



FRIDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2023

School Newsletter



www.greattotham.essex.sch.uk

Dear Parents,

The decorations are up and the festivities are now in full swing! Y1 and Y2 performed their wonderful show 'The Inns-spectors' to the rest of the school this afternoon and they should all be very proud of themselves. The children are very excited to welcome parents into school next week to showcase their production. We are also looking forward to inviting our YR parents on Thursday for a Christmas afternoon of activities, songs and freshly baked cookies! Y5 are in rehearsals for their hilarious Panto 'The Amazing Adventures of Superstan!'. The children have been busy producing some special homemade Christmas Cards to be delivered to the patients of The Braxted Ward at Broomfield Hospital and the residents of Totham Lodge residential care home and these will be delivered shortly. Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

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Kind regards, Sarah Vass, Headteacher

Important - Parking directly outside of school

Frustratingly, 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 drop off or collection time. This is both very dangerous for the children crossing to get into a vehicle and significantly contributing to the already congested roads. We are now appealing to ALL parents in respect of this particular hazard for the safety of all our children.

Please also be considerate of the 'one-way system' we have implemented for parents, this really does aid the traffic at the busiest times. As you will already be aware, parking or waiting on double yellow lines anywhere is not permitted, when a public bus needs to pass there is simply nowhere left for vehicles to pull in! We must all work together as a school community.



PTFA Ice Skating Event - Sunday 17th December:

Tickets are still available for our Christmas Ice Skating Event!

Book online using the link below. Please use the child ticket option to book a Great Totham School child place at a subsidised rate of £3.50 (every child who attends Great Totham is entitled to 1 x subsidised skate).

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/CVSC>

On the day there will be a line-up of Christmas entertainment, festivities and refreshments, including...

- ❄️ Father Christmas
- ❄️ Grillaz burger & hotdog stand
- ❄️ Hot & cold drinks, snacks and mulled wine
- ❄️ Christmas gift stalls
- ❄️ Children's craft & games
- ❄️ 2 small fairground rides
- ❄️ Christmas music and carols
- ❄️ Snow machine



Week starting Monday 4th December:

Autumn Menu - Week 3



Clubs

A reminder school activity clubs have now finished this term, both before and after school. Mrs Larcombe will be in touch towards the very end of the Autumn term with full instructions on how to make an online application for your child(ren) in respect of our Spring term activity clubs.

Diary Dates:

4th December - Y1 & Y2 Christmas Production to Y1 Parents (1.45pm)

5th December - Y1 & Y2 Christmas Production to Y2 Parents (9.30am)

7th December - YR Christmas Event (1.45pm)

8th December - Non-uniform day (*further details attached*)

8th December - KS2 Author visit - Sam Scott

12th December - Y5 Christmas Production to the rest of the school (AM) and to Parents (6pm)

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

14th December - Christmas Dinner

17th December - PTFA Ice Skating Event

18th December - Communication Station at GTPS (<https://providechildrenandfamilyservices.co.uk/services/childrens-speech-language-therapy/> - see link for further details)

18th December - Last day for Christmas Post Box

18th December - YR/KS1 Christmas Parties at school

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

19th December - Y6 Christmas Disco (5-7pm)

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

21st December to 3rd January - Christmas Holidays

4th January - Start of the Spring Term

15th January - 31st October - Deadline for September 2024 New Intake applications



The Christmas Post Box is open until Monday 18th December.

Children are able to post cards to other members of the school and our lovely Year 6 children are making the deliveries – please ensure each card has first and last names and the recipient’s class.

Remember to make sure your child tucks the envelopes closed rather than licking!

Non Uniform Day - Friday 8th December

Please find attached further information regarding our Non Uniform Day on Friday 8th December and how to purchase raffle tickets to be in with the chance of winning one of many luxurious Christmas hampers!



We can take card payment at the school office, cash or cheques. £5 per book of tickets.

Tickets will also be on sale at the KS1 shows next week.

We know that some children do not like to wear non-uniform, we support their individual choices.

Thank you for your support.

Weekly E-Safety Resources:

Social pressures linked to friends and followers Supporting children's mental health

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.common sense media.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.



Thank you to Hollington’s Floral Design for our beautiful festive wreath displaying the 4 house colours of GTPS!



Essex County Council SEND Navigators

Advance notice of the dates and locations of the Essex Local Offer Roadshows for the Spring term.

- Monday 4 March – South Essex - The Holiday Inn - Basildon
- Thursday 7 March – Mid Essex – The Hamptons – Chelmsford
- Wednesday 13 March – NE Essex – Colchester Football Stadium
- Tuesday 19 March – West Essex – The Harlow Hotel

This is the link to the Essex Local Offer which will have more details about the roadshows as they become available, including which services will be attending <https://send.essex.gov.uk/i-think-my-child-needs-help/essex-local-offer-roadshows>

The marketplace is going to be run during the morning. There will also be parent/carer workshops which will take place during the morning and afternoon. These are being organised with SENDIASS. Parents will be able to drop into the marketplace but will need to sign up for the workshops.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION
POPPY APPEAL

Poppy Appeal

The Royal British Legion has written a letter of thanks for the outstanding amount that GTPS raised for this year's Poppy Appeal—**£681.68** a fantastic total.

Anti-Bullying Week

Please see examples of the posters designed for our recent Anti-Bullying Week.



Flu Vaccine - Catch up

If consent was not provided for your child and you have now changed your mind, or if your child was absent on the day and therefore missed out, please find attached details of how to contact the immunisations team to arrange an appointment outside of

FLU VACCINE CATCH-UP CLINICS

Time is running out to vaccinate your child with this season's flu nasal spray*.

The flu vaccine reduces the risk of serious illness and will top up their protection even if they've been vaccinated before.

Drop into one of our catch-up clinics for primary and secondary aged children and those eligible for a COVID-19 vaccination:

2 December, 9 December
8.30am – 1.50pm
Vaccination Centre, The Lodge, Runwell, SS11 7XX

No booking required. Just walk in.

Booked appointments only on:
16, December
8.30am – 3.50pm
Vaccination Centre, The Lodge, Runwell, SS11 7XX

Ring 0300 790 0597 to book.

*Flu injection is offered as an alternative to the nasal spray

#DOYOURBITESSEX



Sports News

Year 6 Dodgeball Tournaments



On 21st November we were invited to take part in a Dodgeball Tournament at Wentworth Primary School. Eight local schools took part and because all schools wanted to bring two teams, we had to split the event in two, with the second tournament being held by us at Great Totham, on 28th November.

There were some exciting games, with great throws, catches and some amazing dodges!

We were unable to hold on to the trophy this year, but great fun was had by all.

