Our School Newsletter November 2025

Our School Vision -

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

Matthew (7:12)

Dear Parents,

Firstly, a warm welcome to children who have joined the school recently - Ronin and Giselle, who have joined us in Y4, Eileen who has joined us in Y3 and Ellie who has joined Y2. We hope they and their families will be very happy at Great Tey. We now have 86 pupils in school, slightly more than our number to admit, which is 84.

Thank you to all the parents of children in Robins and Woodpeckers classes for getting up early on Tuesday morning and for your patience waiting for the children to get back from London. Despite the hours of travelling, the children had a fantastic day and the adults on the trip were proud of the children's behaviour. On the journey, they enjoyed seeing some of the London landmarks such as the Houses of Parliament, Big Ben and the Tower of London and the museum itself was a great hit.

I hope you have found your parent consultation meetings useful this week. It is always a lovely opportunity for teachers and parents to share information and for parents to look at their children's work . If you have not yet made an appointment, please talk to your child's teacher to do so.

Many thanks to everyone who brought in an Operation Christmas Child shoebox, and to Alexis' mum for collecting them and taking them to Kingsland Church - we donated 17 boxes in total and hope each one will bring a smile to someone's face!

Please note the change of date for the Carol Service on the diary page on the back. This is held in the church and everyone is welcome. Tickets for the EYFS / KS1 Nativity will be available soon and there will be two tickets available per child, per performance.

Finally, an apology. A member of the local community has picked me up on careless use of apostrophes in my last Round and About message. I'm afraid it was a bit of a rushed job and I didn't take enough time to read it through - I do know the difference between 'its' and 'it's' really!!! Apologies to anyone else who spotted the mistakes, I'll take more care next time.

Best wishes, Mrs Overton

GREAT TEY Church of England PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Early Collection

Just a quick reminder that, other than in an emergency, early collection can only be permitted if it is pre-arranged through the office, such as for a medical appointment. In this instance, we ask for evidence of the appointment to be provided so that the absence can be authorised.
In an emergency, please telephone ahead so that we know to expect you. **Please note that we are not able to let children go home early with anyone other than a parent, unless it has been pre-arranged and authorised. This is for safeguarding reasons and we will phone you if there is any doubt.**

Because the office is exceptionally busy at 3pm, if you do need to collect your child early, either as a one-off or on a regular basis, please collect them at 2.45pm. This avoids having to disturb collective worship to remove children and ensures things can run smoothly at the end of each day.

Thank you

Robins and Woodpeckers met Michael Cheek, who plays for Burnley FC, pictured here with Dan Mather from DM Sports Coaching. Thank you both!

Parking (again ...)

Sorry to keep nagging, but please can I ask everyone to avoid parking on the yellow zigzags just outside the school car park. The zigzags are there for safety reasons and to allow deliveries into the car park, thank you.

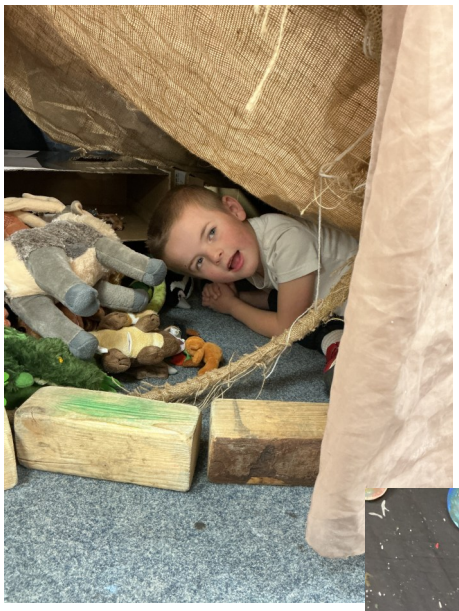
Headlice

Unfortunately, headlice are a problem in school again. Please check your child's hair regularly. Current NHS advice is -

Lice and nits can be removed by wet combing. You can buy a special fine-toothed comb (detection comb) online or from pharmacies to remove head lice and nits. There may be instructions on the pack, but usually you: -
wash hair with ordinary shampoo
- apply lots of conditioner (any conditioner will do) -
comb the whole head of hair, using the detection comb, from the roots to the ends
- It usually takes about 10 minutes to comb short hair, and 20 to 30 minutes for long, frizzy or curly hair. When you've finished combing the hair, comb through all the hair again for a second time.
- Do wet combing on days 1, 5, 9 and 13 to catch any newly hatched head lice. Check again that everyone's hair is free of lice on day 17.

Ducklings

Ducklings have been enjoying their topic Starry Night. We have made a rocket in the classroom, dressed up as Smeds and Smoos, painted planets, learned about night and day and explored the dark with torches. We have learnt about what nocturnal and diurnal means and made dens in the classroom for nocturnal animals (and ourselves!).



Sparrows

The Sparrows are very excited about our upcoming Nativity performances! Parts have been given, lines and songs are being rehearsed, and we look forward to welcoming you all to see it!

