

GREAT CHESTERFORD C. OF E. PRIMARY ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 3rd 2017

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school, we have lots to look forward to this half term, including: our PSHE theme week, class trips and the many Christmas events. It was really good to see so many parents attend this week's parent consultations; we really value your partnership in supporting your child's education.

Reception Class Assembly

Well done Reception Class for a wonderful assembly on the theme of Diwali. We thought you did so well - your art work was beautiful and we loved your action song! A super start to your assembly careers at Great Chesterford Primary Academy!

Hall door

Please can we remind parents that the door at the back of the school hall is not to be used during the school day. Visitors should enter and leave school via the main entrance so that we can monitor who is in the building at any given time for both Health and Safety and Safeguarding.

School Council

Our whole school community would like to say a huge thank you to our out-going School Council. They have been super role models for our school and worked hard to improve the school for everyone.



Key projects they have been involved in this year include:

- charity work
- pupil safety booklet
- supporting community events
- planning for improvements in the Infant Playground

A fantastic achievement - well done to you all:

Good luck to our new School Council 2017-18.

Year 2 Trip to Gunpowder Mills

On Wednesday, I had the privilege of accompanying Class 2 and Ms Benson on their trip to the Gunpowder Mills. We had a fantastic day learning about Guy Fawkes and the Stuarts who lived 400 years ago. Highlights included: writing with a quill pen, learning about the foods they ate and watching a very entertaining show! The children were a pleasure to work with; they were engaged and enthusiastic during all of the activities throughout our busy day. Thank you to Mrs Allen and Mrs Hewinson for supporting us on this visit.

Cross Country success for Years 3, 4, 5 and 6!

Boys and girls from every Key Stage 2 class competed in the Newport Family Cross Country at Carver Barracks on Wednesday. Mrs White, Mrs Dunlop and a group of supportive parents accompanied the pupils on this frosty morning to Carver Barracks, Wimbish. All the children enjoyed this event and were wonderful ambassadors for Great Chesterford demonstrating excellent behaviour, positive competitive spirit and superb running skills. Everyone who took part deserves a special well done and we now have several teams progressing to the Partnership event: Year 3 boys, Year 4 boys and Year 5 boys! There were notable individual performances and these pupils will also be competing at the next event: Ezra Cole 1st place, Laurence Cox 1st place, Paul Coe 2nd place, Raphael Buchallet 3rd place, Edward Taylor 1st place, Olivia Van Weede 3rd place and Billy Van Weede 1st place. Thank you to Mrs Buchallet, Mr Cole, Mrs Daw, Mrs Townsend, Mrs Balchin, Mrs Dunlop for their support at the event. These excellent results are a reflection of the superb coaching we receive from Mrs Dunlop and we would also like to thank Mrs Van Weede and Mrs Mackswith Coe and Mrs White for their support at this very popular club!



Poppy Appeal

As a school, we are supporting the Poppy Appeal and as such children may purchase Poppies in school next week. Please provide them with a small donation if they would like to obtain their Poppy in school.

Assemblies Reminder

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.

This information was included on my first newsletter of the year, which can be found on the school website if you no longer have your own copy. (Posted in the September section under the News tab).

Nut and sesame food products

Please can I remind parents that we are a nut free school and items such as seeds, pine nuts, sesame and houmuos should not be brought into school for break or in packed lunch boxes - thank you for your support. We do have a number of children in school with food allergies and our policy is to safeguard against anyone eating or coming into contact with known allergens.

Lunchtime games appeal

We would be most grateful if anyone has any unwanted games or toys suitable for outdoor play at lunchtimes. Please contact the school office, Mrs Sargeant or myself if you have any such items - thank you!

Start of the school day

Please note that the school is open to pupils from 8.45am - we cannot admit pupils before this time unless they are attending Breakfast Club - thank you.

W.I. Calendars

These super local calendars will be on sale in the school playground from 3pm on **Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th November**. They cost £5 each and feature photographs taken by different clubs, groups and individuals in the village as well as the comments from our current Year 4 children as part of last term's Community Week.

Midday Assistants

We currently have vacancies for the role of Midday Assistant. Please contact the school office for further information or pass on to anyone who may be interested in this school role.

PSHE Week:-14th - 18th November

We are busy planning for our PSHE theme week which will focus on British Values and we wanted to alert you to a couple of events which will be taking place during the week.

On Friday 18th November we are also participating in the Spotacular Event to raise funds for Children in Need and also a charity chosen by the children. It will be a non-school uniform day and everyone is invited to wear something red / white / blue. In return, we ask the children to bring in a minimum donation of £1 which we will share between the two charities. Dressing up is, of course, completely optional.

More details regarding our PSHE Week activities will be sent out nearer the time.

School Photographs

Individual and family group photographs will be taking place on **Thursday 16th November**.

Update from Mrs Fernall regarding Cauliflower Cards

Thank you so much to all the parents and children who have worked hard to get their Cauliflower Cards in today. This will help us to process them more quickly. We have just had an update from Cauliflower Cards delaying their collection date. And since we've had a few parents asking if they could have this weekend to do their designs, we are able to extend the deadline to Monday 6th November but absolutely no later! So if you haven't yet had a chance to design your cards, please do this weekend and send them in on Monday so that they can be checked and collected on time.

Reminder for cheques to be made payable to 'Friends of Great Chesterford Primary Academy'.

Mrs Sarah Mitchell Headteacher

Bonfire Night in Little Chesterford

Our traditional Bonfire Night celebrations will take place on Sunday 5th November, with the lighting of the bonfire at about 6:15pm and then a magnificent Firework Display starting at 6:45pm. Delicious food will be served from 6:00pm onwards including hot dogs, filled baked potatoes, toffee apples, soup and mulled wine. So, whatever the weather, come along to the meadow behind the Village Hall (please leave your cars behind if possible!) and come and enjoy a really good evening. Admission, as always, is free, but we do kindly ask for donations at the gate, please.

Message from X:Site

X:Site, the fun-filled, multi-media event for kids is back this weekend! The group, now in its 7th year, is run by local churches for junior school children in Years 3-6, and is happening on Saturday, 11 Nov 2017 at Saffron Walden Community Church, (ex Methodist) Castle Street, Saffron Walden. It runs from 6-8pm and costs just £2.50 for a fun evening learning about Jesus and the bible including games, activities, competitions, singing with a live band and the much-loved gunging of the leaders, if you liked VBS you will love this. No need to book – just bring the kids and their friends along and there is a prize for everyone who finds the number hidden under the gold bar on the website. If you've not been before, and to save time on the night, please visit www.sw-xsite.org.uk and download the registration form. You can also see photos on the Events page of the website from previous X:Site events to get an idea of how much fun we have. For more information, please phone Tony on 01799 520870.

Attachments: Fire / Fireworks Safety Advice

Dates for your diary

Date	Event
13th-17th November	PSHE Week
16th November	Individual and family group photographs
17th November	Spotacular Charity Non- uniform day (red, blue and white theme)
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

The full list of dates for the whole academic year can be found on the calendar on our school website.