anything really but the bad thing is you don't know if the ball hit the post or hit the post then went in. It gets confusing deciding whether or not a goal has been scored!

By Oakley

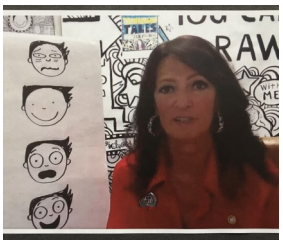
Piano club

Dear parents, me and my friends do piano it is really fun and entertaining. It's a very nice and calming hobby for most people. Piano practise is on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the afternoon. My piano teacher is a very nice lady and fun to learn with. She explains the music pretty easily. I hope you were interested in piano club.

By Meredith

Art This Year In Woodpeckers…

Before Christmas, we did a live zoom with Liz Pichon, illustrator of the famous Tom Gates book collection. We drew our own front cover for the latest book HAPPY TO HELP . We also did our own doodle of Tom Gates and there is now a display in the hall. Ks2 all did the zoom and doodled along with her along with loads of other schools around Essex. By George S



Botanical art

One of the favourite art piece we did was botanical art, which is a very detailed hand painted picture of a flower, it helps scientists to identify species of flowers and see if they have found a new species there are also botanical illustrations which is a completely different thing. Botanical illustrations are also hand painted pictures but show the life cycle of the plant. Here are some of ours. By George S

On Tuesday 7th February our school split into groups of five and had a conversation about the earthquake in Turkey and Syria. We also talked about how earthquakes happen. After that, we thought of some ideas of how we can help out like:

* *A cake sale*
* *Camping weekend*
* *Car wash*
* *Boot sale*
* *Football match*
* *Raffle*
* *Runathon*
* *Sponsored dance and swim*
* *Show*
* *Drink stand*

Watch this space for information on our fundraising activities after half term.

By Olive

Wanted clubs

Dear parents, I have asked people what clubs they would like. I have chosen the top 4 clubs to suggest.

Number 1 - gymnastics club. We did have gymnastics club but our coach left - lots of the girls and some boys have suggested this.

Number 2 - stitching club. I have suggested this is a hobby I do it all the time, I make teddies like a master.

Number 3 - Drawing club. I mean who doesn't like to draw? In my head drawing club would be a nice quiet place were you make things and draw \ colour .

Number 4 - tennis. I like the sound of tennis club it sounds very fun but maybe instead of tennis, sports club were you can play tennis, football, basketball and more.

Those were the most suggested clubs

by Sylvi.

Ball games

Ball games club is really fun, so basically you do a warm up and after the warm up you play a game that involves balls . And also sometimes at the end we see who has been the greatest in Ball games , sometimes the person that has been the greatest in Ball games even gets a medal! Once I got a medal and I was so happy and excited I jumped up and down for a whole 5 minutes! Sometimes you get sweets but when I got home and I got sweets I ate them straight away! Right, back to Ball games, so you sometimes play football and you have 5 people on each team so it's pretty hard. The little kids that play go on the field and older kids go in goal. We also play CANNON. CANNON is a game that you dribble the ball and there is a CANNON person , the CANNON person has a ball in their hands , the people that are dribbling the balls are trying to dodge the CANNON person, because the CANNON person is trying to get the balls off the dribbling people, and if the CANNON person gets one off the dribbling people the dribbling person is a CANNON person with the other CANNON person . So basically it's like an infection, the dribbling group gets smaller...and the CANNON people get bigger and bigger! By Gracie

All about hobbies in the school

I interviewed people about their favourite hobbies. Some people said that they like swimming and other stuff. These are people's opinions of what they like to do as a hobby: Isla Mae said that she likes to sleep. Gracie said she really likes swimming and drawing. Lauren said that she likes drama, piano and basketball. Henry said that his favourite hobby is football but he also likes climbing and swimming. Olive likes arts and craft and also swimming. Sylvie likes karate, swimming and crystal art. Mrs Overton said that she likes taking her dog out on a walk. Charlie likes video games and football. George S said he likes football, drums, table tennis and scouts. Aria likes doing tuition. Oakley likes swimming, football and basketball. Miss Baylee likes Pilates and singing. Meredith really likes craft and swimming. Connie likes drawing. I like gymnastics and dance, horse riding and journalism. Georgie said that he likes golf swimming and beavers. Paradise said gymnastics and singing. Martha said gymnastics and cooking. Pia said dancing and cooking.

