

Great Easton Grapevine

Spring 6 – Wednesday 9th February 2022

Our vision: We are God's children and global citizens. We will be bold enough to use our voices, brave enough to evoke change in the world and strong enough to stand up for what is right. We are valued and are part of a Christian family that grows together in faith, love and kindness.

Safer Internet Day – 8th February 2022

Safer Internet Day is always a good time to reflect on our children's online behaviour and relationships. The children did some extra learning about ways in which to keep safe and be kinder when online.

Here's a note from Lorin LaFave, Founder of Breck Foundation:

Our children's mental health is so important to their overall wellbeing, and a healthy mental outlook allows them to excel in other areas. I was chatting recently to a group of parents who told me how they try to fill their child's every waking moment after school with various activities to try to keep them off their devices. When I asked if that worked, they admitted they were still having issues managing appropriate amounts of screen time. We do want our children to be well-rounded with hobbies and interests, and to enjoy and possibly even excel at sport or music, but we also need to ensure they are not just constantly busy 'doing' things just for the sake of it. Maybe a bit more face-to-face interaction, family games, family meals or family walks could be the wellbeing boost they need.

That's not to say that we don't need some more concrete steps taken to keep our families safe online. One of the most important pieces of legislation for the digital age, the Online Harms Bill, is currently being hammered out by a parliamentary joint committee after the draft bill was published last year. Covering everything from tackling online bullying to strict new regulation for the big tech firms, the bill is hugely important for our children's welfare. Please, take a moment this half term to contact your MP and let them know that you are in support of the Online Harms Bill and that you, too, want our children to have the safest and healthiest online experience. This year will mark eight years since my son's life was taken by an online predator- isn't it way past the time when these changes need to be made?

I wish a very happy Safer Internet Day to you all. Let us hope 2022 brings us a little closer to our vision of a world where children can enjoy their time online free from harm.

We would like to express our thanks to everyone for the support we have received this half term – it has been our trickiest so far Covid-wise, with our highest number of cases in both staff and children. The children have been working hard and school is beginning to feel much more like it used to again, which is wonderful! They all deserve a week off to re-charge – hopefully the sun will shine for us!

Have a great week (and tomorrow!) off 😊

TAKEHOME

7th - 13th February




In the news this week

An update to the Highway Code has introduced a hierarchy of road users, which creates 'clearer and stronger priorities' for pedestrians. The Department for Transport claims that the changes, which are split into three main rules, have the foremost aim of improving safety for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders. The changes came into force at the end of January and whilst they have been welcomed by cycling campaigners, the government has been accused, by some in the media, of not making the updates clearer and known to road users.

Things to talk about at home ...

- What do you already know about the Highway Code? Can you ask any adults who you live with what they know?
- Do you think it's important for everyone using our roads to know about the Highway Code? Who do you think should be responsible for making sure we know and understand the rules?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss



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THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

Snowdrop Sundays 2022 - 13th 17th 20th & 24th February

Adults £5.50, Children FREE, Dogs on leads are welcome.

In addition to finding snowdrops throughout the Gardens, children will enjoy the treehouse and our elephant. This year, the Trust is opening the Gardens for visitors to see the snowdrops on four days - Sundays 13th & 20th 11-4; Thursdays 17th & 24th 11-3.

Hot and cold drinks and homemade cakes available. More information and a link to ticket sales on www.eastonlodge.co.uk/whats-on

Advance tickets highly recommended as numbers are limited and only unsold tickets will be available on the gate.

www.greateastonprimary.co.uk

Toy Sale!

Friday 25th February, during school hours

Bring in your old toys...

Take home some new ones!

- Donations can be left in the foyer any time from Monday 21st February, or sent in to school with your child on Friday 25th February.
- Please only donate toys and books suitable for primary-aged children (no baby or toddler toys).
- Please no huge items (all donations should fit in a supermarket bag).
- Please send your child in with a little money on Friday 25th. They will have the opportunity to visit the shop in the afternoon. Items will be priced so that a pound or two will be plenty. A carrier bag to put their purchases in would also be good.
- All proceeds to Great Easton Primary School.



Ollie Clark Tennis - 1 day February Half Term Camps at Dunmow Leisure Centre

Each session will have **limited availability** so book to avoid disappointment

Monday 14th, Thursday 17th & Friday 18th
10am-1pm 9 and under; 2-5pm 10 and over

£20 per player, per session

If you have any questions about what session would be best, or have any other questions please contact Ollie on ojc-tennis@hotmail.com or 07841 830926

www.greateastonprimary.co.uk

Dates for your Diary

(Any new dates that have been added since last week will be in red).

February 2022

Thursday 10th - 'Dress to Express Day' for Children's Mental Health Week

Tuesday 22nd - Miss Gabenyte's class trip to Fitzwilliam Museum

Tuesday 22nd - 2's Day (PTA)

Friday 25th - Second-hand toy & book sale (PTA - see poster overleaf)

HALF TERM HOLIDAY - FRIDAY 11th - 18th February

March 2022

Thursday 3rd - World Book Day

Thursday 17th - Miss Miles' class trip to Stansted Aerozone (rescheduled from 4/2)

Tuesday 22nd & Thursday 31st - Parent Consultations - NO KIDSCLUB on these days

Saturday 26th - Mothers' Day pop up café (PTA)

Wednesday 30th - PTA Discos - KS1 3:15-4:30; KS2 4:30-6:00.

April 2022

Friday 1st - 10am - Easter Service in Church

EASTER HOLIDAY - 4th - 18th April

May 2022

Wednesday 4th - Young Voices Concert at O2 Arena

Friday 27th - Sports Day

July 2022

Saturday 2nd - Rainbow Run fun day (PTA)

Tuesday 5th - 3:30-5:00 - Open Evening

Friday 8th - 9:30am - Leavers' Service

Friday 15th - 9:30am - Leavers' Show

Monday 18th - Friday 22nd - Y6 Isle of Wight Residential

What is your PTA up to?

Great Easton Primary School / Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) / Issue 50 / Feb 2022

Dates for your diary...



22.2.22
Tues 22nd Feb

Get involved with 2s day - more details to follow! A percentage of funds raised will be donated to the Air Ambulance.

Please see email dated 1st Feb for full details - Sponsor forms should be coming home with the children this week.



2nd-hand toy & book sale (in school hours)
Fri 25th Feb

Please donate any pre loved toys and books (leave in the foyer) from Monday 21st Feb and send your children in with spending money on Fri 25th.



Mothers' Day pop up cafe
Sat 26th March

Venue - Great Easton Village Hall (details TBC)



Discos
Weds 30th March

KS1 - 3.15-4.30
KS2 - 4.30-6.



Rainbow Run fun day
2nd July
Full details TBC



Vote for us now!

Don't forget to vote for our new Wellbeing Garden in Tesco when you're doing your shopping!



Find out more and email us: pta@greateaston.essex.sch.uk

Photo credit: pixabay



Great Easton Primary School

Wellbeing Garden

Vote for our new Wellbeing Garden

We want to use the money – which could be up to £1,500 – to transform the existing underused pond area into a Wellbeing Garden to promote the mental health of children and staff in our school, a place that's buzzing with life but also invites relaxation and reflection.

We've got lots of exciting ideas for our Wellbeing Garden, including a nature trail through a willow arch, introducing bug hotels and nesting boxes, building raised planters and creating calm areas for quiet contemplation.

You'll be able to vote for our Wellbeing Garden at **Tesco Superstore** in **Great Dunmow** and **Tesco Express** in **Prior's Green, Takeley**, from January until 31st March 2022 using tokens from the checkout.



TESCO



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TESCO