

Great Chesterford C E Primary Academy
Class 1 Newsletter
Autumn Term 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Class 1. I am delighted to be teaching your children this year and I look forward to building strong relationships with them. I appreciate that you and your children may be experiencing a range of emotions regarding the start of a new academic year. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any support for you or your child during the transition to Year 1.

Our topic this term is 'Toys' which I am sure will be popular amongst the children, especially when they are introduced to 'The Everywhere Bear' (Julia Donaldson). Some curriculum subjects will be taught through this theme and we hope to have lots of creative fun whilst the children continue their academic journey. The subjects covered in the theme are in line with the Primary National Curriculum and can be seen in the accompanying topic web. If any parents, carers, or grandparents can help to enrich our topic in any way e.g. participating in a class visit to show us some childhood toys, or providing photographs and information about toys from the past, we would be most grateful.

Staffing and support in Class One

I will be teaching Class 1 every day, except on Wednesday morning and Thursday afternoon when Mrs Sargeant will teach the class. On Thursday afternoon, Mr Duers, our sports coach, will lead a PE session with the class. Mrs Brown and Mrs Roscorla are the teaching assistants working in Class 1 this year.

P.E/Active learning/Learning outside

PE will usually take place on a **Monday** and **Thursday**. On these days children should come to school in their PE kit consisting of a white T-shirt, navy shorts and plimsolls or trainers. On colder days, children may wish to wear navy skins or jogging bottoms and a navy sweatshirt, particularly as they will be wearing their PE kit all day. In addition to our timetabled PE lessons, Class 1 will take regular breaks for physical activity and enjoy active lessons in the classroom; we endeavour to complete a 'Daily Mile' or 'Daily Skip' as a class most days on the playground.

Class 1 will visit the school nature space every **Tuesday** and will need appropriate clothing for the changing seasons. Please send your child's nature space clothes (Wellingtons, waterproof trousers/splash suit) into school every Tuesday morning in a named bag, which will be returned each Tuesday afternoon. In colder weather, you may wish to provide an additional layer of clothing including warm socks and gloves.

Phonics and Reading

All children will continue to read aloud a carefully chosen phonically decodable text in school three times per week. As a celebration of the progress made each week, children will bring home the book that they have been reading in class to share with family over the weekend. We hope that you enjoy the opportunity to hear your child read aloud fluently on a weekly basis. It is essential that this book is returned on Monday morning so that phonics teaching can continue.

On **Wednesday 13th September**, Mrs Davies will be leading a parent session about phonics teaching in school. This presentation will be similar to last year but if you feel you would like a refresher or have further questions to ask, please do come along at **7pm**.

In addition to the phonically decodable book, on Monday mornings children will be encouraged to choose a book from the class library to take home and enjoy throughout the week. This book will not be matched to your child's reading level, or the phonics taught in class. The purpose of this book is to foster a love of reading and develop vocabulary. Children should spend at least 10 minutes each day engaging with a book with an adult, and this could include the class library book. Class library books should be returned and swapped every Monday morning. Please feel free to comment on your child's engagement with reading in their home school link book.

Homework

As well as the daily reading, children in Year 1 are expected to complete a maths activity and a tricky words activity. The activities have been designed to help your child to secure the required knowledge for this stage of their education. Homework will not always be formally marked but will be checked by teachers/teaching assistants on a weekly basis. I hope that you will enjoy this approach to homework throughout Year 1.

What do I need to remember each week?

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Return phonically decodable text. Swap classroom library book. PE kit	AM: Maths Log to be returned to school. PM: Maths logs will be handed out. AM: Bring Nature Space clothes in a named bag. PM: Nature Space clothes will be returned.		PE kit	Children to bring home phonically decodable book to share and celebrate.
Everyday: Water bottle, bookbag (no backpacks please), raincoat/sunhat.				

Key Dates:

Meet the Teacher: You are warmly invited to join me for a 'Meet the Teacher' meeting on **Wednesday 13th September at 3:30pm**. This meeting will be held in Class 1 and is an opportunity for me to introduce myself and the new routines and expectations as well as answer any questions you may have about the year ahead.

Harvest Service: **Friday 22nd September at 9:30am**. Further details will be provided in the school newsletter.

Our Class Collective Worship: **Friday 24th November at 9:10am**. Parents for Year 1 children are invited to attend this in the school hall.

Further dates will be published on the school website and weekly newsletters.

I look forward to an enjoyable term ahead. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

Miss F Thorburn