Our School Newsletter September 2025

Our School Vision -

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

Matthew (7:12)

Dear Parents,

It's been lovely to see the children settle back into school so well after the holidays and to chat to them about their summers and about their learning so far this term. We were delighted to welcome April, Beau, Esmae, Harper, Jacob, Jax, Patrick and Piper into Ducklings class this term and also to welcome Darcie to Y2 in Sparrows Class, Alexis to Y4 in Robins (and Miss Spicer to Robins Class!) and Alfie and Indigo to Y5 in Woodpeckers - we hope they and their families will be very happy at Great Tey.

Topics this term are -

Ducklings - Creep, Crawl and Wriggle followed by Starry Night after half term

Sparrows - The Enchanted Woodland

Robins - Scrumdiddlyumptious, followed by Burps, Bottoms and Bile!

Woodpeckers - Frozen Kingdoms and Stargazers

Our Value this half term is Compassion.

Clubs are now well underway, so please contact the office if your child would like to take part. We are also continuing to run very popular RockSteady sessions on Monday afternoons (in school time), where the children learn to play guitar, drums or keyboard or to sing lead vocals in a band - please let me know if your child would be interested in this.

This term, we are looking forward to our Fab Science Day on October 9th and to Exotic Explorers visiting with lots of minibeasts and animals for Ducklings and Sparrows to look at and hold on 21st. Robins and Woodpeckers are looking forward to their trip to the Science Museum in London on 25th November and Y6 recently enjoyed an Agents of Change conference at Essex University, where they learned all about the importance of conserving water (and had a look around a University campus, which we hope many of them will have been inspired by!)

Wishing you all a happy Autumn Term. Best wishes, Mrs Overton

GREAT TEY Church of England PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

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

Ducklings

As I write the newsletter, Ducklings class are having a wonderful time in the Woodland area, building dens, swinging in the hammock and drinking hot chocolate!

They have also loved Drawing Club, in which they listen to a story or rhyme (Spider in the Bath is the current favourite), draw part of the story and write special code words and sounds. We are proud of how well Ducklings class are doing with their phonics - they have learned s, a, t, p, i, n, d and m already! Well done, Ducklings!

Sparrows

This afternoon, Sparrows have been learning about the Seasons and investigating how trees change throughout the year. They have looked at the colour of the leaves on the trees around school and have created their own seasonal pictures - they were working hard before the photographer arrived in class and disturbed them all!

Sparrows class have also been learning about the life cycle of an acorn and the parts of a tree. They have been reading stories set in the forest, such as Little Red Riding Hood, Rumpelstiltskin and Goldilocks - they used the story of Rumpelstiltskin as a prompt to draw their own fairytale castles on the computer using Paintz and have been writing their own sentences and stories using exciting adjectives. Fabulous work, Sparrows!

Robins

Robins have been learning all about food, including finding out what makes a balanced diet and tracking where different foods come from around the World. They have also been learning to sing Food, Glorious Food! and other fab songs. Robins have been writing recounts of some of their favourite memories and have also started to write poems and create autumn leaves artwork for our Harvest Community Worship. Brilliant work, Robins - keep it up!

Warming - up in PE with a classic game of stuck-in-the-mud - the old games are always the best!

Woodpeckers

This afternoon, Woodpeckers took part in a Zoom call with a researcher from the Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge She talked to them about polar exploration now and in the past and showed photos of artefacts used in polar expeditions by Ernest Shackleton in the past to compare to those used nowadays. The children asked insightful questions and discovered the challenges of living in Polar Kingdoms!

This week, Y6 also took part in an Agents of Change Conference all about the importance of water conservation. They carried out a variety of activities including taking a water survey and working with Anglian Water to look at the different ways water can be conserved. They also took part in an African drumming workshop and took an inspirational walk around the University - well done, Woodpeckers!

Pictures from the Agents of Change Conference at Essex University attended by Y6 pupils.

Ducklings

YR / 1

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

	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 and remove earrings!

	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	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 and remove earrings!

	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 and remove earrings!

	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

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

September

Fridays until 14th November – Y6 swimming

October

Weds 1st and Thurs 2nd – Y6 Bikeability (for those who have given consent, bikes and helmets needed)

Thurs 2nd – Flu Immunisations (only given with parental consent)

Fri 3rd – Harvest Community Worship in church at 10am (new Ducklings will not attend this service until they are a little older!)

