



FRIDAY 26TH JANUARY 2024

School Newsletter

2024

www.greattotham.essex.sch.uk

Dear Parents, Thank you for your support with the parking matters detailed in our letter last week. We are relieved to have seen an improvement but we still have a little way to go. Please help us to spread the word where appropriate for anyone in our school community who may have missed the message.

We are looking forward to meeting you again at our forthcoming Parent Consultations. The appointments are now available to book via Parentmail app, the deadline for booking an appointment is Friday 9th February. Please contact the school office if you require any assistance.

Kind regards, Sarah Vass, Headteacher

Week starting Monday 29th January:

Spring Menu Week 3



Gardening News

We are delighted to have been awarded the RHS School Gardening Awards Level 4!

Level 4 focuses on gardening for wildlife and using gardening to support the curriculum. It is also about inspiring others beyond your school by sharing plants and seeds. Well done to all those Y3/Y4 children involved in Mrs Priest's weekly Gardening Club and thank you Mrs Priest for all your hard work.

The Level 4 Certificate will be displayed in the courtyard and we will shortly be in receipt of a £100 National Garden Gift Voucher, the 'RHS Gardening School' book and a selection of seeds.

Would you like to help in our school garden?

We would like to welcome any green fingered parents / grandparents with your children to one of our forthcoming drop-in gardening sessions. Please see attached for more information.



Diary Dates:

13th February - Y6 - NCMP Height/Weight Measurements

14th February - Parents Evening (4.30-7.30pm) ***Bookings now open via Parentmail app***

15th February - Parents Evening (3.30-6.30pm) ***Bookings now open via Parentmail app***

19th to 23rd February - Half Term

26th February - INSET day

27th February - INSET day

28th February - Communication Station @ GTPS, Full details here:

<https://providechildrenandfamilyservices.co.uk/services/childrens-speech-language-therapy/>

5th March - Y5 Mayan Day

6th March - Y6 Outdoor Learning

7th March - World Book Day (Info to follow)

13th March - Y3 Outdoor Learning

14th March - YR Outdoor Learning

26th March - Y4 Production (to the rest of the school AM, then evening to Parents @ 6pm)

27th March - Y3 Showcase to Parents (PM, time TBC)

28th March - Last day of the Spring term

29th March to 12th April - Easter Holidays

15th April - Start of the Spring term

18th & 25th April - YR & Y5 Road Safety

26th April - Y1 Trip to Hyde Hall

27th April - PTFA Sponsored Walk

(Please check the Newsletter each week for diary updates)

ECC Wraparound Childcare Project Survey

A reminder that Essex County Council is asking parents to complete a short online survey regarding wraparound childcare. Thank you to those parents who have already responded.

The survey closes on 28th January at 11pm so there is another week to take part. Here is the survey link again – <https://forms.office.com/e/xHRVcgTE4J>

Weekly E-Safety Resources:

Avakin Life 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), Common Sense Media (www.commonsensemedia.org) and EST Training ('The 2 Johns': 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.



Cool Milk

Please remember school milk is free for all children under 5 years old, however if your child is over 5 and you would like to pay for a daily 189ml milk portion, you need to register with Cool Milk at www.coolmilk.com.

You can pay Cool Milk either online, over the phone or at a local PayPoint in half-termly, termly or annual instalments. Please pay by a Tuesday at 5pm for your child's milk to start the following week. If you have any questions regarding school milk please visit www.coolmilk.com or contact Cool Milk directly on 0844 854 2913.





Tag Rugby

County Finals – Here We Come!

The Colchester and Blackwater School Sports Partnership organised a Tag Rugby Tournament on Wednesday 24th January for schools in the area. The tournament was held at Maldon Rugby Club and attended by 17 schools.

The event was competitive with the winner awarded a place in the County Finals.

The team played with enthusiasm and were able to fight off all opponents winning all their games in the first half of the morning, making them top of their group.

We then played against some stiffer opposition in the next stage but managed to win those games too. Our final game was against Maldon Court. It was closely matched, fast and fun but we secured the final win.

Oscar, our captain, lead the team as we were awarded certificates and gold medals. Most excitingly, we were announced as winners going through to the County Finals on 14th February!

Thank you to Stuart Pearson, our rugby coach, and to the many parents who came along to support the team.

