Our End of Year Newsletter 2025

Our School Vision -

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

Matthew (7:12)

Dear Parents,

It's been a fast and furious end to the school year as ever, and I hope the children have enjoyed the various events. We were very proud of the way they all took part in Sports Day - it was lovely to see them working as a team and cheering each other on in their individual events. I hope you enjoyed the afternoon, too.

We have been particularly proud of Woodpeckers Class over the last couple of weeks - firstly, for their behaviour, team work and courage to take part in all the activities during their residential trip to Mersea - the Team Swing seems to have been a hot favourite though it wouldn't suit anyone nervous of heights, or of being catapulted!

We were also exceptionally proud of Y6 for their SATs results, too - ten of our Y6 children took the tests, with 2 of our y6 children who have additional needs not taking them this year. Of the ten who took the tests, all ten passed the reading test, which is the first year ever (or in my memory, anyway!) that all children taking one of the SATs have all passed with flying colours - well done everyone! 8/10 passed the Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling, with the remaining two only missing by a mark each. 7/10 also passed the maths, which was very tricky this year. Well done, Y6 - your teachers and I are very proud of your hard work.

Over the last few weeks, the children have also had a few chances to go up to their next classes and meet their new teachers and teaching assistants - information about the teaching staff for each class can be found overleaf if you are unsure. I have also attached a date sheet for next year, with Wednesday 3rd September being the first day back for pupils.

Finally, just a note to say that you should by now have received a few email messages from Arbor, which has replaced Ping as our message service. Some people have found they have gone to their Junk or Spam folders so please check there if you have not received anything in your Inbox. For urgent messages, such as school closures due to snow or club cancellations, we will send out emails and text messages so please ensure you keep us updated with any changes to your email address or phone number, thank you.

Thank you for all your support over the year - wishing everyone a fabulous Summer!

Best wishes, Mrs Overton

GREAT TEY Church of England PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

Ducklings

YR / 1

Our PE Days are Tuesday and Wednesday - please wear PE kit on those days!

	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri
Teacher	Ms Lambert	Ms Lambert	Mrs Canning	Mrs Canning	Mrs Canning
TA	Mrs Reeve	Mrs Reeve	Mrs Reeve	Mrs Reeve	Mr Hallard

Sparrows

Y1 / 2

Our PE Days are Monday and Wednesday - please wear PE kit on those days!

	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri
Teacher	Mrs Canning	Mrs McDiarmid	Mrs McDiarmid	Mrs McDiarmid	Mrs McDiarmid
TAs	Miss Roberts Mr Hallard	Miss Roberts Mr Hallard	Miss Roberts Mr Hallard Mrs Longman	Miss Roberts Mrs Longman	Miss Roberts Mrs Longman

Robins

Y3 / 4

Our PE Days are Monday and Friday - please wear PE kit on those days!

	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri
Teacher	Miss Spicer	Miss Spicer	Miss Spicer	Miss Spicer	Miss Spicer
TAs	Mrs Atkins Mrs Smith	Mrs Atkins Mrs Rawlinson	Mrs Atkins Mrs Rawlinson	Mrs Rawlinson Mrs Smith	Mrs Rawlinson Mrs Smith

Woodpeckers

Y5 / 6

Our PE Days are Monday and Friday - please keep PE kit in school for those days!

	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri
Teacher	Mrs Amey	Mrs Rought	Mrs Rought	Mrs Rought	Mrs Rought
TA	Miss Robertson	Miss Robertson	Miss Robertson	Miss Robertson	Miss Robertson

Trips

Thank you to everyone who replied to my email about trips and how we fund them moving forward. Most people who replied were keen to ensure that trips go ahead, with a number of people commenting that they would like more, rather than less, trips. There were some questions around why we ask for 'voluntary contributions' rather than actually charging for trips and why we don't only take those pupils whose parents have paid. The answer to this is that, firstly, we are an inclusive school, and would always want all pupils to benefit from any trip or visit. Secondly, we are not permitted to charge for activities linked to the curriculum that take place during school hours, we can only ask for contributions and make it clear that the activity cannot be funded in any other way. I have attached the Government document for anyone who wishes to take a look, and our Charging and Remissions Policy can be found here - Charging and Remissions Policy.

There were some helpful suggestions made -

Suggestion - That parents should be informed if we are at risk of having to cancel a trip, so that those who wish to could make an additional contribution to ensure the trip goes ahead.