Hobbies that people don't like

Isla-Mae said she hates quiet, Meredith said that she hates football, Sylvi absolutely hates tennis, Olive hates football like Meredith and Connie hates knitting. Gracie said doing homework, Aria said staying still, Oakley said eating couscous, Amaya said writing in her diary , Mrs Overton said mountaineering, and George S said drama. I don't like tennis, topic and French. By Florence

PE

This year the PE teachers are Mrs Farrer on Mondays and Will on Wednesdays and Fridays. Mrs Tucker also teaches PE to Robins on a Thursday. I am going to tell you about Woodpeckers PE lessons.

Woodpeckers P.E

In Woodpeckers on a Monday we have Mrs Farrer and she has been teaching us about dancing through the decades. On our first week she taught us the dance moves of the 1960s. We learnt the twist, the mash potato and the swimming dance moves. Then we learnt the 1970s dances; the sprinkler, the electric slide and the point. After that it was the 1980s; the cabbage patch, the running man, the smurf and prep. Hopefully we will get to 2020's. :D

On Wednesday Woodpeckers class have Will to teach us P.E. He is teaching us about netball. We play all sorts of different warm ups then play some games where we all interact with a ball. After that we split into groups of 4 or 5 and play mini games of netball.

Opinions

"Mrs Farrer helps me understand in P.E." George S

"She explains things in detail." Henry

"Mrs Farrer is loving, kind and always there for you." Lauren

"Will can be very fun and his lessons are expressive." Oakley

"Will is kind and supportive but could he ask us what P.E. topic we would like to do." Lauren

"Overall Will is kind and teaches us in a creative way" George S

Report by Charlotte

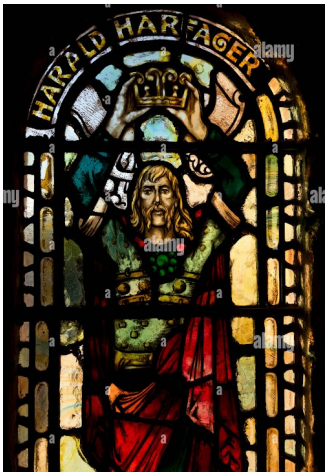
Believe it or not!!!!!

In this article I will share with you the weird, wonderful and crazy things in the world. The things I write are from a book called Ripley's Believe It or Not and I'm really enjoying it so I would like to share it with you. All of this I did write out, but not on my own words - I just copied it from the book. And I added little faces to show what I was feeling when I read them. By Charlotte

Not-so-noble nicknames

The Mad

In 1380, King Charles VI of France took the throne at just 11 years old. A mere eight years later, he became the sole sovereign of the nation. In his twenties, he began experencing unfortunate psychotic episodes that would plague him his entire life, including periods during which he believed he was made of glass. This earned him the title "the mad." :)



The Lousy

The first king of Norway was anything but proactive when it came to personal hygiene. He refused to cut his hair for a decade before taking the throne, leading to unwanted consequences. These include lice infestations, resulting in the unflattering name "Harald the lousy." :o

The Bald

Few people with a receding hairline voluntarily draw attention to the thinning. But King Charles II of France and the Holy Roman Empire couldn't escape it. His subjects called him "the bald." The jury is still out on how he got this epithet, but considering baldness inspired open ridicule and laughter in the ninth century, we're guessing it didn't thrill him. ._.

The Terrible

In 1547, Tsar Ivan of Russia received the official title "Tsar and Grand Prince of All Russia." Well there's nothing too shabby about this moniker, the Tsar's subjects had another name for him - "The Terrible." The title didn't come out of nowhere - Ivan had violent outbursts of rage, suffered from paranoia, and even murdered his own son!
P.S When I was reading the paragraph I thought he was called "the cabbage." because his face looks like a cabbage. Hehehe :D

Poetry Corner by Lauren and Amaya

Poem of the week

The Poem Of Love!!!

We all know Valentine's Day is near,

Everyone finds their true love,

It makes everyone's hearts beat with cheer,

We all now the symbol of love… the dove.

7 days to go,

Till the day of devotion,

Everyone is wearing a nice red bow,

We all know Valentine's Day

Fills you up with emotion.

The season of love

Is the most beautiful thing,

We fall head over heels,

It's at the beginning of spring,

You get taken out to loads of meals.

2nd Poem of the week!!!

