Our School Newsletter October 2024

Our School Vision -

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

Matthew (7:12)

Dear Parents,

Firstly, I am delighted to say that we have employed Mrs Denise Rought, a highly experienced teacher, to teach Woodpeckers on Mondays and Tuesdays now that I have taken on the SENDCo role from Mrs. Hodgkins. We are delighted to have Mrs Rought join us and I'm sure she will be a fantastic addition to the team - she has been in to meet the class today and will meet them again with me on Tuesday 5th.

Secondly, some thank yous -

A big thank you, goodbye and good luck to Rev'd Ian and Mrs Scott-Thomson, who are moving to pastures new. Rev'd Ian has supported all of our pupils through Community worship, being a Governor and taking part in Open the Book assemblies, whilst Mrs Scott-Thompson has organised the Open The Book assemblies and the Soul Space transition work for Y6 pupils. They will be missed but we wish them all the best for the future.

A huge thank you to everyone who took part in the school tidy-up on 13th October.

Poplar Nurseries have kindly donated lots of bulbs and soil for children in Sparrows Class to create their own gardening area - thank you!

A massive thank you to Mr Percival and everyone involved with Silver Threads, who have donated £3,000 to the school. We are currently giving a lot of thought to a special way to use such a wonderful donation - thank you.

A big thank you to everyone who spoke to our SIAMs inspectors or completed the survey - we are very pleased with our report, which has now been finalised and is on our website.

Finally, thanks as always to all our wonderful volunteers in the library, garden and reading corners and to FoGT, who give up their time to support our pupils in so many different ways. Recently, FoGT have funded class reading books, picture dictionaries, tennis equipment and new PE mats - thank you!

Wishing everyone a restful and relaxing half term, Mrs O

Governor News

We currently have a vacancy for a parent Governor. Governors play an important role in school, making decisions about the budget and staffing structure and supporting school development. However, no specialist knowledge is needed - just an interest in learning about how the school runs and a willingness to attend meetings (currently held twice a term on Mondays from 4.30 - 6.30pm) If you would be interested, please email head@greattey.essex.sch.uk, thank you.

GREAT TEY Church of England PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

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

Attendance News

Attendance for this half term -

Ducklings - 97%

Sparrows - 91%

Robins - 96%

Woodpeckers - 92%

Well done, Ducklings, who have won time in the woodland area and Robins, who have won some time at the park!

A note about Governors ....

Governors attend meetings twice a term, at which general information is shared about the school budget, pupil progress, and any issues currently affecting the school. **ALL information shared with Governors is anonymised** and, while they visit classrooms regularly to monitor life in school, Governors do not have access to information about individual children and should not share any information they find during those visits with anyone other than the Headteacher. When they join the school, Governors sign a code of conduct undertaking to keep information about the school confidential and to always seek to represent the school in a positive light - although their role is a voluntary one, they are hugely important to the life of the school and each Governor is an important member of the school community. If you ever have any concerns about the conduct of a school Governor, please inform the Headteacher or Chair of Governors, Martin Ives - mives@greattey.essex.sch.uk. Thank you.

Our Worship

This half term we have investigated two values - Creativity and Thankfulness. We have talked about all the things we are thankful for in God's creation and the parts of our own creativity which make us feel thankful - singing, dancing, art, designing and so on. We have learned that people in other countries don't always have enough food or clean water and the children have worked in teams to create posters highlighting the need to be grateful for what we have, to take care of the world's resources and to make the world a fairer place. We linked in our work on Harvest and being thankful for the food we eat.

Next half term, leading up to Advent and Christmas, our value will be **Trust.** We will be thinking about why we trust others and how to be trustworthy ourselves. We will look at stories from the Bible where people put their trust in God: The Storm on the Lake, Daniel in The Lions' Den and Moses and The Red Sea.

Ducklings Class

Ducklings have had a busy half term settling into school and learning all the different routines. In their topic, they have been learning all about things that Creep, Wriggle and Crawl. They took part in our Science day, learning all about what happens when you mix two things together, such as blowing up a balloon with vinegar and bicarbonate of soda and watching a Mento make a bottle of coke explode on the playground! Yesterday, they went in the Scout minibus for a trip to Coggeshall library and had a look at all the storybooks on offer.

Rowan said, "Well, I do love those dinosaur books. I found out a T-Rex has 25 bones."

Lucy said, " I liked going on the bus with Mr. Tarman."

