Our School Newsletter September 2026

Our School Vision -

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

Matthew (7:12)

Dear Parents,

I hope the children have enjoyed their first month back at school and in their new classes – it's amazing how quickly they seem to adapt to all the changes and settle in as though they have always been there! We had a really lovely day with the Fab Scientists yesterday, with all of the classes learning about Materials and their Properties. My thanks to Friends of Great Tey for funding this - it has become an annual event that the children really look forward to and talk about for some time afterwards. The Fab Scientists themselves also commented on how much the enjoy coming to Great Tey, how well the children behave and how engaged they are in the activities, which was lovely to hear. I have attached some photos further on in the newsletter.

Our next exciting whole-school event is a visit from the WonderDome Planetarium on 3rd November – more information to follow on this but we are requesting parent donations of £7 per child to help with the cost and will be very grateful for any support you can give. The Planetarium fits in well with our learning this term as Ducklings are about to start learning about the topic 'Starry Night' next half term, which will teach them all about the differences between night and day, including finding out about the moon, the stars and the planets. Sparrows have been exploring the topic Moon Zoom, during which an alien crashed to Earth on our school field and had to be helped back to Space. Woodpeckers have been learning about Stargazers and historical space exploration such as the Moon landing. Robins are not specifically learning about Space at the moment but we are sure they will enjoy the Planetarium and it will add to their scientific understanding.

On Friday at 10am, we have our Harvest Festival Community Worship in church – I hope you will be able to join us. We are also being joined by Rev'd Emma Barr, who has joined St. Barnabas and will be supporting the school in worship in future. I you would like to make a donation of tinned or packet food to Colchester Food Bank as part of our Harvest, please bring into school anytime next week (5th – 9th October).

Please note the changes to some of the Parent Consultation Evenings on the diary page – apologies for any inconvenience caused. The booking system will be up and running by the end of the week for you to book an appointment but, if you are unable to make any of the times available, please speak to your child's class teacher.

Finally, after running very successful holiday club sessions in the Summer Holidays, we will be running the holiday club again in the half term on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday – please see the attached flyer and contact the office if you would like to book.

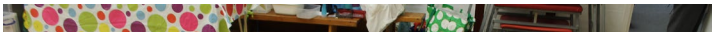
Best wishes, Mrs Overton

GREAT TEY Church of England PRIMARY SCHOOL

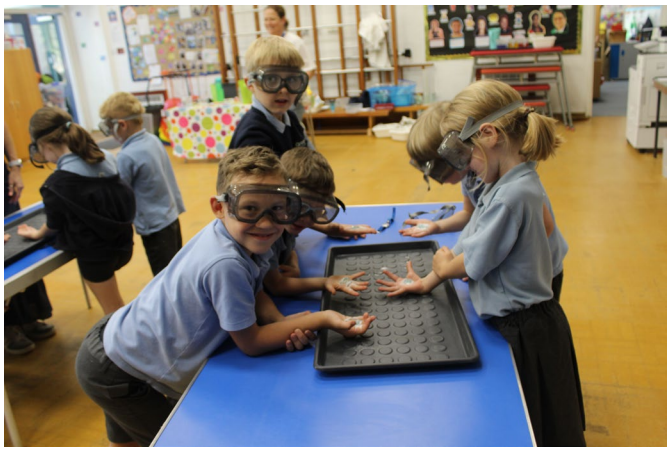
Email: admin@greattey.essex.sch.uk **Website:** www.greatteyprimary.org.uk

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

Ducklings



Sparrows



Woodpeckers

Robins

Great Tey
Church of England
Primary School

DM SPORTS COACHING

Great Tey October Holiday Club

Open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday of the October half term.

Primary-age pupils from other local schools are very welcome – please contact the Great Tey school office on **01206 210415** or **admin@greattey.essex.sch.uk** for more information.

Sports activities run by DM Sports as well as craft, games and art activities.

9am – 3pm

£35 per day.

Great Tey
Church of England
Primary School

Small rural primary located between Marks Tey, Coggeshall and Chappel

"there's something really special about this school"

"caring and supportive school"

"the best place for my child"

Open Afternoon

9th November 1.30-2.30pm

Spend time in the Reception Class, meet the teachers and tour the school with current pupils.

Or call the school on 01206 210415 or email admi@greattey.essex.sch.uk to book an individual visit at an alternative time.

Harvest Festival Food donations

If you would like to make a donation (please bring into school between Monday 5th and Friday 9th October) the Food Bank is particularly requesting -

What to donate

Items we need

- ✓ Carrier bags
- ✓ Deodorant
- ✓ Instant coffee
- ✓ Jam
- ✓ Long-life juice
- ✓ Long-life milk
- ✓ Peanut Butter
- ✓ Razors for shaving
- ✓ Rice
- ✓ Shampoo
- ✓ Shower gel
- ✓ Snacks (e.g. crisps, cereal bars, etc)
- ✓ Squash
- ✓ Tinned custard
- ✓ Tinned fruit
- ✓ Tinned potatoes
- ✓ Tinned rice pudding
- ✓ Tinned tomatoes
- ✓ Toothbrushes
- ✓ Toothpaste
- ✓ Washing powder

Diary Dates Autumn Term 2026 - 2027

(new dates / changes to dates in red)

October

Fri 2nd - Harvest Community Worship in church at 10am (new Ducklings will not attend this service until they are a little older!)

Mon 5th and Tues 6th – Y6 Level 2 Bikeability (for those who have given consent. Bikes and helmets needed. Bikes can be brought in on Monday morning and left in the school hall overnight on Monday ready for Tuesday).
Tues 6th – Y4/5 Level 1 Bikeability (for those who have given consent. Bikes and helmets needed – can be dropped off on Monday after school or Tuesday morning.)
Monday 12th – Ducklings Class Parent Consultation Evening 3.30 – 6pm
Monday 12th – Robins Class Parent Consultation afternoon 1pm - 3.30pm
Tues 13th - Sparrows Class Parent Consultation afternoon 1pm - 3.30pm
Thu 15th - Woodpeckers Class Parent Consultation afternoon 1pm - 3.30pm
Thu 15th – Sparrows, Robins and Woodpeckers Parent Evening 3.30 - 6.00pm
Thu 22nd – Non-Uniform day in return for Elfridges donations
Mon 26th - Half Term Week
Saturday 31st – closing date for Y7 secondary place applications

November

Mon 2nd - Non-Pupil Day for staff training
Tues 3rd – Planetarium visiting school
Mon 9th - Open Afternoon for Reception children September 2027
Weds 11th - Remembrance Service in church at 10.45 am (new Ducklings will not attend this service yet)
Thurs 26th – Jack & the Beanstalk Panto at The Mercury Theatre (subsidised by FoGT)
Fri 27th – Flu immunisations (only given by the School Nurse team with your consent)

December

Mon 7th - Rocksteady concert 2.30pm
Weds 9th - Christmas Lunch / wear a Christmas jumper
Thurs 10th - Elfridges (run by FoGT during school time)
Tues 15th - Ducklings and Sparrows Class Nativity Performance 2pm
Weds 16th - Ducklings and Sparrows Class Nativity Performance 9.15am
Thurs 17th - Christmas Carol Concert in church 6pm
Fri 18th - final day of term

January

Spring term begins on **Monday 4th January** for all classes.
Fri 15th – closing date for applications for Reception 2027 places