We are continuing with our Enchanted Woodland topic and have been finding out facts about red squirrels and continuing to enjoy a variety of woodland stories. We have been focusing on making our sentences interesting using adjectives, verbs and adverbs.

In maths, we have been working on our addition and subtraction number sentences, using number lines and 100 squares to support our learning.

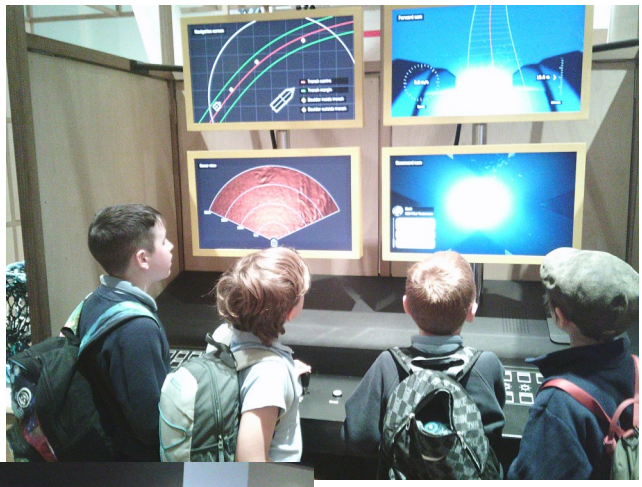
In Geography, the children have been labelling maps of the Uk and labelling the continents of the world. We have also compared different forests in the UK and across the world.

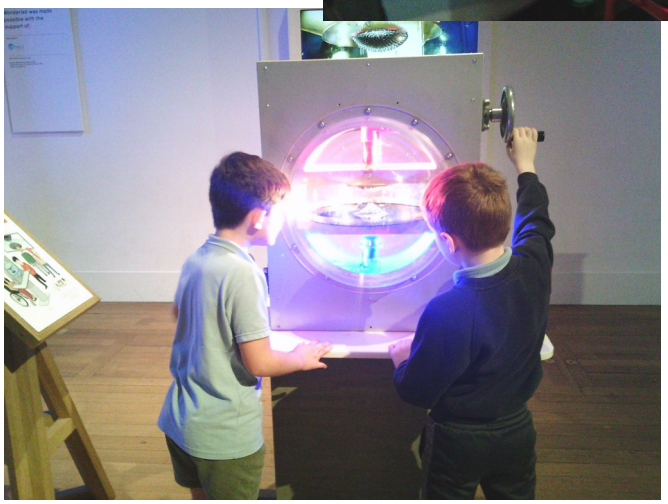
The children are working hard in their phonics groups learning different sound and grammar rules weekly and we would appreciate your support by reading with your children regularly throughout the week.

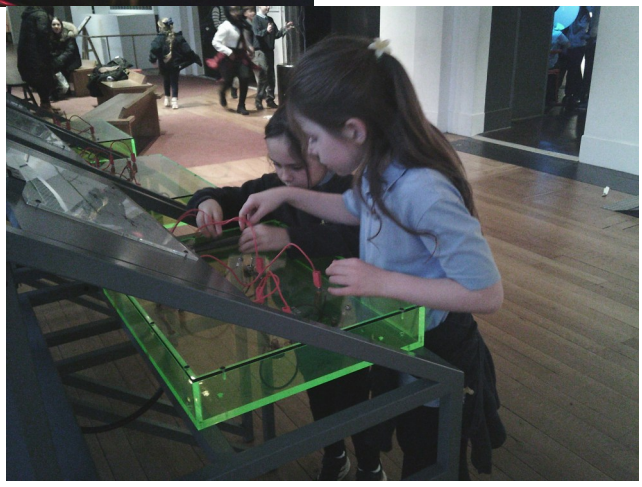
In Science we have been learning about the process of pollination, it was great fun acting out as the bee and the different flowers!

Robins

So far this half term, Robins have been busy learning all about the human body and the digestive system. We've learnt all about teeth and how to look after them. We have also found out about the different organs in the body that play a part in digesting our food. Robins had a great time at the Science Museum on Tuesday the 25th of November. We got to see all sorts of wonderful things! Our favourites were the different surface slides, the pulley chairs, the remote controlled robots and the electricity show in the Wonderlab!