Jack said, "I really liked going on the bus, too!"

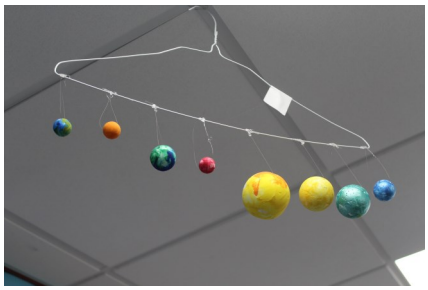
Saint said, "I liked the books with Spiderman."

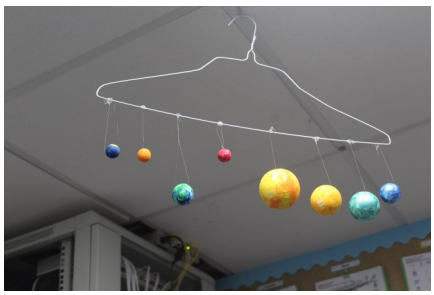
Oliver said, "I liked the Hallowe'en book."

Sparrows Class

Sparrows Class have loved their Moon Zoom topic! Bridget loved finding out that the moon is only a rock and Johnny didn't realise that the moon is really dusty! Lacey and Julian both loved finding the alien rocket outside and making posters to tell the alien we had food and a bed for him. Otto told me that the Moon Zoom topic had been very interesting as he never knew that Uranus had rings around it like Saturn and Meryl agreed because she didn't know that Venus is so hot it could melt metal! Arabella added that everyone used to think Mars was the hottest but now they know it is Venus. Jack liked making and painting the planets for their planets models.

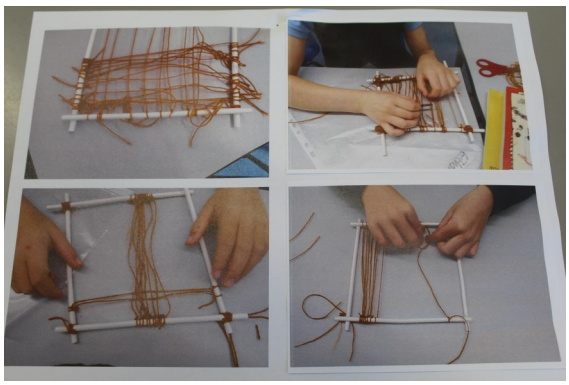
Rosemarie told me all about the Light topic they have been learning about in RE and that they have made clay Diwali pots. Molly let me know that light is very important so you can find your way home! Mabel and Zennor have been working hard at home drawing and painting pictures for homework and Clara enjoyed using counters to build a model that was so high it got very wobbly!

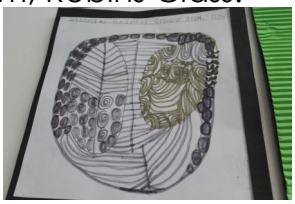


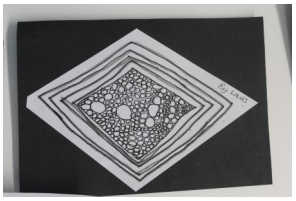


Robins Class

Robins Class are certainly enjoying their Tribal Tales topic this term!
Oscar tells me, "In our topic we are learning about the Stone Age, the Iron Age and the Bronze Age. We have learned that they didn't have things we have like plastic. Today we are looking at how they made toys and games out of other things like wood, stone and leaves." Phoebe added, "In Tribal Tales we have been looking at carved stones and designing our own. We have been collecting flints outside." Louis told me that he has been enjoying exchanging in maths whereas Florence enjoyed estimating how many conkers they had found then counting them - 461! Ben has been enjoying their work in RE answering the big question 'Can you be moral without religion?' and Caden told me about some of the moral scenarios they had acted out, which ended up with the FBI being called! Etholle has enjoyed learning about where all their favourite fruits came from for the Harvest Festival. Jake enjoyed building a loom, even though he currently has only one working arm!
Well done for a hardworking first half term, Robins Class!

