



September 6th, 2017

Dear Parents,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome both existing and new families to our school community as we start a new academic year. I hope that you have all enjoyed a lovely family break and are feeling refreshed for the new year ahead. The building work is making good progress and we will continue to keep you updated via Twitter, the school website and my weekly newsletter. Thank you so much for the thoughtful cards and kind gifts that I received from several classes and individual families - they were truly appreciated. The school mission statement of 'Together we are great' epitomises the strong partnerships that we try to encourage between all our stakeholders; I am always pleased to receive suggestions or feedback from any parent. If you need to meet with me in person, appointments can be made via the school office and I will also be present on the playground at the end of the school day whenever possible.

We have a new member of staff joining us this term and I would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to: Mrs Ginny Elam - supporting Class 3.

I would now like to draw people's attention to key events, school communication systems and important dates. This list is not exhaustive and the school website provides a more comprehensive overview of school procedures and practice. Our office staff: Mrs Barbara Benn, Mrs Alisa Cole and Ms Kate Stacey are also available to provide further information and administrative support. If you have any concerns or questions with regards to your child's education, please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance.

Health and Safety after school

We have builders working on the school site and would ask you to be extra vigilant supervising your children, particularly younger siblings, at the end of the day. Access to the school after the end of the day will also be restricted whilst the building work is in progress. Please can you ensure that children do not play on the mound and climbing apparatus after school. Staff are not in a playground supervisory role from 3.15 pm and we must prioritise the health and safety of your children. Thank you for your understanding and support.

Meet the teacher meetings

These meetings have been scheduled to support parents and will provide an overview of class specific routines and expectations. These meetings are for parents only; current school children can be left with Mrs Mitchell in the School Hall if child care is required. The meetings will take place on Tuesday September 12th as follows:

Class	Time
1	3.30pm
2	4.00pm
3	3.30pm
4	4.30pm
5	5.00pm
6	5.30pm

School newsletter

On most weeks, I will produce a school newsletter to update our school community of events, school visits, exciting news and general reminders. Please ensure that this is referred to each week as we try to put all school information in this publication to minimise the number of letters that you need to refer to.

Assemblies

On Friday mornings, parents are invited to join us for our whole school assemblies. Each class leads an assembly every term and in addition we celebrate birthdays and achievements. We encourage children to bring in certificates and awards so that we can recognise and celebrate their achievements outside of school. These take place at 9.10am.

After school arrangements

Please ensure that your child's class teacher is kept updated of after school arrangements whether this is travelling by the bus, attending after school provision or if they are being collected by a different person.

Break time snacks

Please can I remind all parents that snacks at break time should be fruit or vegetable. Popular items are: raisins, bananas and carrot. Some children bring these in chopped or whole and either is fine. Key Stage One are provided with a snack each day but some children prefer to bring in their own. **Please can I remind parents that we are a nut free school and items such as seeds, pine nuts, sesame and houmous should not be brought into school for break or in packed lunch boxes.**

Open morning / afternoons

During this academic year, we will be holding five open morning / afternoons for parents and members of the community to gain an insight into school life on a regular day. We have set them at different times and on different days of the week to maximise the opportunities for attendance for those parents with work commitments. We are also planning to provide a focus for each of our open morning / afternoons.

Music

Music is a key aspect of school life at Great Chesterford and in addition to the music clubs listed on the timetable, instrumental tuition is also available, namely:

strings

woodwind

brass

piano

Please contact the school office if you would like further details.

Parking

If you transport your child to school by car, please be considerate to our local residents when parking. Unfortunately, we have had a number of occasions in the past where public buses were unable to access roads due to problematic parking and neighbouring properties had their driveways blocked. Many children do walk to school and it is essential that parked cars do not provide additional hazard – particularly if parking takes place too close to junctions. Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Clubs

We place great importance on the extra-curricular opportunities available to the children and offer a variety of clubs at lunchtime and after school. Our aim is to continue to offer a full extra-curricular programme during our building works and will only cancel when absolutely necessary. The Autumn Term club timetable has been included on this newsletter and is also posted on the school website. Please note that many of our clubs do have a number limit and, unless stated otherwise, we operate on a first come first served basis. Those clubs underlined do incur a charge which will be detailed in

the club specific letters. If your child wishes to attend any of the clubs on offer, please return the appropriate letters promptly.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all adults involved in helping the school offer such a varied selection of opportunities for the children. We do have parents involved and if anyone is interested in running or supporting lunchtime or after school clubs, please contact the school.

