



FRIDAY 13TH OCTOBER 2023

# School Newsletter

[www.greattotham.essex.sch.uk](http://www.greattotham.essex.sch.uk)



Dear Parents,

Thank you for the donations for today's Harvest Festival, we were thrilled with the bumper collection of food items. These have been collected by Maldon Food Pantry and they were astounded by your generosity.

Parents evenings are fast approaching, a reminder that appointments with the relevant teacher(s) need to be booked in advance via the Parentmail app please. The window for appointments will close after the weekend, so please contact the school office as soon as possible if you are having any difficulty.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

Kind regards,

Sarah Vass, Headteacher



Week starting Monday 16th October:  
Autumn Menu - Week 1



## School Photographs - Monday 16th October

A reminder that individual school photographs take place on Monday. Please ensure your child(ren) attends school in full uniform, ties are optional.

Y2 children should come to school wearing their school uniform with their PE kits in their bags to get changed into later in the day.

Family photographs will be arranged (school siblings only).

Photographs will be available to view and purchase online in due course, further details to follow with access codes.

## My Nametags - please remember to label everything!

Please help our Y6 Lost Property monitors reunite your children's lost property by making sure everything is labelled.



If you choose to purchase the 'tried and tested' My Nametags stickers, please remember to quote our school ID of 50678 when placing your order.

## Weekly E-Safety Resources:

### Triller 12+

Please read the attached guidance for parents and carers.

Information about risk and reward of apps, games and other technological features are readily found on the internet via sources such as Childnet ([www.childnet.com](http://www.childnet.com)), Common Sense Media ([www.common Sense Media.org](http://www.common Sense Media.org)) and EST Training ('The 2 Johns': [www.esafetytraining.org](http://www.esafetytraining.org)).

If you are concerned about an aspect of your child's online safety, and would like advice, please contact their class teacher in the first instance.



## Diary Dates:

16th October - Individual and Sibling School Photographs

17th October - Y4 Visit to Colchester Zoo

18th & 19th October - Parents Evenings (**final appointments available to book via Parentmail app**)

23rd October to 27th October - Half Term Holidays

30th October - INSET day

30th October - Communication Station at GTPS (<https://providechildrenandfamilyservices.co.uk/services/children-s-speech-language-therapy/>) - see link for further information and booking details).

31st October - Deadline for Y6 to Y7 Secondary School applications via below link -

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/admissions/secondary-school-places>

2nd November - Y1 Outdoor Learning

17th November - Children In Need

30th November - Christmas Post Box opens

1st December - Y1 & Y2 Christmas Production to the rest of the school

4th December - Y1/Y2 Christmas Production to Y2 Parents (PM)

5th December - Y1 /Y2 Christmas Production to Y1 Parents (AM)

7th December - YR Christmas Event

12th December - Y5 Christmas Production to the rest of the school (AM) and to Parents (Evening)

13th December - Christmas Panto 'Santa Claus' Shoes'

14th December - Christmas Dinner

18th December - Last day for Christmas Post Box

18th December - KS1 Christmas Parties at school

19th December - Y3/Y4/Y5 Christmas Parties at school

19th December - Y6 Christmas Disco (Evening)

20th December - Last day of term / Christmas singing assembly

21st December to 3rd January - Christmas Holidays

4th January - Start of the Spring Term

(Additional diary dates to be added soon, please check the Newsletter each week for updates)

## Y5 River Trip to Daws Hall

Last week, year 5 went to Daws Hall on a river trip. We had so much fun. When we arrived we went to the River Stour and took some samples from the river and stream. We learnt about the nitrates and PH of the river. It was very interesting. Then we went over to a little stream and kicked the bottom of the stream into our net to see if we could find any animals or insects. My group found 30 shrimp and 5 nymphs. Once we were done with the animals we set them free back in the stream.

After lunch, we split into our groups for orienteering. That was hard but an adventure. My group only found 4 markers. I loved the trip. It was the best trip ever!

Chloe 5SB

Last week, Year 5 went on a school trip to Daws Hall and it was amazing. First, Lesley our tour guide, told us all of the safety things and then she showed us a PowerPoint of animals that live in the river. Lesley then led us all to the River Stour and we did lots of tests on the river water: temperature, cloudiness, and PH. Then we did the same in the stream. We also did kick sampling in the stream and we caught lots of bugs and even a fish. After lunch, we did orienteering where we had to find certain trees. The day was super fun and amazing!

Melissa 5SB



## Measles / MMR vaccination - NHS Advice

Measles cases are rising across the country, with over 102,000 children starting primary school in England being at risk of catching the disease.

Measles is highly infectious and can be passed on even before the rash appears. Make sure your child is protected from becoming seriously unwell.

- If your child has missed their first or second dose of MMR vaccine, contact your GP practice to book an appointment.
- If you are unsure if your child is due a vaccination or has missed a vaccination, check their red book or contact your GP practice.
- For adults, it is never too late to catch up on any missed MMR vaccinations, contact your GP practice to book an appointment

For more information visit the NHS website : [NHS Vaccinations and when to have them](#)

**NHS**

102,000 children starting school in England are at risk of catching measles

Check your child is up to date with their MMR vaccinations

**NHS**

9 out of 10 unvaccinated children can catch measles if someone in their class has it

Check your child is up to date with their MMR vaccinations





## Girls' Football Tournament

On Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October, we participated in a football tournament at Shrub End Sports Ground, in Colchester. There were 16 teams playing from Colchester and the surrounding area.

We played in a league of 4 teams, at the end of some exciting games we were placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the group. The second half of the morning we played against all other 2<sup>nd</sup> placed teams in the tournament

Overall, we were placed 7<sup>th</sup> and we were all presented with certificates.



## Hockey Taster

On Wednesday, we were invited to join Maldon Court Primary School at Maldon Hockey Club to take part in different hockey activities. It was a lovely afternoon playing alongside the Maldon Court children. We did lots of different drills and played some fun games.

Thank you to Maldon Court for organising and providing biscuits at the end! Thanks too, to Karen Wells, our hockey coach.

