Our School Newsletter January 2026

Our School Vision -

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

Matthew (7:12)

Dear Parents,

It's certainly been an interesting start to the Spring Term, with snow on our first day back, constant rain and wet playtimes, road closures, email hacks and our own mini-pandemic to round off the month. The expression ' it never rains but it pours' seems to sum us up at the moment! However, learning has continued in the classrooms and we are very pleased to see the children beginning to return from their periods of illness; hopefully we have seen the back of it all now and the sun will start to shine.

This month, children in Robins and Woodpeckers enjoyed a visit from Fab Science and you can read more about it in their class pages. Robins are continuing to learn about Urban Pioneers, including work on modern art and music and finding out about land use, transport systems and industry in the local area and around the country. Woodpeckers have been learning all about DNA and what makes us each unique through their ID topic. Ducklings have continued to find out about Dangerous Dinosaurs and Sparrows have been investigating castles through their Tunnels, Turrets and Towers topic.

My apologies for everything that had to be cancelled during the last week of this month, including clubs, after-school care, swimming sessions and our Community Worship in church. All being well, everything will be back in place next week. Swimming Dates are now -

Y5 - 2 sessions left on 6th and 13th February

Y4 - 8 sessions from 27th February (week after half term) to 1st May inclusive.

Y3 - 8 sessions from 8th May to 10th July inclusive.

Many of the current Y5 swimmers have already achieved 25 meters - well done Y5!

Best wishes, Mrs Overton

This half term's collective worship is focusing on the value **Courage** - 'Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.' Joshua 1:9

GREAT TEY Church of England PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Ducklings

This half term Ducklings are learning about dinosaurs. Did you know a Pterodactyl is not actually a dinosaur or that a Tyrannosaurus Rex had teeth the size of a banana?! We have been learning lots of amazing facts like these, going on dinosaur hunts, drawing dinosaurs, building homes for dinosaurs and have even had a dinosaur hospital. We have also enjoyed listening to different music, drawing pictures as we listen and exploring different instruments.

Sparrows

Our new topic is, 'Towers, Tunnels and Turrets' and we have thoroughly enjoyed drawing, painting and weaving castles in our art lessons and are already very excited about our class trip to Hedingham Castle!

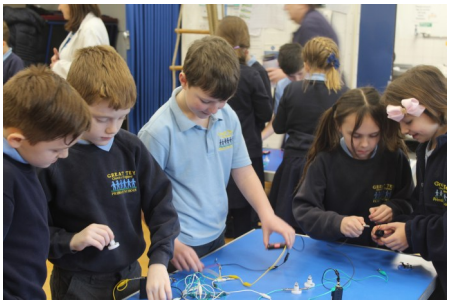
In our English lessons we have been using the past tense and plurals in our writing and learning the different endings, we have also been using question words to write some interesting questions about castles. We have labelled the different parts of a castle and found out about the history of castles in the UK.

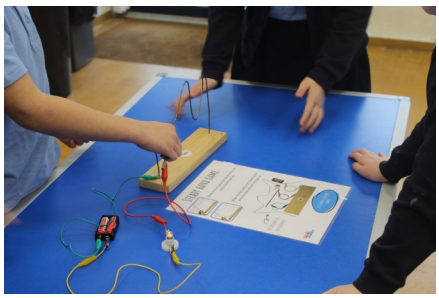
In maths we have been focusing on place value which has helped us in our addition and subtraction number sentences, the Year 2s have really enjoyed column addition and subtraction! Year 2s are moving onto multiplication and Year 1 will be practicing number bonds and doubles.

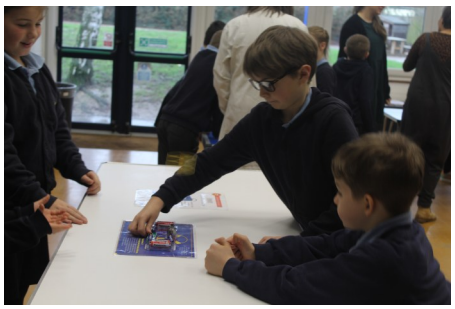
In Science we have been looking at different materials and their properties, we are learning vocabulary such as opaque, transparent and translucent and considering why particular materials are used to produce different objects.

