

GREAT CHESTERFORD C. OF E. PRIMARY ACADEMY



September 2nd, 2020

Dear Parents,

Headteacher Autumn Term Newsletter

It is with great pleasure that I welcome both existing and new families to our school community as we start this academic year. I hope that you have all enjoyed a lovely family break and are looking forward to the new year ahead – we are certainly excited to be welcoming all year groups back to school.

Thank you so much for the thoughtful cards and kind gifts that myself and all the staff received at the end of last term - they were truly appreciated. The school mission statement of 'Together we are great' epitomises the strong partnerships that we try to encourage between all of 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.

Procedures for the new term were shared with all parents at the end of last term and again last week. The purpose of the guide is to outline the measures that school leaders and staff will be taking to support your child's health and well-being upon their return to school this academic year. The Governors and Leadership Team have carried out a detailed risk assessment and followed the DfE guidance in planning our provision. Please ensure that you are familiar with the contents of the guide.

Governors play a key role in supporting the leadership of the school, and as volunteers, we are grateful for the time, commitments and many skills they bring to Great Chesterford. Two of our long standing governors, Mr Andrew Taylor and Dr Jennifer Fullerty stepped down from the board last term and on behalf of the whole school community, I would like to thank them for all that they have contributed to our village school with many years of valuable support. Full details of the Governing Body can be found on the school website. We extend a warm welcome to two new governors: Mr Andrew Farrimond and Mrs Jayne Greenwood who will both be joining the board this academic year.

I would also like to extend a warm welcome to several new members of staff who will be joining us this year. Mrs Sylvie Munday and Ms Ella Laur Baker will be joining the support staff team and will be supporting pupils in Years 6 and 2 respectively. Congratulations are shared with Mrs Jane Van Weede and Mrs Paula Pearce who have both been successfully recruited to the positions of Catering Manager and Assistant Cook. This means we are also welcoming a new catering assistant to the team – Mrs Verlinda Owen. We hope that they all enjoy working in our friendly and supportive school and wider community.

We are all really pleased to be welcoming back Ms Helen Benson, who will be returning to the teaching team this year, to work with Mrs Lincoln in Year 2.

We are delighted with the completion of our new STEM Hub which will benefit pupils throughout the school in a wide range of subjects. It will also, in the short term, allow us to work with smaller groups and resume school music lessons whilst adhering to the required social distancing measures.

I would now like to draw people's attention to key events and school communication systems. This list is not exhaustive, and the school website provides a more comprehensive overview of school procedures and practice. Our office staff: Mrs Alisa Cole and Mrs Angela Oakman 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.

Access to the school

At the start and end of the day, we request that only one parent/ carer accompany their child/ children to school. In order to minimise the risk of cross infection, **pupils have been allocated differing start and pick up times**. We request that outside school, the latest government social-distancing measures are also maintained. Children should only be collected or leave the school site with a sibling or child from their class bubble.

After school arrangements

Please ensure that your child's class teacher is kept updated regarding after school arrangements whether this is travelling by the bus, attending after school provision or if they are being collected by a different person. Please may I also remind parents to leave the playground swiftly once they have collected their child and that the grass and play equipment should not be used by any child, including pre-school children, at this time.

School newsletter

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

Meet the teacher information sessions

These meetings have been scheduled to support parents and will provide an overview of class specific routines and expectations. These virtual presentations are for parents and will be available from Tuesday 8th September.

Collective Worship

Each bubble will have their own collective worship. Unfortunately, Friday whole school worship, to which parents are usually invited, will be unable to take place for the foreseeable future. The whole school will still unite in collective worship virtually and we will be inviting parents to join our key services until we are able to join together in person. Class collective worship will still take place and these assemblies will be shared with families virtually to maintain your involvement in this key area of school life. **The dates for each year group's class worship will be shared on each termly class newsletter.**

Break time snacks

Children are encouraged to have a snack at break time. Key Stage One are provided with a snack each day but some children prefer to bring in their own. Snacks at break time can be fruit, vegetable, savoury cracker biscuits or cheese. Popular items are: raisins, bananas and carrots. Some children bring these in chopped or whole and either is fine. To limit adult handling of children's snacks, it would be helpful if fruit is ready peeled where children cannot do this independently. Please chop items such as grapes and olives to reduce potential choking hazards for younger pupils. **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.**

School lunches

If your child has school dinners, please refer to the school website for menu details. Given the size of the lunch hall, we will not be able to have sittings for all bubbles. Therefore, for the first half term, only KS1 will have the option of a hot school lunch. KS2 pupils may bring in a packed lunch from home or order a grab and go option from school – this will be kept under review.