Response - This will always be the case. Except in an emergency, or where there are circumstances beyond our control, we will not cancel any trip without forewarning parents and asking for further contributions.

Suggestion - That trips are planned well in advance, with a total amount given for parents to pay through the year, payable in instalments.

Response - We will endeavour to plan all trips for 2025 - 2026 over the Summer so that you can be given a total amount in September. Unfortunately, Arbor does not allow for instalments on its system (we don't think - we're still learning!) but a payment card can be set up in the office whereby you could make small contributions through the year towards the overall cost of trips. Based on last year, I would anticipate around £20 - £30 for the year's trips in each class, dependent on transport.

Suggestion - for many parents, it was a case of forgetting to pay rather than choosing not to pay. Email or message reminders would be helpful.

Response - we will put this in place, reminding parents who have not yet paid. However, please do remember that, under the law, there is no obligation to pay if the trips take place in school time, the reminder will just be a friendly nudge in case people have forgotten.

Suggestion - a separate fundraising event for trips could take place, or local businesses could be asked to help.

Response - definitely an idea. We fundraise (or Woodpeckers children do!) for the Leavers Trip which takes place biennially when there is no residential trip planned. We received support this year from a local charity for our Pupil Premium eligible children to go on the residential trip at half price and FoGT give us £12 per child per year towards trips, which we use to reduce the amount we charge parents. However, I think trip planning needs to be sustainable moving forward - we are a small staff and FoGT are a very small but dedicated team! - so whatever we do moving forward has to be manageable. There are also lots of things we need in school that FoGT contribute to, so not all fundraising can go towards trips. However, this is definitely something we could bear in mind.

Suggestion - that more of the Pupil Premium budget is used to support trips.

Response - in an ideal world, this would definitely be possible. However, we use all of our Pupil Premium budget to maintain 4 small classes rather than going back to 3 larger classes, and to ensure there are TAs in each class to support learning. Where there is anything left over, this is used to cover trips and events payments, but it is not enough to cover the full shortfall.

Thank you everyone for your ideas and support - I will be in touch about planned trips in September and will keep you updated about the percentages of payments we receive. The Government Document setting out what we can and cannot charge for can be found here - Charging for school activities

Diary Dates (new dates in red)

July -

Mon 21st - End of Year Disco 5.30pm - 7pm

Tues 22nd 2pm - Leavers Assembly

Tues 22nd - final day of term

Next year:

September

Weds 3rd - first day back for all pupils

Thurs 11th - Individual Photos

Thurs 18th - Y6 pupils to Agents of Change Conference - more info to follow

October

Weds 1st and Thurs 2nd - Y6 Bikeability

Thurs 2nd - Flu Immunisations (by consent only, more info to follow)