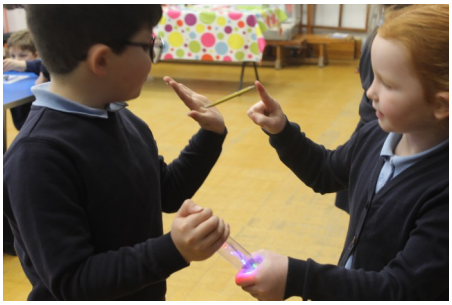
Robins

Robins class thoroughly enjoyed their Fab Science afternoon where they were able to engage with lots of investigative and interactive activities. They found out lots about electricity and how it works. They created circuits, tested out different materials to see if they were conductors and learnt about different ways of generating electricity. They were complimented by Emma, who was running the workshop, on their inquisitiveness and eagerness to test out different theories. Robins have also been really interested in their topic work so far this half term, learning about the differences between urban and rural and what it would be like to live in an urban area. Our recent artwork on street art has also been a highlight, and the children have been very engaged in creating their own street art/graffiti (in places that it's allowed of course!).





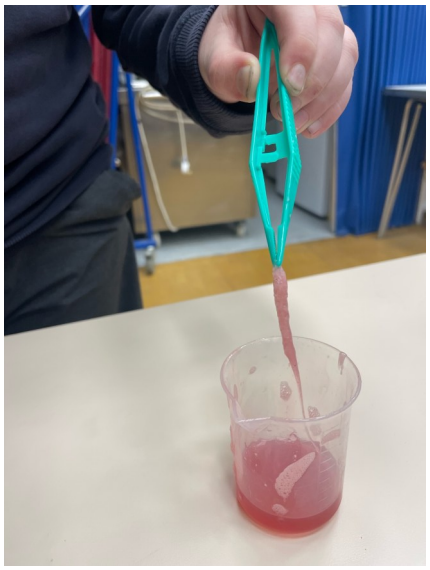


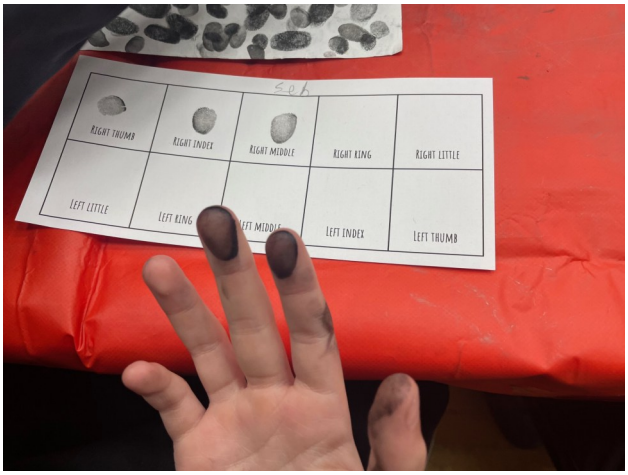


Woodpeckers

In Woodpeckers this month, we have enjoyed our new topic ID. The children have taken their own fingerprints, looked at characteristics of each other and made branching keys and conducted an investigation on the conditions needed for yeast to grow (see photo below).

We also enjoyed another visit from Fab Science who asked us to solve the 'mystery of the missing diamond' using our forensic science techniques. We looked at fingerprints, DNA, footprints and handwriting styles to find the culprit. We enjoyed extracting DNA from a strawberry! (See photo below).





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

February

Mon 2nd - all clubs restart.

Weds 4th - planned power cut 9.30 - 11.30. Packed lunches to replace usual lunch - school packed lunches can be ordered.

Fri 6th - Y5 swimming

Fri 6th - FoGT Glo Disco 5.30pm - date change from previous newsletter.

Fri 13th - Y5 swimming

Fri 13th - Choir to Mercury Theatre. Parents can still buy their tickets from the Theatre https://www.mercurytheatre.co.uk/event/ems-choir-in-a-day/.

Mon 16th - Half Term Week

Fri 27th - Y4 begin swimming lessons

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. Free Book Giveaway, special assembly and other book related events throughout the day.

Fri 6th - Y4 swimming

Fri 13th - Y4 swimming

Mon 16th - Rocksteady Concert 2pm in hall

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

Friday 8th - Y3 begin swimming lessons

Mon 11th - Thurs 14th Y6 SATs week

Fri 15th - FoGT Pyjama Day

June

Thurs 11th - FoGT Break the Rules Day