Open morning / afternoons

During this academic year, we will be holding six open mornings / 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. With social distancing measures, virtual events/ presentations will take the place of these sessions until we are able to resume them in person.

Reporting to parents

Individual parent consultations will take place in the Autumn and Spring terms for parents to meet with their child's class teacher(s) to discuss pastoral and academic progress. Dates of these will be on the school calendar. In the summer term, you will also receive a written report for your child covering pastoral and academic progress for the whole curriculum. Reports will be available for collection at the summer term open afternoon where parents will be invited into school to look at their child's work.

Music

Music is a key aspect of school life at Great Chesterford and in-school music tuition will resume this term, for: strings, woodwind, brass and piano. Please contact the school office if you would like further details.

Illness and medicines

Children should not attend school if they are ill or displaying Covid-19 symptoms as detailed in the parent guide. Please can we also remind parents that if your child has been ill with a sickness and / or diarrhoea virus, they need to stay at home for 48 hours after the final episode to prevent any further spread of the infection. Should children require medicines to be administered at school, you must complete the: 'Administration of medicines consent form' - copies can be downloaded from the school website. Please ensure that emergency medication such as asthma inhalers and Epipens are in date and that we are provided with clear written instructions for their use using the form previously mentioned.

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 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 hazards – particularly near junctions. Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Clubs

We place great importance on the extra-curricular opportunities available to the children and are currently looking at how we can offer such opportunities at this time. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all adults who have been involved in helping the school offer such a varied selection of opportunities for the children. Teachers and many of the volunteers do not get paid for leading these activities and we are fortunate that they are prepared to give up their time to prepare, support and lead clubs. We do have parents involved and if anyone is interested in running or supporting a virtual club, please contact the school. There will be no face to face after school clubs at this time but this is under review and we will keep you updated.

Calendar 2020 - 2021

The calendar attached includes all known dates for the forthcoming academic year. Please refer to the calendar on the school website and weekly Headteacher newsletter's during the year for any additional information. The dates are subject to change as we continue to navigate these unprecedented times but we will endeavor to give you as much notice as possible for any necessary changes.

Please ensure that you have signed and returned the attached Supplementary Home School Agreement for each child by Monday 7th September. We also request that you notify school as soon as possible, if you are currently having to quarantine following recent applicable overseas travel.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Sarah Mitchell
Headteacher



**GREAT CHESTERFORD C. OF E. PRIMARY ACADEMY
CALENDAR
2020-2021**

Date	Event
8 th September	Meet the teacher information sessions for Classes 1 to 6
14 th -18 th September	PSHEE Theme Week
21 st September	Reception Parent Meeting 7:00pm
22 nd September	Virtual Open Morning - Welcome to our school
24 th September	Harvest Festival Service
13 th October	Parents' Consultation 3:45-6:15pm
15 th October	Parents' Consultation 5:30-8:00pm
15 th October	Flu immunisations
26 th October – 30 th October	Half term
9 th - 13 th November	Theme Week
9 th November	School photographs (Individual and family groups tbc)
23 rd November	Open Morning
16 th December	Christmas activities
19 th December	Christmas service 9:30am Last day of term
5 th January	Non- Pupil Day
6 th January	Pupils return to school
25 th January - 29 th January	Theme Week
26 th January	Parents' Consultation 3:45-6:15pm
28 th January	Parents' Consultation 5:30-8:00pm
2 nd February	KS2 Eucharist Service
2 nd February	Open Afternoon
15 th -19 th February	Half term
1 st - 5 th March	Book Week
18 th March	Open Afternoon

Date	Event
26 th March	Easter Service 9:30am Last day of term
12 th April	Pupils return to school
10 th - 14 th May	Year 6 SATs Week
17 th May	Open Afternoon
18 th May	KS2 Eucharist Service
31 st May – 4 th June	Half term
7 th June	Non-Pupil Day
21 st -25 th June	Theme Week
22 nd June	Music Evening 6:30pm tbc
29 th June	Sports Day
1 st July	Reserve Sports Day
2 nd July	Transition Afternoon tbc
5 th July	Transition Afternoon tbc
16 th July	Open Afternoon – current parents only (looking at pupil's work and collecting reports) 2:15-3:15pm for Rec to Year 6 tbc
21 st July	End of Year Service 9:30am
21 st July	Last day of term
22 nd July	Non- Pupil Day