Fri 3rd - Harvest Festival in Church 10am

Thurs 9th - Fab Science day

Mon 27th - Fri 31st - Half Term

November

Mon 3rd - Non-Pupil Day

Mon 10th - Fri 14th - Book Fair in school

Mon 10th - Open Afternoon for prospective parents and children 1.30 - 2.20pm

Tues 11th - Remembrance Service in Church 10.45am

Mon 17th - Open Afternoon for prospective parents and children 1.30 - 2.20pm

Mon 24th - Choir to perform at the Royal Albert Hall

Mon 24th - Ducklings Parent Consultation afternoon 1-3.30

Tues 25th - Sparrows Parent Consultation afternoon 1-3.30

Weds 26th - Robins Parent Consultation afternoon 1-3.30

Thurs 27th - Woodpeckers Parent Consultation afternoon 1-3.30

Thurs 27th - Whole School Parent Consultation Evening 4-6pm

December

Thurs 4th - Panto in school

Weds 10th - EYFS and KS1 Nativity 9.30am

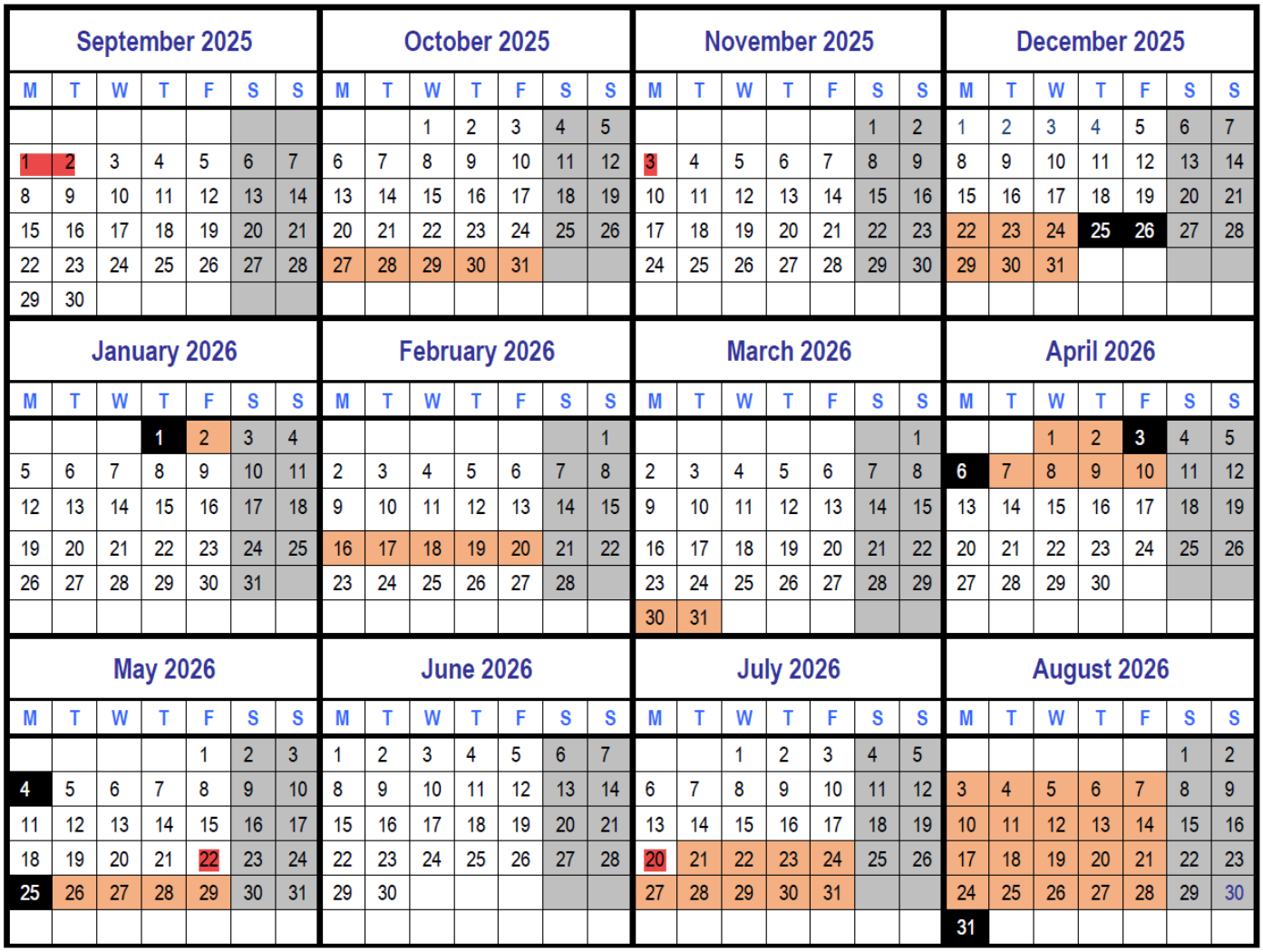
Thurs 11th - EYFS and KS1 Nativity 2pm

Weds 17th - Christmas lunch / Wear a Christmas Top Day

Fri 19th - Christmas Carol Concert in Church 6pm

Mon 22nd - Fri 2nd January - Christmas Hols

Essex County Council School Term and Holiday Dates for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools - Academic Year 2025-2026



= Schooldays

= School holidays

= Bank holidays

= Weekends

Non Pupil Days are marked in red

In addition, schools allocate five non-pupil days out of the school days indicated, or the equivalent in disaggregated twilight sessions.

Autumn Term:	Monday 1 September 2025 – Friday 19 December 2025 *Half Term 27 October – 31 October*	75 days
Spring Term:	Monday 5 January 2026 – Friday 27 March 2026 *Half Term 16 February - 20 February*	55 days
Summer Term:	Monday 13 April 2026 – Monday 20 July 2026 *Half Term 25 May – 29 May, and May Bank Holiday - 4 May*	65 days
		195 days