



FRIDAY 14TH JANUARY 2022

# School Newsletter

2022

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

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year and welcome back after a busy first couple of weeks, and to a much better start to the year in comparison to 2021! Whilst the pandemic is still challenging us all, we are grateful to be able remain in school and we are looking forward to working with the children throughout the Spring term on the various exciting topics as detailed within the curriculum letters that were sent out via Parentmail on Monday. Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Kind regards, Sarah Vass - Headteacher

## Changes to the self-isolation period for those who test positive for COVID-19

From **Monday 17 January**, people who are self-isolating with COVID-19 will have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature.

For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to school immediately on day 6.

The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day (24 hours later). All test results should be reported to NHS Test and Trace.

If the result of either of their tests is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.

## Essex Libraries - Summer Reading Challenge Winners!

We were thrilled to be contacted by Essex Libraries to advise that GTPS were the winners of the 2021 Maldon area trophy for having the highest number of children join and complete the Summer Reading Challenge 2021!

We have been presented with this fabulous trophy which we get to keep until the start of the 2022 Summer challenge. Well done to each and every child who took part last summer. Wickham Bishops and Maldon Libraries were delighted to meet so many children and hear all about the books they enjoyed.

It is not too late to sign up to the 'Winter' challenge, further information can be found at <https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/news/welcome-to-the-winter-reading-challenge/>



## Week commencing 17th January 2022:

### Spring menu: Week 3

There may be some minor alterations to desserts.



## Diary Dates:

**8th and 9th February** - Parents Evening - details to follow very soon

**14th to 18th February** - Half Term

**21st February** - INSET day

**22nd February** - INSET day

**3rd March** - World Book Day

## Baby News

We are happy to announce some exciting baby news!

Mrs Pyman is expecting another baby in the Summer term.

As previously announced, Mrs Glover is also expecting a baby later this term. I am sure you will all join me in wishing both teachers and their families all the very best.



## Lost property

A reminder that ALL items of uniform, PE kit and activity club kits must be named. We are experiencing a higher than average number of enquiries regarding lost items and our very helpful Year 6 lost property monitors are having trouble returning items to their owners!

You may wish to consider using stickers such as those available on <https://www.mynametags.com>. Please enter school ID 50678 for GTPS if placing an order.



## Come and join our catering team!

### **Catering Assistant (kitchen based) Vacancy at GTPS**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday (ie. not Wednesdays)

Term time only, 11.00am - 2pm (12 hours)

The successful candidate would join our friendly and supportive catering team. The role involves undertaking clearing and cleaning during and after service, assisting with serving meals and occasionally helping prepare food. All training provided.

If you are interested please contact the school office on 01621 891091 or [admin@greattotham.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@greattotham.essex.sch.uk) for an application form or for more details.