



FRIDAY 22ND MARCH 2024

# School Newsletter 2024

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

## Diary Dates

**26th March** - Y4 Production of 'Robin & the Sherwood Hoodies' (to the rest of the school am, then evening to Parents @ 6pm)

**27th March** - Y3 Showcase to Parents (1.45pm)

**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

**30th April** - Swimming starts

**9th May** - YR Dino Day

**W/c 13th May** - Y6 SATS Week

**20th May** - Sports Day (am KS1 / pm KS2)

**21st May** - Y6 Bikeability starts (various dates through to 12th June)

**21st May** - Communication Station @ GTPS

**27th May to 31st May** - Half Term

**3rd June** - INSET Day

**4th June** - Y2 Outdoor Learning

**5th June** - PTFA Bouncy Bonanza

**11th June** - Y4 Outdoor Learning

**18th June** - Y5 Outdoor Learning

**19th June** - Y3 Trip to Colchester Castle

**26th June** - Y1 Outdoor Learning

**10th July** - Y5 Thurstable School Taster Day

**12th July** - PTFA Summer Fete

**18th July** - Y6 Production (to the rest of the school am, then evening to Parents @ 6pm)

**22nd July** - Y6 Leavers Disco (5-7pm)

**23rd July** - Y6 Picnic and Leavers Presentation

**23rd July** - Last Day of Summer Term

**24th July to 30th August** - Summer Holidays

**2nd September** - INSET Day

**3rd September** - First day of Autumn Term (2024/25 Academic Year)

***(Some dates may be subject to change and additional diary dates are still to be added, please check the Newsletter each week for updates)***



## W/c Monday 25th March

Spring Menu, Week 1 (small alteration - Thursday's **RED** option will be **sausages, served with chips and beans** (rather than served with mash potato and broccoli).

## Y5 Mayan Day

*This term, Year 5 has been learning about the Mayan and we had a whole special day of activities dedicated to them - it was so much fun. Firstly, we were introduced to how Mayan society was organized. With the Mayan society came sacrifices! It was said to be a privilege because it meant that you were a gift to the gods. But if you were sacrificed for your master that would mean you were there to serve them in the afterlife and be buried alive. Next, we sketched some Mayan artefacts and found out what they were. I sketched a shell which the Mayans used to warn the citizens of war.*

*In the afternoon, we took part in drama activities. My group had to act out how the Mayan made their delicious chocolate, whereas the other groups acted out sacrifices. After the drama, we got to taste chocolate which was pure cocoa bean - it wasn't the nicest taste. Finally Miss Brewer and Miss Baker were turned into Mayan gods from the creation story. Then we all acted out a part of the story: some of us had to be humans made out of wood, some of us had to be animals and the others were sweet little raindrops.*

*The whole day was just a bundle of joy, amazement and fun and we learnt lots more about the Mayan.*

Chloe Y5



## Outdoor Learning - YR

Last Thursday, Year R had a great time during Outdoor Learning. Our theme was 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff'. The children completed a variety of exciting activities. These included building bridges and retelling the story in different ways, making clay troll heads and planting broad beans. The children listened really well and demonstrated good teamwork and storytelling skills. A big thank you to Sarah and our parent helpers for a fantastic day!



## Outdoor Learning - Y3

On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> we did Outdoor Learning. One of our favourite activities was making a spark using a flint and steel to light cotton wool. We also liked making a bow and arrows with willow sticks and colourful string. The most disgusting part was when we went in the den to make shelters and half the year got stuck in the mud!

We looked at different cave paintings for inspiration and made our own with charcoal. We drew on rocks with different symbols from the Stone Age. After that we put our hands on some card and smeared some broken chalk around them so when we took our hands off the chalk was in the shape of our hands.

We read books about Stonehenge and tried to work out why it was built before making our own model. Then we made a journey stick by getting a stick and tying a piece of string around it. Next, we went on a journey round the edge of the field and picked up leaves, daisies and tree bark to tie to the journey stick to help us remember where we'd been.

After that, we got a piece of cloth and hammered the colour from leaves on to the cloth. When we finished and took the cloth away, it had leaf prints on. This was called 'The Hapa Zome'.

We really enjoyed all the activities, especially when we got covered in mud!

By Flo B, Aphelia, Chloe, Agnes, Harper and Clancy





## Girls' Football League

We organised the first of our football league matches with other local primary schools. It was held at Beacon Hill Sports Ground on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March.

It was cold and windy but the girls all managed to keep upbeat with smiles on their faces!

We played 2 matches and won both, due to the high number of goals in the first match we are currently top of the league!



## Y4 Football Tournament



On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March we were invited to participate in a Y3/4 Football Tournament. The tournament took place at Shrub End in Colchester on the all-weather pitch.

There were 16 teams playing. We won 3 games and drew 3, only letting in one goal!

The children all did so well, coming 2<sup>nd</sup> in the tournament and were rewarded with certificates and silver medals!