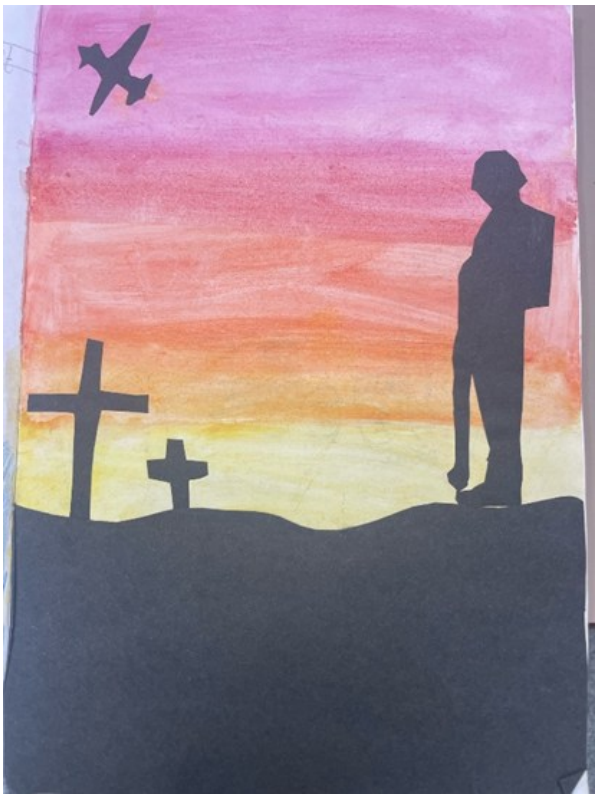


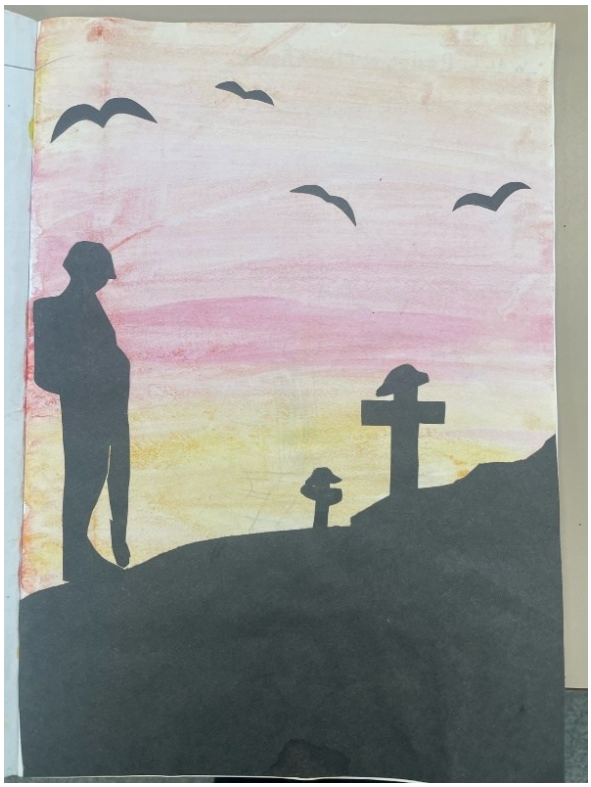




Woodpeckers

Another exciting month in Woodpeckers class. The children are fascinated by our Stargazers topic and have enjoyed finding out about the planets, using different fruits to show the size of each one. They have also learnt about the sun and phases of the moon. We have also written thoughtful poems and created effective silhouette art for Remembrance Day (Etholle's and Emmett's are below).





In Maths, we have been adding and subtracting fractions and working on multiplication tables. The children are enjoying designing and creating their own Mars Rovers in D/T and we look forward to seeing the finished products in a few weeks.

Recently, we were lucky to have a visitor to KS2, Bromley FC striker, Michael Cheek. He talked about his football career, starting at Stanway Rovers, and answered lots of questions about what it is like to be a professional player and how dedication and healthy eating are important. The children got autographs and he gave each class a Panini Football League sticker album and stickers to start collecting.

The highlight of November has to be our visit to the Science Museum. The children explored different areas - Space, Medicine, Technicians, Mathematics and Modern World. The Wonderlab was an exciting end to the trip, with lots of hands-on activities exploring forces, electricity and much more. The children represented the school brilliantly and thoroughly enjoyed their day out in London seeing the sights and enjoying science. Well done, Woodpeckers!

Diary Dates Autumn - Spring Term 2025 - 2026 (new dates in red)

December

Thurs 4th - Panto in school (paid for by FoGT)

Fri 5th - Elfridges

Mon 8th - Y6 Emotional resilience workshop

Mon 8th - Rocksteady concert 2pm in hall

Thursday 11th December - additional dance club to replace 27th November

Fri 12th - Agents of Change Badge Assembly

Mon 15th - Christmas Carol Concert in church 6pm
Please note this is a change of date

Tues 16th - Ducklings and Sparrows Class Nativity Performance 2pm

Weds 17th - Ducklings and Sparrows Class Nativity Performance 9.15am

Weds 17th - Christmas Lunch / wear a Christmas jumper day

Fri 19th - final day of term

January

Monday 5th - start of term

Weds 7th - Reception and Y6 height and weight checks

Thurs 15th - Fab Science event for Robins and Woodpeckers

Fri 30th - Candlemas Community Worship at St Barnabas, 10am

February

Fri 13th - Y4 begin swimming lessons

Fri 13th - FoGT Glo Disco 5.30pm

Mon 16th - Half Term Week

March

Mon 16th - Rocksteady Concert 2pm in hall

Tues 24th - Sparrows Class to Hedingham Castle

Fri 27th - Easter Community Worship in Church 10am

Mon 30th - Friday 10th April Easter Holidays

April

Monday 13th - first day back

May

Friday 1st - Y3 begin swimming lessons

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.