Our School Newsletter

March 2026

Our School Vision -

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

Matthew (7:12)

Dear Parents,

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Easter Celebration this morning in Church; we hope you enjoyed hearing all the things the children have been finding out about Easter and listening to their Easter songs. This afternoon, we have fingers crossed that the rain will stop and we will be able to have our Easter Egg Hunt on the field!

Although this term has been a short one, the children (and staff!) are definitely ready for a holiday and we hope those who are still feeling the after-effects of all the illnesses we have had going around over the winter will be able to make a proper recovery with two weeks to rest and relax.

When we come back, Woodpeckers will be learning about The Victorians and The Tudors, Robins will be learning about Vikings through their Traders and Raiders topic; Sparrows will be studying coastlines and Ducklings will be learning about what we can find at the beach. We are looking forward to lovely trips to the beach, to West Stow Anglo Saxon Village and to Kentwell Hall.

Also when we come back, Bear Club will be open until 6pm on days when the 5.30-6pm session has been pre-booked – please let the office know if you would like to book this later slot so that we can plan in advance, thank you.

Thank you for your responses to my letter about a holiday club – we are going to join with DM Sports to offer a holiday club from 9-3pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays in the summer holiday. Children will be able to take part in some sports and outdoor activities, alongside craft and games activities indoors. We are investigating being able to access the HAF vouchers for our club, the normal cost for which will be £35 per day. We will send booking information nearer the time.

Wishing everyone a lovely Easter,

Best wishes, Mrs Overton

GREAT TEY Church of England PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Mrs McDiarmid is hosting a quiz at The Chapel pub in Coggeshall on Sunday 19th April to fundraise for hatching chicks! There will be a raffle and Play your Cards Right too. The quiz starts at 7.30pm with a maximum of 8 people on a team. Please contact The Chapel if you would like to book a table.

Mrs Longman crocheted a gorgeous elephant and has raised over £60 towards the cost of the chicks by getting the children to guess his / her name – well done Oscar B for guessing Mango!

The chicks (or the eggs to begin with!) will now be arriving on 20th April and we are very excited to see them hatch!

Village Fair 13th June 2026

The village fair committee have asked me to let the children know about a couple of exciting competitions that are planned for the fair, with entries to be displayed on the day.

1. Build a copy of the church, or part of the church, out of Lego

2. Create a Pet Portrait (or any animal) in any medium – paint, sketching, collage, clay etc. etc….

3. Build a scarecrow to place in a Garden - with a pre-printed advertisement for the Fayre.

There will also be the usual fun and games on the day, and I'm hoping that our choir might sing some of the songs they sang at the Mercury Theatre so we hope you will be able to join us.

Ducklings

Ducklings have thoroughly enjoyed their Big Wide World topic, finding out about all the different types of habitat around us. They have enjoyed creating a desert scene with the small world animals, looking to see the different types of animals that live in each place and the kinds of things they need to survive. They have also created some fabulous ocean scapes using Brusho, which are currently in pride of place on our class wall!

Sparrows

Our trip to Hedingham Castle was such a great way to finish our topic! Nigel and Andy were our historians for the day and shared the history of the castle and those who had lived there. We spent time exploring the different floors of the castle and the dungeon. We had a fabulous time becoming the lords, ladies, peasants and knights of the castle!

We enjoyed 'Castle Day' where we all made a castle, cutting out the battlements, windows and doors, we added towers, turrets, a drawbridge, portcullis and stonework.

World Book Day was fun too! We made a tower and used different characters to create our own tower story. In guided reading we have been reading stories based around our topic and wrote an exciting tunnel story using adjectives, conjunctions and connectives.

In maths, the year 1s have been working on their number knowledge, identifying tens and ones and counting in 10s and 5s. Year 2s have been practising multiplication and division and working on word problems for different times tables.

Robins

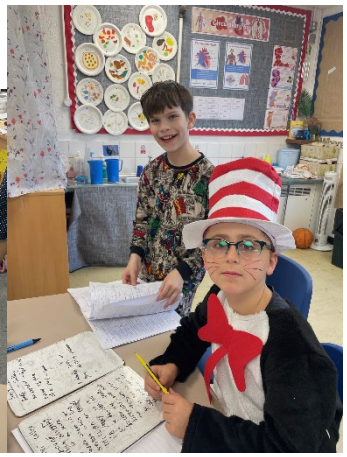
Robins Class have enjoyed their topic Playlist this half term. They have worked hard on writing stories inspired by pieces of classical music, adding interesting adjectives and wow words to create a sense of the music. They have also written fact files about famous singers. As you can see from the photos below, they have also created artwork inspired by pieces of music.

Robins have looked at the different instruments of the orchestra, learning their names and recognising their sound whilst also placing them into their different families. They have enjoyed listening to singing from around the world and are looking forward to learning to play the ukulele next term!

Woodpeckers

Another busy and exciting few weeks in Woodpeckers class. As part of our Design and Technology project, the children have enjoyed designing, making and evaluating their own cereal bars. They looked amazing and tasted delicious (I'm not sure if any actually made it home as they were devoured at break time!)

As part of World Book Day, we enjoyed dressing up and sharing books with the younger children in the school. There was some lovely expressive reading and discussion about the characters and pictures.



In English this half term, we have written a biography on William Harvey and his discovery of the circulation in the body. The children have also enjoyed reading narrative poems by Edward Lear and written a modern version of The Owl and the Pussycat. We have finished our class book, Pigheart Boy, and watched the film to compare the similarities and differences between the two. Such an enjoyable read which raised some interesting points for discussion.

In Science, we have been looking at heart rate and taking our pulse. The children then carried out various exercises to see what happened to their heart rate. We then plotted running results in a line graph.

We have now finished our topic 'Blood Heart' and look forward to starting our new topic 'Revolution' about the Victorians, after Easter.

Well done, Woodpeckers! 😊

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

April

Monday 13th - first day back

Thursday 9th – Robins Class begin 10 weeks of ukulele lessons (ukuleles provided by school)

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

Y3 Swimming

Thurs 21st 10am - Pentecost Community Worship in church

Fri 22nd - non-pupil day

Mon 25th – Fri 29th Half Term

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

Fri 12th – Y6 to Crucial Crew (more info to follow)

Y3 swimming

Tues 16th – KS2 Consortium Sports Event

Fri 19th – Y3 swimming

Mon 22nd – Fri 26th – Secondary School Induction Week for Y6 pupils

Tues 23rd – Woodpeckers Class to Kentwell Hall

Weds 24th – Robins to West Stow Anglo-Saxon Village

Fri 26th – Y3 swimming

Tues 30th – Sparrows to Walton Beach

July

Fri 3rd – Y3 Swimming

Tues 7th – Y6 Leavers Trip to Danbury Outdoors Centre

Fri 10th – Y3 swimming

Mon 13th _ Rocksteady Concert 2pm

Tues 16th – End of Year Community Worship in church 10am

Fri 17th – Leavers Assembly 2pm – Y6 parents are invited.

Non-Pupil days left in 2025/26 are 22nd May and 20th July.

Non-Pupil days in 2026/27 are 1st and 2nd September, 2nd November, 7th June and 21st July.