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Great Chesterford C.of E. Primary Academy

Class 6 Newsletter

Spring Term 2024

Dear Children and Parents

Welcome back and a very Happy New Year to you all! The Spring Term is always a busy one so I hope the children are well rested and raring to go!

An outline of the curriculum topics that will be taught this term has been added to a Topic Web, which accompanies this Newsletter. If parents can help in any way by providing information or resources, I would be very pleased to hear from you.

Children are expected to be in school at 8:45am. Good habits of punctuality and attendance are proven to positively impact attainment and a prompt start helps to maximise learning time.

This term, Mrs McCullough will teach the class on a Thursday and Mrs Munday will teach the class on a Tuesday afternoon. In addition, this term, Mr Duers will lead P.E. on a Tuesday morning as detailed below. Mrs Munday, Mrs Campbell, Mrs Robson, Mrs Huq and Mrs Slyfield will also support the work of individuals and the class at different points during the week.

P.E/Games

P.E. this term will usually take place on a **Tuesday morning and Wednesday afternoon**. We shall be continuing to go outside for games lessons throughout the winter so a navy school tracksuit or skins should be worn. Alternative footwear and a spare pair of socks to change into on their return will also be needed as the field as it can be very wet and muddy at this time of year, even if it is not raining. For this reason, tights are not suitable for P.E.

The focus of our games' lessons this term will be hockey and football with additional Sports Hall Athletics. If football boots are worn, they must have plastic studs. Please provide a plastic bag or boot bag for wet items. In order to participate fully, **children will also need a gum-shield and shin pads**, which can be left in their boxes at school. Please ensure all items are clearly labelled. It is also a requirement that hair should be tied up and earrings are removed before any P.E. lessons in line with Essex regulations. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

Equipment

Children should have their handwriting pen, an HB pencil, eraser and a 30 cm ruler in school every day. In addition, coloured pencils, fineliners/highlighters and their own gluestick would also be beneficial.

Homework

Children in Class 6 are expected to do approximately 30 minutes of homework per night. Reading is an important part of homework and at least 15 minutes should be spent reading each day. We are encouraging children to read one book, at home and school, and to bring this text into school every day. This facilitates progress through a book, the development of comprehension skills and enables them to complete their 'Reading Challenges'. If it is apparent that children are not routinely reading at home, additional reading homework may be set.

Homework will usually be set as timetabled below:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
English		Maths	Science	Spelling

Use of the planner will support children's developing independence and organisation. As well as regularly recording their reading progress, children should ensure homework is noted and that they understand the task before they leave school. Homework planners need to be signed weekly by parents and these can be used to comment on your child's progress or any aspect of homework, including reading but will not be checked daily; routine messages should be sent via the admin@greatchesterford.essex.sch.uk email address. Please note that homework will be looked at on a regular basis but may not always be marked in the same way. It will sometimes be more appropriate to check children's understanding through discussion or use work started at home as a basis for continued work in the classroom.

In addition to the homework set, children would benefit from spending some time each week revising key skills. This may involve using the study guides or websites such as BBC 'Revisewise'. Mental maths skills (such as quick recall of times tables and related division facts and using mental strategies for addition and subtraction) and spellings could be a focus on car journeys or during walks. The school website includes details on the Year 6 page: 'How to Help Your Child at Home', which includes the spellings that will be a focus. A little regular revision will be more beneficial than a panic in May!

Dates for your diary

Before the holidays, a letter was sent regarding the class trip for the term to **'The Playground'** on **Friday 12th January**. Many thanks if you have already provided consent and payment for this.

The planned date for our class Collective Worship is **Friday 9th February**.

The 2Johns Internet Safety Workshop (online) is at **8-9:30 pm** on **Tuesday 13th February**.

I also ask that you note the dates for **SATs** in the summer term. The statutory tests will take place in the **Week Commencing 13th May**. It would therefore be beneficial when booking advance appointments such as dentist /orthodontist etc. if this week is avoided. It is also important to note that work carried out during May and June in English writing and science will make an important contribution to children's overall assessments for the year, with samples of children's work forwarded to secondary schools, so attendance should remain a priority. Thank you for your cooperation and support with this.

I am looking forward to another busy, enjoyable term ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Starbuck