Our School Newsletter February 2026

Our School Vision -

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

Matthew (7:12)

Dear Parents,

We have only been back a week, but this half term is a short one so the classes have all hit the ground running! - I hope you enjoy finding out about their work this week on the later pages of the newsletter. Next week, we are looking forward to World Book Day on Thursday, to sharing our love of reading, dressing up as our favourite characters and to taking home a brand new book which has been donated by Penguin Random House.

Last half term ended on a real high for Mrs Amey, the choir and I as we went to the Mercury Theatre for the day to rehearse with other schools and with staff from Essex Music Services. The choir then performed two songs as part of a mass choir, followed by two songs on their own. As there were only ten of them, they were by far the smallest choir but also, in my slightly biased opinion, by far the best! Well done to Alexis, Annaliese, Eliza, Etholle, Florence, Grace, Gracie, Martha, Phoebe and Pia for their hard work and bravery, singing in front of a packed theatre. A shout-out too to Connie and Otto, who both put in all the hard work to rehearse and then missed out on the performance due to illness - we are sure there will be other opportunities in future.

Finally, I'm delighted to say that our own Mr Tarman is receiving a very prestigious award to recognise his contribution to the Scouting movement over the last 30 years. Those who have benefitted from his work with the Scouts are invited to attend the presentation - please see the letter below in case you missed it -

Dear villagers and Scout group members.

For 30 years Melvin Tarman has been a driving force behind the successful Great Tey Scout Group . We are delighted to say that his extraordinary contribution to Scouting has been recognised by the award of The Silver Wolf , the highest possible achievement in UK scouting. This will be presented to him at the village hall on Wednesday 4th March and we would be delighted if anyone who has been involved with Melvin, as another leader or young person benefiting from his commitment ,would like to join us to congratulate him. The presentation will be at 6.30 pm between the Beaver and Cub/Scout sessions so please do come into the hall at that point . Light refreshments will be provided for those able to join us. To assist with logistics it would be helpful to know if you will attend by emailing 1stgreatteygroup@gmail.com although drop ins will also be very welcome. We very much hope that you can join us . Great Tey Scouts

Best wishes, Mrs Overton

This half term's collective worship is focusing on the value **Forgiveness** - 'Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must also forgive others.' Colossians 3:13

GREAT TEY Church of England PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

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

Ducklings

We have started our Big Wide World Topic this half term with a transport theme. The children were very excited when the oil tanker arrived in the playground and the driver very kindly said they could have a look at it. We have been doubling in maths and they spotted that the wheels were double three, as there were three on each side. We have also been designing our own vehicles ready to construct with junk modelling. Our story this week has been Mrs Armitage on Wheels, which inspired the children to upgrade Ms. Lambert's bike with additional features. These included fire at the back to make it go faster, a seat and food for Ms. Lambert's dog, a cupcake holder , a decorated helmet and umbrellas to keep the rain off!

Sparrows

The Sparrows are enjoying our topic and have been finding out about life in a medieval castle and the different jobs that people did. They thought about the job they would like to do and wrote an application letter and a diary of a day working in the castle. The children have been learning about the differences between the life as a noble child and a peasant child, they weren't impressed with some of the jobs the peasant children had to do! This week the children learnt about the life of a knight and wrote letters to the Lord and Ladies at Great Tey Castle to apply for a position as a knight.

In maths, the children have continued to use number lines and equipment when completing addition and subtraction number sentences and learning doubles. The year 2 children have been making arrays to help with multiplication and learning the inverse division number sentences.

The Sparrows have been conducting buoyancy experiences in science and finding out how the shape and density of an object contributes to whether an object will sink or float. The children have loved programming the BeeBots in ICT and in Art the children have continued with castle art activities and thoroughly enjoyed making a knight's shield.

Robins

Robins have been busy in February finishing their topic *Urban Pioneers.* We thoroughly enjoyed our walk around Gt. Tey looking at the listed buildings which are still present in the village, some of which are over 100 years old. We found out that there is evidence of settlements in the village from 45 A.D. and even discovered that there was a riot 1727! Our research from our questionnaires about how we all impact our living environment was very interesting too. Thank you to everyone who took time to answer the questions. Our results showed us that we are very good at recycling unwanted items from our homes but we all use our cars quite a lot which could have a negative impact on the environment. In maths we were busy learning how to multiply and divide numbers up to 4-digits and even what to do if we have a remainder. Our English autobiographies were a highlight, and we learnt lots about each other through our carefully planned writing about our own life experiences. A successful month and we've started our new topic, *Playlist,* with plenty of music and art and lots more to look forward to.

Woodpeckers

A very busy and exciting time in Woodpeckers class. In Art, we finished last half term creating some really effective stencils inspired by Banksy out of card and painting a wash background before dabbing paint on the stencil to create the desired effect- These are from Charles and Emmett.

In English, before half term, we finished writing a balanced argument based on our class book 'Pig heart boy' about whether Cameron should have the heart transplant. There were some excellent persuasive points with evidence from the text. This half term we are starting to find out facts about William Harvey to write a biography about his life and achievements.

In Maths, we have started work on area, perimeter and volume, measuring different objects in the classroom and estimating the area of tricky shapes like our hands and feet.

This week, in Design and Technology, we looked at the Healthy Eating Plate and children created their own meal, labelling the food with the group that it came from. This will lead onto designing and baking their own healthy cereal bar later in the term.

However, the most exciting start to our new topic this term 'Blood and circulation' saw the children taking part in discussing, handling and dissecting a sheep's heart in Science. The children all took part and were fascinated by the size, texture and way the arteries and heart chambers were all connected. 'The best lesson ever!' apparently from some of the class.

Diary Dates Spring / Summer Terms 2025 - 2026 (new dates in red)

March

Mon 2nd - Y6 Emotional Resilience workshop

Thursday 5th - World Book Day. Children are invited to come to school dressed as a favourite book character or in their PJs. Free Book Giveaway, special assembly and other book related events throughout the day.

Fri 6th - Y4 swimming

Fri 6th - FoGT Quiz Night

Thurs 12th - Sparrows castle building day - children to please wear old clothes

Fri 13th - Y4 swimming. We are unable to use the minibus for this session so if you are able to help with lifts to and from the pool (leaving school at 12.45 and returning from Honywood at 2.30) please contact the school office, thank you!

Mon 16th - Rocksteady Concert 2pm in hall

Tues 17th - Whole School Parent Consultation Evening 3.30 - 6.30

Thurs 19th - Woodpeckers Parent Consultations am; Robins and Sparrows pm.

Fri 20th - Y4 swimming

Tues 24th - Sparrows Class to Hedingham Castle

Fri 27th - Easter Community Worship in Church 10am

Fri 27th - Y4 swimming

Fri 27th - FoGT Easter Egg Hunt on field after school

Mon 30th - Friday 10th April - Easter Holidays

April

Monday 13th - first day back

Fri 17th - Y4 swimming

Fri 24th - Y4 swimming

Tues 28th - Class Photographs

May

Fri 8th - Y3 begin swimming lessons

Mon 11th - Thurs 14th Y6 SATs week

Fri 15th - FoGT Pyjama Day

Thurs 21st 10am - Pentecost Community Worship in church

Fri 22nd - non-pupil day

June

Thurs 4th - Coram Life Workshops for all classes on PHSE

Tues 9th - Woodpeckers to Layer Marney Towers for an opera workshop (more info to follow)

Thurs 11th - FoGT Break the Rules Day