Winter is over and spring is coming,

The snow has stopped dropping,

Bees are buzzing,

The spring makes us feel

We wanna go shopping.

The ice is drifting away,

The sun is rising up,

Makes us wanna go and play,

We run around and relax with pups.

A poem to learn by heart -

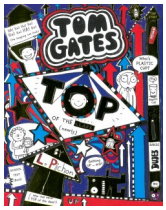
The Wind

By Christina Rossetti

Who has seen the wind?
Neither I nor you;
But when the leaves hang trembling,
The wind is passing through.

Who has seen the wind?
Neither you nor I;
But when the trees bow down their heads,
The wind is passing by.

Our Book Recommendations



THE TOM GATES

COLLECTION

This book is a very good recommendation because most of the school is reading them and we are reading the new book called Tom Gates Happy to Help. The books that Liz Pichon writes are really easy to read and there are a lot of pictures.

These books are really easy for little children to read at all ages and very interesting and attractive. Liz Pichon her self has won tons of children's books awards like Waterstones, Roald Dahl and many more awards. All of her books are sometimes funny. The characters that appear in the books are Mr Fullerman, Amy, Marcus, mum, dad, Delia, and last but not least Tom Gates. My favourite person in the book is Amy because she is very smart.
By Meredith

Demon Dentist

(SPOILER ALERT!!! - Mrs O)

Demon Dentist is a book by David Walliams - it's about a boy who never goes to the dentist any more because of an incident which I'm going to tell you. He first had a toothache and went to the dentist but the dentist couldn't get it out so he got another dentist and she pulled hard but it didn't come out.

Then he got the receptionist because she is very heavy but it still didn't work. A whole load of people were standing outside the room so he got them to help and then everyone heard a crunch BUT THE WONG TOOTH BROKE and everyone lay on the tooth.

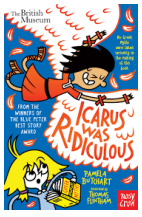
By Connie

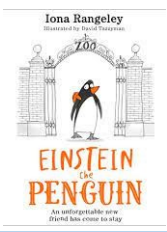
Reading Recommendation

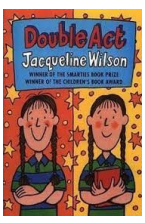
In every class there is a library where the books are aged for that class and many different types of books as well. If your children are into comedy in KS2 there are books like : Tom Gates , Diary of a Wimpy Kid and the Tree House books or if they're into adventure books there's options like books written by David Walliams . But in KS1 they read more picture books. In Year 6 there are reading ambassadors and they will help people find books that they will enjoy.KS2 are meant to be bring home two books - an improvement book and a pleasure book. The improvement book is meant to stretch them and a pleasure book is just to read for fun. Written by George Y6.

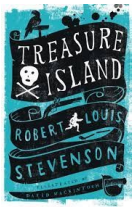
POPULAR BOOKS IN SCHOOL

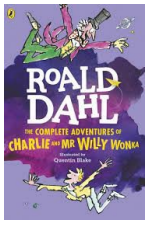
Some very popular books in the school are Icarus was Ridiculous by Pamela Buchart, Einstein the Penguin by Iona Rangeley, Double Act by Jacqueline Wilson, Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson and all Roald Dahl books. By Isla-Mae











CRICKET CLUB

Cricket club is a sport where you have a fielder, a batter, a bowler and a catcher. The catcher stands behind the batter and tries to catch them out. The bowler bowls the ball of course—he tries to hit the stumps to get the batsman out. The batsman tries to bat the ball to try to score some points. Also, when the fielder catches the ball they have to throw it to the bowler or the catcher to let them hit the stumps with the ball. That means the batsman is out. I really enjoy playing cricket and learning these skills. By Charles

PRIME IS YOUR CHOICE

We had an assembly that looked at the power online influencers have over our choices.

Influencers don't always tell the truth and are paid to sell things, for example the two boxers who apparently love Prime. Influencers sometimes don't mean what they say and can interfere with life choices and convince you to buy silly little things like the drink Prime. People are selling it for hundreds and thousands of pounds even though it is just a drink and a waste of money. Sometimes people buy silly little things like PRIME and in the end they find out that they're not worth much and that they don't taste as nice as the two boxers said they did. Prime is an expensive drink that should be cheaper than it is. I mean like, who has that kind of money these days? (hint...not me).

In conclusion I don't think we should let influencers make choices for us and we should make our own choices.

By Isla-Mae