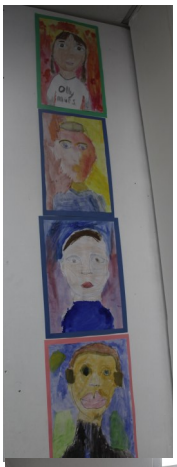


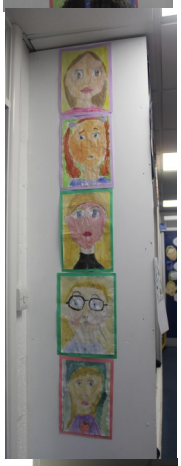




Woodpeckers Class

Woodpeckers children have all been practising using their own email addresses over the last few days. We talked about email rules, such as only emailing something you would say to someone in person, only emailing friends, teachers and family and not using rude or abusive language. The children have all emailed me their favourite things about this half term -





Ellie - In maths I liked fractions - I love it!

Pia - This term I liked doing the RE, art and history!

Damir - I have really liked English and maths. I especially liked bonds to ten and times tables. I liked in English the sheet with the ghost voice and my hoverbike.

Alana - this term I have really enjoyed making hoverbike adverts. I found it highly enjoyable actually making the adverts and drawing fictional images.

Olivia - this term was a bit scary at first because I'm a new y6 and it was a bit nerve cracking coming in after a long summer. But my favourite thing was making the adverts, I found it really interesting learning about it.

Connie - I'm emailing to say I've enjoyed looking at the ads in English

Nahdia - this term I enjoyed SCIENCE DAY! (Woohoooo)

Martha - I'm emailing because I have enjoyed the end of the Summer holidays because I was soo excited to join Woodpeckers. I love this class.

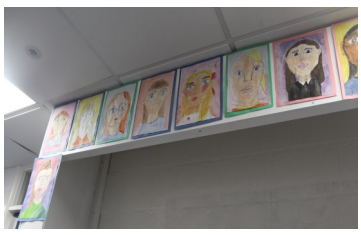
Sam - I LOVED doing the Gods and learning about the Mayans, Romans and Egyptians.

Charles - My favourite thing was getting our emails up and this was all because of you!!!

Gracie Do - this term I enjoyed the adverts because I found it really interesting learning about all the features like product placement.

Emmett - I'm emailing to say that I have enjoyed maths because it is a bit of a challenge.

Esme - this term I have enjoyed doing Reflection Alley and I loved having the Science Day!



Seb - I'm emailing to say I have really liked ICT because it's fun.

Lillie - this term I enjoyed two things to do with Art/English and science. I enjoyed finding all about birds and even making my own! I loved writing paragraphs about it but most of all I enjoyed art when making my very own bird! I also enjoyed the excellent experiments on science day!

Gracie Da - I'm emailing to say that I have really enjoyed the futuristic birds in English, roman numerals in maths and science day on Tuesday.

Isla-Mae - My favourite part of the year was the fab science lesson we did! It was my favourite thing EVER (to do with science!)

Harmony - I'm messaging you to say that I have enjoyed the Science day 'cause of the dry ice and the lemonade thing (or the diet coke, I don't remember what it was but yeah.) Ty.

Paradise - I'm emailing to say that I have really enjoyed maths.

Georgie - I enjoyed doing our hoverbike project, it was really fun!!!

Lincoln - this term I have enjoyed lots of stuff but my favourite was the science day, I had so much fun!

Diary Dates for Autumn Term

November

Monday 4th November – Non-Pupil Day (Staff Training)
Tuesday 5th November – First day back / School Photographs
Wednesday 6th November – Parent Consultation Evening 3.30-5pm
Thursday 7th November – Parent Consultation Evening 3.30 – 7pm
Monday 11th November – Remembrance Service 10.45am in Church
Tuesday 12th November – Open Afternoon for prospective Reception parents
Thursday 14th November – Open Afternoon for prospective Reception parents
Mon 18th – Fri 22nd November – Book Fair Open

December

Thursday 5th December – FoGT Pantomime in School
Wednesday 11th December – Christmas Lunch / Christmas Jumper
Thursday 12th December - Elfridges (more info to follow)
Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th December – KS1 Nativity 2.30pm
Thursday 19th December – KS2 Carol Service in Church 6pm
Friday 20th December – Last Day of Term

Diary Dates for Spring Term

January

Monday 6th January - first day back
Friday 31st January - Candlemas Community Worship in Church 11am

February

Monday 17th - Friday 21st February - half term week
Monday 24th February - Non-Pupil Day (Staff Training)

March

April

Friday 4th April - Easter Community Worship in Church 11am
Monday 7th - Monday 21st April - Easter Holidays
Tuesday 22nd April - First day back