

GREAT CHESTERFORD C. OF E. PRIMARY ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER WEEK ENDING JANUARY 11th 2019

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year

I hope that everyone was able to enjoy the Christmas break with their families near and far. The children have had lots of exciting news to share and have made a positive start to the new term. Thank you so much for all my wonderful Christmas cards and lovely gifts - they were greatly appreciated. I would like to wish the whole school community a happy, healthy and peaceful 2019.

Mrs Lincoln

The whole school wish Mrs Lincoln good luck and a 'temporary' farewell as she starts her maternity leave. We will keep you fully updated of the exciting news. Ms Helen Benson will be teaching Class 4 with Mrs Sargeant during Mrs Lincoln's absence.

Ms Benson

We are delighted to welcome Ms Benson back to Great Chesterford during Mrs Lincoln's maternity leave. The whole school community will benefit from the many skills she brings with her.



Winter clothing

After a very mild start to winter, temperatures have been falling this week. During cold weather, please can you ensure that your child is suitably prepared for outdoor activities at school. All children should wear a warm coat to school each day and gloves and hats are useful during these colder days. Should we ever have a notable snowfall, please ensure that your child has wellingtons or boots for playtime and lunch time - they will not be allowed to play in snow in their usual school shoes. Children will also be expected to wear long trousers and not shorts if we have snow. Please can we request that all uniform and outerwear is named. Outside games lessons continue this term and it is really helpful for children to have skins, school tracksuits or school jumpers to keep them warm. The long PE socks are also helpful for warmth, as well as holding shin pads, for Key Stage 2 pupils and these can be obtained on-line from our school uniform supplier or plain navy blue ones can be found at many well known retailers.

Swimming Gala

The KS2 swimming gala takes place next week but I wanted to take this opportunity to thank the large number of pupils in Years 5 and 6 who put themselves forward for the trials. They all tried their best and were a credit to both themselves and the school - it was an absolute pleasure to take them - well done!

Rewarding Positive Behaviour

This week we have launched a new positive behaviour strategy to replace team points. The new system will reward pupils who demonstrate our school values:

- G – God's Guidance
- R – Respect one another
- E – Excellent behaviour
- A – Aiming high
- T – Tremendous teamwork

These value points will be collated in Friendship Groups and at the end of each term we will celebrate the Friendship group who has achieved the most points. In addition to recognising positive behaviour, the new system will assist teamwork and collaboration across the school. This new system will be used in Years 1 to 6. We will keep you updated of progress. Well done to those pupils who have already received these new value points.

Mr Brown's Funeral

I would like to thank members of our whole community who supported Mr Brown's funeral; it was a fitting tribute for a treasured colleague, teacher and friend - thank you.

Eucharist

We are pleased to share that Reverend Alex will be re-starting our KS2 Eucharist Services. Our next service will be on Tuesday 15th January at 10:15am and any adults wishing to join this holy communion service will be most welcome.

Reception admissions 2019

The Primary School (Reception) admission round is now open, for parents of children to apply for a Reception school place for the academic year that starts in September 2019. **The statutory national closing date for applications is 15th January 2019.** Applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions. The website www.essex.gov.uk/admissions also has a copy of the Primary Education in Essex 2019-20 booklet and the Schools Admissions Policies Directories contain details of all admission policies.

Payments to school

We would prefer payments to be made by debit card only using the online payment system (SCOPay). However, we will continue to accept cheque payments until August 2019.

From September 2019, the school will accept online payments only.

If you have not yet registered with SCOPay, please contact the school office who will be able to issue an online registration code.

Spring Term

This is a busy term and the full list of dates has been added to this newsletter for easy transfer to new diaries and calendars. The timetable for this term's clubs is on the school website in the Club section under the School Information tab. Relevant club letters are also posted here - please contact the school office if you would like paper copies of any school letters.

Mrs Sarah Mitchell Headteacher

Church message

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was wonderful to see so many of you over the Christmas period. As we move into 2019, we have some great news at All Saints, Great Chesterford to share. We are now including children's activities in all of our main services, when there isn't already an all-age service.

This means our monthly pattern of worship for our local families looks like this:

First Sunday of the month: All-age Cafe Church at Holy Trinity, Littlebury

Second Sunday of the month: Holy Communion with children's activities at All Saints

Third Sunday of the month: All-age iChurch at All Saints

Fourth Sunday of the month: Holy Communion with children's activities at All Saints

If there is a fifth Sunday in the month we will meet together in our one of our village churches but there will be children's activities there too.

To keep up to date with the latest news, please visit Cam Villages Churches on Facebook and like us or follow us on Twitter at @camchurches.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Best wishes,

Reverend Alex

Dates for your diary

Date	Event
15th January	KS2 Eucharist Service at 10:15am
16th January	Swimming Gala KS2
28th January - 1st February	World Religions Theme Week
29th January	Prayer Space for Years 3 and 6
29th January	Parents' Consultation 3:45-6:15pm
30th January	Parents' Consultation 5:30-8:00pm
4th February	Class 1 Trip to Danbury Country Park
5th February	Open Afternoon - The Arts
14th February	Class 2 Trip to Pizza Express and Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge
18th-22nd February	Half Term
4th - 8th March	Book Week - When I Grow Up
12th March	KS2 Eucharist Service at 10:15am
19th March	Class 5 Egyptian Day
21st March	Open Afternoon - focus on sports
28th March	Class 6 Trip to The Botanic Gardens, Cambridge
29th March	Class 3 African Drumming Workshop
5th April	Easter Service at All Saints' Church Last day of term
23rd April	Non pupil day
24th April	Pupils return to school
13th-17th May	Year 6 SATs Week
20th May	Open Afternoon
27th-31st May	Half term
4th June	Music Evening 6.30pm
10th -14th June	Community Past and Present Theme Week
20th June	E-Safety Day
20th June	E-Safety Parent Workshop 7.00pm
2nd July	Sports Day
4th July	Reserve Sports Day
5th July	Transition afternoon tbc
8th July	Transition afternoon tbc
10th July	Years 5 and 6 Summer Play

Date	Event
11th July	Years 5 and 6 Summer Play
14th-17th July	Year 6 Residential
16th July	Prayer Space for Years 1 and 2
19th July	Year 6 Memories Assembly 1.30pm
19th July	Open Afternoon and report collection for all year groups 2.15-3.15pm
23rd July	KS2 Eucharist Service 10:15am
24th July	Leavers' Service at All Saints' Church 9.30am Last day of term
24th July	Year 6 Entertainment 1:45pm
24th July	Last day of term
25th July	Non-pupil day