Thurs 9th – Fab Science Day (workshops in school paid for by FoGT)

Tues 21st – Exotic Explorers visiting for Ducklings and Sparrows classes

Monday 27th – Half Term Week

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)

Mon 8th – Y6 Emotional resilience workshop

Mon 8th – Rocksteady concert 2pm

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

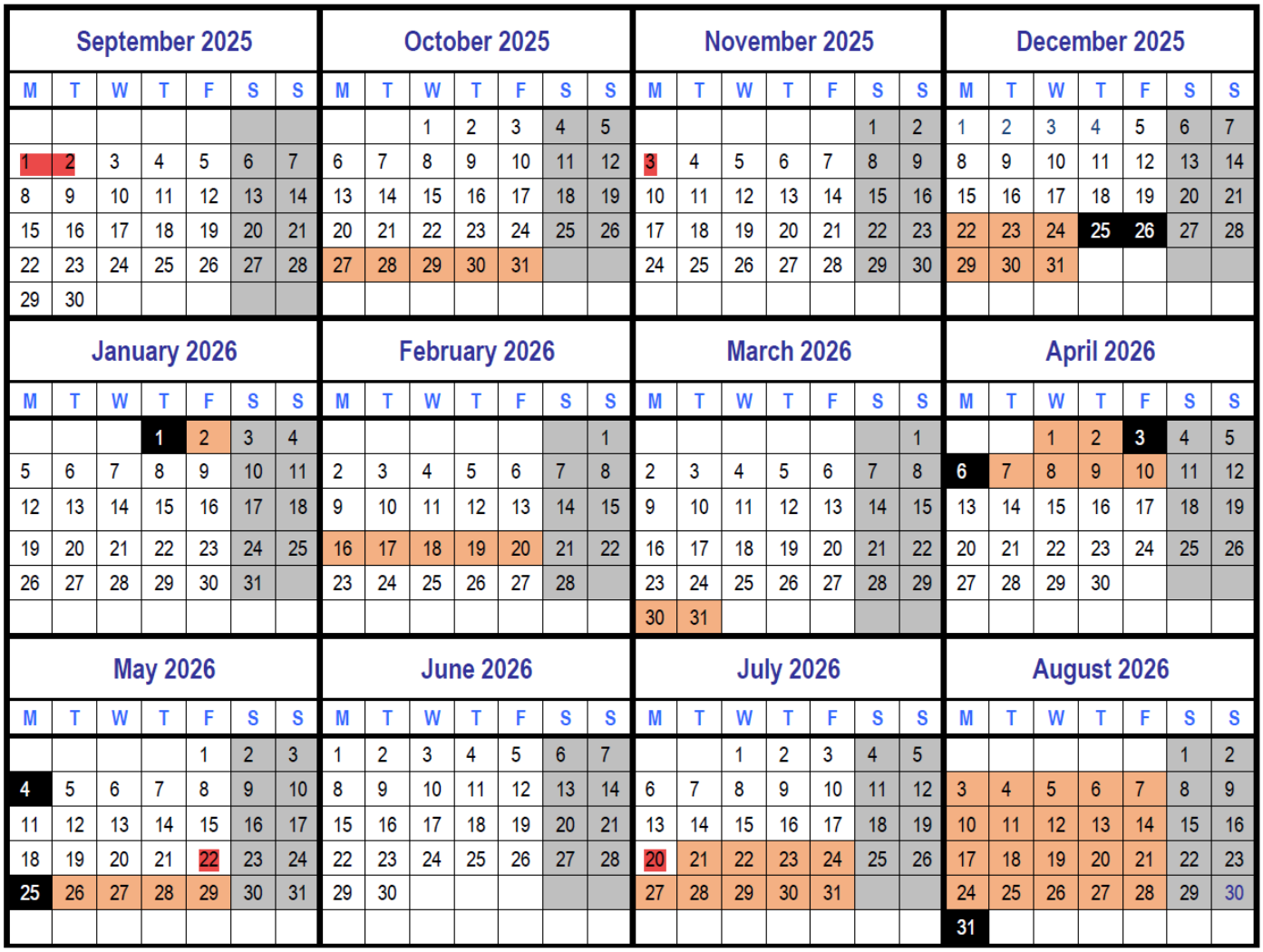
Fri 19th – Christmas Carol Concert in church 6pm

Fri 19th – final day of term

January

Spring term begins on Monday 5th January for all classes.

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