Our School Newsletter October 2025

Our School Vision -

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

Matthew (7:12)

Dear Parents,

This has been a lovely half term, with lots of exciting things happening in school - the children all loved Fab Science Day earlier in the month, with a focus on forces. The children investigated the effects of air resistance and water resistance and explored how many ping pong balls they could keep in the air with a hairdryer. The favourite was the water pressure rocket which flew right across the field. More recently, Ducklings and Sparrows welcomed some fabulous animals into school, including giant minibeasts and beautiful woodland animals. Thank you to everyone who contributed to allow us to invite Exotic Explorers into school, and thank you to FoGT for funding our Fab Science Day.

Also this half term, we enjoyed visiting St. Barnabas Church for our Harvest Festival, and lots of food donations were then dropped off at Colchester Foodbank - thank you for your generosity.

The children have been working hard on their Agents of Change projects, with children contributing to assemblies, researching inspirational people, cooking their favourite foods and raising money for good causes though bake sales and fairy sales! Some children are already close to achieving their first badge, which children are given once they complete seven projects - there will be a special badge assembly towards the end of term and parents of pupils receiving badges will be invited to attend.

As the weather is changing, after half term please send your child in with a pair of slippers or indoor shoes they can keep in school to prevent muddy floors, thank you.

Best wishes for a happy half term - see you on 4th, Mrs Overton

A Note About Parking

A number of parents have recently been blocked in at the village car park due to others parking too close and in the centre of the car park. I know how busy the car park gets, but please park around the edges as much as possible and only park in the centre if you can do so without blocking others in. When the car park is full, if you need to park on Greenfield Drive or Chrismund Way, please be very mindful of our neighbours and avoid parking across drive ways, thank you.

GREAT TEY Church of England PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

Ducklings

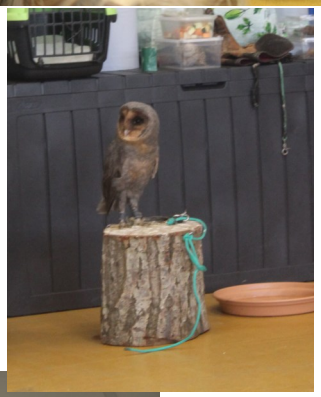
In Ducklings this half term we have been looking at mini-beasts in our topic Creep, Wriggle and Crawl. We had a great end to the half term when we were visited by Exotic Explorers. The children enjoyed looking at and learning about a tarantulas (called Spinderella!), scorpions, giant African land snails, giant millipedes and cockroaches. Many children held or touched the not-so-mini-beasts and learnt some interesting facts such as that scorpions carry their babies around on their backs and that tarantulas have 10 limbs (eight legs and two arms)! After half term we will be embracing the shorter daylight hours in our new topic Starry Night.

Sparrows

What a busy half term the Sparrow class have had! We're thoroughly enjoying our 'Enchanted Wood' topic, we have found out interesting facts about bats, hedgehogs and owls and have read lots of woodland stories. We all wrote a woodland story where we considered the elements involved in story writing and included adjectives in our writing. We have had great fun with our art work, our owls and all sitting on branches around the classroom, the bats are roosting and we made clay hedgehogs. We also took inspiration from the artist Andy Goldsworthy with our leaf pictures.

In maths we have been practising our number bonds to 10 up to 20, focused on place value as well as counting forwards, backwards, in doubles, odds and evens and the 2,5,10 and 3 timetables!

We had a wonderful day this week when Exotic explorers came to visit and bought skunks, mice, a barn owl, a hedgehog and ferrets for us to look at and touch. The owl was beautiful, and so quiet when it flew around the hall. The skunks were very furry and we had to be careful of their sharp teeth!



Robins

Robins class have finished off this half term with a very exciting activity to end their topic, "Scrumdiddlyumptious!" They all made their own smoothies! They carefully chopped and prepared their fruit and chose their own individual flavours. They have also worked really hard in maths this half term, learning how to add and subtract numbers using a written method. In English, they've enjoyed researching a topic of their own choice to write a non-chronological report, remembering to write facts and not fiction. We've also finished our RE work this week on religious commitments and learnt lots about how people who follow different religions show commitment to their beliefs.

Woodpeckers

Another busy month in Woodpeckers class. We have been looking at the Polar regions and writing non-chronological reports about polar animals. We have also enjoyed writing haiku and cinquain poems using specific rules and syllable patterns. In Science, we tested which conditions affected how quickly ice melts. In Maths, we have been exploring square, cubed and prime numbers.

Congratulations to the Year 6 children who passed their Bikeabiity course and are now allowed to ride their bikes safely on the roads. Watch out, Gt Tey!

A definite highlight was the Fab Science session. We were treated to a range of activities and experimented with different forces. The rocket at the end was most children's favourite part, especially as it nearly reached the trees!

Well done, Woodpeckers! Another fabulous month! Next term, our topic changes to 'Stargazers' with an emphasis on science and the solar system.

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

November

Monday 3rd – Non-Pupil Day for staff training

Monday 10th – Friday 14th – Book Fair in school

Monday 10th – Open Afternoon for Reception children September 2026

Tuesday 11th – Remembrance Service in church at 10.45 am (new Ducklings will not attend this service yet)

Monday 17th – Open Afternoon for Reception children September 2026

Monday 24th – Choir to sing at Royal Albert Hall

Monday 24th – Ducklings Class Parent Consultation afternoon 1pm – 3.30pm

Tuesday 25th Robins and Woodpeckers to Science Museum – leaving at 8am

Tuesday 25th – Sparrows Class Parent Consultation afternoon 1pm – 3.30pm

Weds 26th – Robins Class Parent Consultation afternoon 1pm – 3.30pm

Thu 27th – Woodpeckers Class Parent Consultation afternoon 1pm – 3.30pm

Thu 27th – Whole School Parent Consultation evening 3.30 – 6.30pm

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

Fri 12th – Agents of Change Badge Assembly

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 – Christmas Carol Concert in church 6pm

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 – FoGT Glo Disco 5.30pm

Mon 16th – Half Term Week

March

Mon 16th – Rocksteady Concert 2pm in hall