



FRIDAY 17TH MARCH 2023

# School Newsletter

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



Dear Parents,

We are looking forward to welcoming Rt Hon. Priti Patel MP to GTPS on Thursday morning. Priti will be meeting with members of the Y3/4 Gardening Club as part of the 'Get Witham Growing' initiative. We will be presented with a basket of seeds and tools to supplement the hard work the children have already put into maintaining the garden areas around the school site. Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards, Sarah Vass Headteacher

## Red Nose Day - 17th March



Thank you for your support!

Today's non-uniform day has raised a whopping

**£687.88**

**FRIDAY 17 MARCH** for Comic Relief.

## Week starting Monday 20th March:

### Spring Menu - Week 1



### Diary Dates:

**20th March** - NHS Communication Station held at GTPS - 9.30-11am (registration from 9am) - *see details below*

**21st March** - Y5 Mayan Day

**29th March** - Y4 Production to Parents (6pm)

**29th March** - YR & Y6 NHS Heights and Weights check \*please note, change in date

**30th March** - Y3 Showcase (1.45-2.45pm showcase, followed by 2.45-3.00pm open classroom)

**30th March** - Y6 Outdoor Learning \*please note, change in date

**3rd to 14th April** - Easter Holidays

**21st April** - YR & Y5 Road Safety

**26th April** - Y3 Outdoor Learning

**2nd May** - Swimming Timetable Commences

*(Please check the Newsletter each week for diary updates)*

## KS1 Swimming Helpers Needed

We are in need of more parent helpers for all KS1 Swimming sessions. If you are able to help us, please get touch with the school office ASAP as the necessary DBS checks take a few weeks to process.

### SWIMMING TIMETABLE Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July

Mon	Time	Tues	Time	Wed	Time	Thurs	Fri
	9 - 10		9 - 10.30	2B	9 - 10		
	10 - 11		10.30 - 12	2M	10 - 11		
	11 - 11.30				11 - 12		
LUNCH							
	1.15 - 2.45	1H	1.15 - 2.45	RH	1.15 - 2.45	RS	1P

The KS2 swimming timetable will be confirmed shortly.

## Parking Issues

We continue to receive complaints from parents and neighbouring residents in respect of parking issues.

Please do NOT park on the opposite side of the road from the school at collection time. This is both dangerous for the children crossing to get into a vehicle and is contributing to the already congested roads. Please also be considerate of the 'one-way system' we have implemented for parents, this really does aid the traffic at the busiest times.

Whilst we will continue to share reminders and plead for your cooperation, we also encourage the reporting of any issues or frustrations to Essex Highways via the following link:

<https://www.essexhighways.org/tell-us/travel-or-traffic-issues/>

## E-safety resources - Discord 13+

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.commonsensemedia.org](http://www.commonsensemedia.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.



## NHS Communication Station held at GTPS

20th March 9.30-11am (registration from 9am)

Full details here:

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

The sessions are for parents who are concerned about the speech and/or language skills of their **Reception age** or **pre-school child**.



### Red Nose Day Fundraising

In addition to the **£687** raised today from our non-uniform day, we were very impressed to hear that Dexter (Y5) and Leo (Y3) have been busy fundraising at home.

The brothers have been taking cake orders for friends and family (making and delivering) and also arranged a 'guess the number of sweets in a jar' competition at their cubs meeting this week. Their grand total currently stands at just over **£150!**

The brothers also helped with the donation buckets this morning on the gates. Well done boys!



### Witham Carnival Court

Sophia (Y6) and Sienna McCarthy (Y5) will be representing Witham and the surrounding villages, as part of the carnival court!

Sophia has been selected as the Junior Queen and Sienna as a Junior Princess.

As part of the selection process the girls were both required to speak in front of a panel of judges and be interviewed, and then speak in front of a few hundred people in the audience on a microphone!

The sisters will be helping to raise money for local charities and are really proud of their new roles.

They will be attending a number of events over the next year with the Mayor of Witham and will be representing not only the local area but also the school.

Well done girls, we hope you enjoy the experience.



### PTFA Lottery Winners

Congratulations to the following lucky lottery winners for December and January;



#### *February*

*1st Stacey Chaplin - winning £32.50, 2nd Danielle Whittle - winning £22.75, 3rd Kate Bome - winning £9.75*

If you would like more information on the PTFA lottery, please contact the school office or Danielle Whittle. The more members that join, the bigger the prize fund. **You have to be in it to win it!**

### School Term and Holiday Dates 2023/24 Academic Year

Please find attached the finalised GTPS school terms dates for the 2023/24 academic year (including INSET days).

Please take note of these dates when making plans for future family holidays. ANY absence from school during term time must be applied for in advance via the NEW application form available from the school office.