Calendar

The calendar on the school website has been updated with all known dates for the forthcoming academic year. Key dates have been included in this letter for the forthcoming academic year. Please refer to the calendar on the school website during the year for any additional information.

Autumn Term Clubs 2017

Lunchtime

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<u>Football Club</u> <u>Years 3 and 4</u> <u>Mr Snelling</u>	Choir Club KS2 Mrs Middleton	Recorder Club Years 4-6 Mrs Witney Ms Benson	Top Trumps Club Year 2 Ms Benson	Gardening Club KS2 Mrs Butler
	Leading Worship Year 6 Mrs Lincoln	Board Games Club Years 1 and 2 Mrs Davies		Lego Club Year 2 Mrs Mitchell
		Knitting Club KS2 Miss Norris (after half term)		

After school

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Running Club KS2 Mrs Dunlop	<u>Orchestra</u> <u>Mrs Wheeler</u>	KS2 Art Club Mrs Raper after half term	Netball Club Year 6 Mrs Sargeant	KS1 Art Club Mrs Barden
		<u>Football Club</u> <u>Yrs 5&6</u> <u>Mr Snelling</u>	Tag Rugby Club Years 5 and 6 Mr Duers	
			<u>Spanish Club</u> <u>Years 1-4</u> <u>Spanish Amigos</u>	
			<u>Inspiration Station</u> <u>KS2</u> <u>Mrs Fernell</u>	

Key dates for academic year 2016-2017

Date	Event
12th September	Meet the teacher meetings for Classes 1 to 6
15th September	Year 3 Trip to Great Notley
22nd September	Harvest Festival Service at All Saints' Church
25th-29th September	Growth Mindset Theme Week
26th September	Open Morning – focus on Growth Mindset
9th October	E-safety workshop for Years 5 and 6
9th October	E-safety evening workshop for Years 5 and 6 parents
10 th October	Year 6 Trip to Bletchley Park
13th October	Year 4 Trip to Audley End
16th October	Open Afternoon – focus on building developments
18th October	Year 5 Trip to West Stow
20th October	Non-pupil day
23rd-27th October	Half term
1st November	Year 2 Trip to Gunpowder Mills
1st November	Parents' Consultation 5:30-8:00pm
2 nd November	Parents' Consultation 3:45-6:15pm
13th-17th November	PSHE Theme Week
23rd November	Open morning – focusing on our values
9th December	Spirit of Christmas for Years 5 and 6
12th December	Christmas Plays for KS1 and Lower KS2 - afternoon performance
13th December	Christmas Plays for KS1 and Lower KS2 - afternoon and evening performances
19th December	Christmas parties
20th December	Christmas Church Service Last day of term
3rd January	Non- Pupil Day
4th January	Pupils return to school
29th January – 2nd February	Computing Theme Week
30th January	Parents' Consultation 3:45-6:15pm
31st January	Parents' Consultation 5:30-8:00pm
12th-16th February	Half term

Date	Event
26th February – 2nd March	Book Week
21st March	Open Afternoon – focus on building developments
29th March	Easter Service at All Saints' Church Last day of term
16th April	Non- Pupil Day
17th April	Pupils return to school
14th - 18th May	Year 6 SATs Week
21st May	Open Morning – sharing success
22nd May	Music Evening 6.30pm
28th May – 1st June	Half term
4th - 8th June	Science Week
3rd July	Years 5 and 6 Summer Play
4th July	Years 5 and 6 Summer Play
6th July	Transition afternoon tbc
9th July	Transition afternoon tbc
10 th July	Reception Class Open Evening 4pm
11th July	Open Evening 6-8pm (All classes)
12th July	Sports Day
13th July	Year 6 memories assembly
13th July	Reserve Sports Day
15th - 18th July	Year 6 Residential
20th July	Leavers' Service at All Saints' Church
20th July	Year 6 Entertainment
23rd July	Non- Pupil Day

Thank you for your continued support.
Yours sincerely,

Mrs Sarah Mitchell
Headteacher