

Welcome to the Summer Term and your child's final term of primary school!

We are very excited and proud to be guiding the children through this term and we hope that they are all raring to go. This is an important term as they complete their time at Great Totham and begin preparing for the transition to their secondary schools. As you will be aware, the SATs tests are fast approaching and we have everything in place to ensure the children feel comfortable and ready to give their best. Following the SATs, we have lots of exciting activities planned: our end of year production, sports day, bikeability, the summer fete and a trip to Crucial Crew. As the term draws to a close, we will enjoy looking back and reflecting on the children's memories of their time spent here and celebrating all that they have achieved throughout primary school.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any queries (especially regarding the SATs) on our email addresses:

Miss Brewer: miss.brewer@greattotham.essex.sch.uk

Mr Hunt: mr.hunt@greattotham.essex.sch.uk

Miss Brewer & Mr Hunt

Homework

Leading up to the SATs, the children will be set maths and SPaG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) homework in paper form. Maths will be set on a Friday and handed in the following Tuesday and will cover the learning from that week. SPaG will be set on Monday and will be due in by Friday morning so that we can go through the answers together.

Post SATs, maths and English will continue to be set on Google Classrooms. This will revert back to being set on Monday to be turned in by the Sunday evening.

Dates for your diary:

Friday 5th May - Friday 14th July: Swimming

Monday 1st May and Monday 8th May: Bank holidays

Tuesday 9th May - Friday 12th May: SATs week

Saturday 13th May: The Sponsored Walk

Monday 15th May: Class Photo

Monday 15th May - Friday 26th May: Bikeability (details to follow)

Monday 22nd May: Sports Day (pm)

Monday 29th May - Friday 2nd June: Half Term

Monday 5th June: INSET day

Wednesday 7th June: Bouncy Bonanza

Wednesday 14th June: Crucial Crew (am)

Monday 19th June - Friday 23rd June: Stem week

Friday 14th July: School Fete (5-8pm)

Details of the final week of term will follow at a later date.

English

Throughout this term, the children will be given plenty of opportunities to write and to use all their skills and techniques. Some of this will be personal as the children will get to write about their time here at Great Totham, their personal interests and hobbies and their aspirations for the future. They will also write a narrative based around shadows, which links to our science. As well as this, we will be writing a biography of influential female musicians and an information text on Fairtrade. We will still be encouraging a love of reading and will introduce new literature to the children throughout the curriculum. Please continue to support your child's reading at home by discussing books and other texts as well as still sharing books.

Topic: Trading places

Our topic Trade, is Geography based. To set the scene, the children will become 'traders' and experience the problems faced when they are able to deal with some parties but not others and how this can affect the decisions which have to be made. This will help give a basic introduction to what trade is. We will then move on to look at how trade has changed over the years by comparing 15th to 18th century trade to what it is today. It will be through this that we will take a closer look at the slave trade and how this has hugely impacted today's society. Mainly focussing on the UK, the children will learn about raw materials and the terms imports and exports. We have also invited visitors from Wilkins Jam Factory for the children to interview so that they can discover just how far their jam is shipped. Finally, we will look at Fairtrade and how all of this affects our carbon footprint.

Life Skills

This is a key part of our Summer Term. The children will learn more about what affects their own and others' well-being, particularly through understanding more about how to identify and manage healthy relationships, including those on-line. Some further work on discrimination and stereotypes will also be included. Our RSE (relationships, and sex education) curriculum continues—a separate letter will provide more information in a few weeks. If you have any questions, please come and ask us. A vital part of preparing the children for secondary transition is developing their understanding of the changing responsibility they will face (such as travelling to and from school) and how to manage this. In addition, they will learn more about rules and laws (including those related to their online use) and how these are created.

Maths

Maths will begin with revision in preparation for the SATs and we will revisit everything taught since September. After the SATs, we will be exploring maths through our Life Skills and introduce the children to budgeting through real life scenarios such as picking a career, buying a house and learning more about adulthood to understand personal finances. We will also take a further look at scaling and will be drawing larger or smaller version of famous paintings. We will also use the Summer Fete as a way to get children to think about profits and losses.

Science

Starting by investigating how light travels and how shadows are formed, the children will develop their understanding of how to carry out fair tests. They will also learn about the eye and how we see things. After revising their previous learning about electricity, the children will explore voltage, resistance and earth. They will further develop their investigative skills and use recognised symbols in circuit diagrams.

RE

The children will develop their understanding of Rites of Passage and how these are celebrated in different religions. This will also link to their Life Skills work and their transition to secondary school.

DT

The focus is on bunting. The children will learn about the history and use of bunting before exploring different stitches and learning how to join material using applique to create their own bunting which will be a feature at the fete.

Music

The theme for this unit is identity and how it can be expressed through music. We will mainly be listening to female musicians and female led groups. Then, the children will explore how to show their own identity through music. They will learn how to write lyrics and compose a simple melody. They may even be able to rap!

Computing

To start we will have a thorough review of e-safety, focussing particularly on content (what is available) contact (permissions, online friends, messaging etc.) and conduct (how you present yourself online). The children will have the opportunity to create their own 'e-safety booklet'. They will consider some of the ways their online presence may change as they move to secondary school, for example having more accessibility to online content.

Art

Building on their skills of working with clay (coil and pinch pots), the children will learn how to make slab pots. Linking back to our work on Greek art, the children will learn how to draw people in proportion. They will have the opportunity to further develop their sketching techniques by showing increasing levels of tone and texture.

PE

We will begin by developing the children's athletic skills. This will include: refining hurdling technique over long distances, high jumping using the scissor kick action, improving long jump by incorporating a run up and learning how to throw like a shot-putter or discus thrower. Cricket will be another focus area, with the children improving and developing their skills of shot technique and direction, making appropriate choices in game-play situations, bowling accuracy and effective fielding, and the use of appropriate tactics. The children will refine swimming techniques and learn how to safely save someone from drowning. Towards the latter end of the summer term, the children will be able to test their map reading skills by orienteering around the premises using 6 figure grid references.

French

The children will continue to develop their understanding of reading, saying and writing sentences in French. They will also have the opportunity to revise some key vocabulary and phrases taught throughout KS2.

