

GREAT CHESTERFORD C. OF E. PRIMARY ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER WEEK ENDING JANUARY 5th 2018

**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 generous gifts they were greatly appreciated. I would like to wish the whole school community a happy, healthy and peaceful 2018.

Reception Class had a really interesting afternoon when Dr Jenny visited Great Chesterford and helped them attend to their poorly toys.



Building Progress

Key Stage One are all happy to be back in their regular classrooms. Reception Class and Year 1 are delighted with their improved classrooms and we will be holding tours later this term for parents to see the building improvements we have completed so far. The Portakabin and toilet block will be removed from the Infant Playground before the end of January and the children have great plans for possible improvements to both of the school playgrounds. The Friends have been working really hard with fundraising activities to try and transform the children's dreams into a reality.

Class 1 Pantomime Trip

Lucky Class 1, have just returned from a trip to the theatre to see Jack and the Beanstalk. The children adored the pantomime with fantastic audience participation and enjoyed munching on their home made

pizzas which they had prepared yesterday. Their behaviour was exemplary and they were a credit to the school.

Reception Applications for September 2018

Please note that the closing date for applications from parents for Reception Class 2018 is 15th January 2018. Applications can be made via the website: www.essex.gov.uk/admissions. We will be holding an additional Open Morning for prospective Reception 2018 families on Thursday January 11th so that they are able to see our new facilities - please pass this message on to any families who may be interested in starting their primary school education at Great Chesterford this September.

Art

Please can we ask that Key Stage Two children have a named art apron/old shirt available in school for art and design lessons to protect their school uniform.

Newspaper Appeal

We would be most grateful of any old newspapers to support art and design activities in school - thank you.

Behaviour After School

Please may I remind parents that once children have been released to their parents at the end of the school day, teachers are no longer on 'duty' in the playground. Children should not play on the mound, play equipment or near the building work as we need to ensure their health and safety. We do expect children to be kind and respectful to others during the school day and rough play after school does not support this ethos. If you are not able to leave the playground promptly, please can we ask that you supervise your child closely to prevent any negative behaviour - thank you for your support.

Spring Term

This is a short but 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 has been posted 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.

Message from Mr Brown

Mr Brown would like to pass on his thanks and appreciation for the lovely cards and gifts that he received for Christmas. Kind messages and shared news brighten his days. He particularly enjoyed his visit in December when he was able to watch the Christmas plays.

Mrs Sarah Mitchell Headteacher

Forest School Event

Please could details of this Forest School event be included in an email to parents

<https://bookwhen.com/natureoflearning>

Forest School in Ashdon this Saturday 10.30-12.30, our theme this week is Epiphany (Twelve Night) Suitable for children aged 12 months-11 years approx. Children under 12 months are free. £7.50 per child (any additional children £5 each). No booking/ticket required for accompanying adult. Child-led play in the woods, promoting holistic development. Activities include, mud kitchen, stream play, tree climbing, tool use, cooking on and lighting fires, crafts, nature detectives, scavenger hunting.

Includes hot drinks for children and parents/carers, as well as snacks for all.

Please come dressed for outdoor muddy-messy-soggy play. Lots of mud to be found and fresh air all over the place. Some spare clothes/additional layers are a good idea.

Woodlands near to

All Saints Church, Church End

Ashdon, Saffron Walden

Essex CB10 2JG

Meet at the Church gate

Feel free to bring your own snacks and drinks but refreshments will be available.

Attachments:

RSPB January Wildlife Explorer's event at Fowlmere

RSPB2018 programme of events

Dates for your diary

Date	Event
17th January	Swimming Gala
29th January - 2nd February	Computing Theme Week - post-poned due to building works
30th January	Parents' Consultation 3:45-6:15pm
31st January	Parents' Consultation 5:30-8:00pm
1st February	Class 2 Trip to Pizza Express
12th-16th February	Half term
26th February-2nd March	Book Week
15th March	Class 6 Trip to the Botanic Gardens
21st March	Open Afternoon - focus on building developments
29th March	Easter Service at All Saints' Church
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
10th 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' Church Service Last day of term
20th July	Year 6 Entertainment
23rd July	Non-pupil day