

Great Chesterford C. of E. Primary Academy
Class 2 Newsletter – Summer Term 2024

Dear Parents and Children,

We hope you all had a restful Easter holiday, and you are feeling excited as we move into the final term of the academic year.

Our topic this term will be **'At the Seaside'**. The children will be looking at seaside holidays in the past and comparing them to the present. They will be looking at UK coastal localities and comparing habitats in our local environment with those found at the seaside. To really help bring this topic alive, we have organised a trip to Hunstanton where they will have the opportunity to see a seaside town and identify the features that we will learn about in geography as well as making links to our science work of habitats by visiting the Sealife Centre. In addition to this, the children will also learn about Grace Darling. A topic web with information about what the children will learn during the summer term will also be added to the school website in due course, please do let us know if you would like a paper copy. If you have any resources relevant to our topic or are able to help in any way, please do let us know.

This term, **PE** will take place on **Tuesdays and Fridays**; please could you make sure that the children wear their PE clothes in school on these days. For safety reasons, jewellery, smart watches and hooded sweatshirts should not be worn. Please ensure all clothing and personal items are named as we encourage the children to take responsibility for their own belongings. **Children should wear school shoes except for PE days.** As the weather gets warmer, please ensure your child also has a sun hat and a full water bottle in school with them every day (no squash, juice or energy drinks). Children may bring a fruit snack or crackers/breadsticks to eat at playtime; please remember that we are a nut/sesame free school.

Staffing- Mrs Lincoln is due to start her maternity leave at the beginning of May and we look forward to welcoming Mrs Gale to Class 2 who will be covering the class until the end of the academic year. We are lucky that Mrs Gale has already taught the class and we are confident it will be a smooth transition.

Reading - This term, some children will continue to bring home a Little Wandle reading book every Thursday. This book will be familiar to them as they will already have read it several times in school during the week to develop their reading skills and build fluency. We hope you continue to enjoy celebrating your child's progress with reading. Occasionally, your child may bring home a phonics book that they have previously read. Please do not be concerned if this happens, reading books are carefully selected to match your child's developing phonic knowledge so it may be necessary to return to previously read texts to target particular GPCs or build fluency.

As mentioned before, *automaticity* is the key for this term for children following The Little Wandle Scheme. This is what the children get assessed on at the end of each half term as this is what builds children's reading fluency. The aim is to be able to read 60-70 words per minute automatically and without being reliant on their decoding skills.

Many children will now be moving onto The Little Wandle Fluency Texts. This is a new resource which the school has invested a huge amount of money in. The children will have regular sessions where they do a 'deep dive' into a text. They really concentrate on fluency and comprehension skills and the quality of the books is a delight. With the nature of how the lessons are delivered, these books will not be sent home. Instead, these children, who are now considered 'free readers', will have the opportunity to change their class library book each Monday and Friday so they are still being offered a breadth of reading material.

Reading remains an incredibly important part of your child's homework. They should read for approximately 10-15 minutes every day, and this should be recorded in their orange home-school book. If your child is reading a book from home, then please also record this in the orange book so that we know they are being heard to read regularly.

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more you learn, the more places you'll go."— Dr. Seuss, "I Can Read With My Eyes Shut!"

Homework - It is an expectation that all children will complete the weekly homework tasks. In addition to reading, a short maths task will be set as usual on a Monday and will need to be handed in on the following Monday. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you need further guidance / support with homework. The children will also receive their usual weekly spellings each Friday and they will be tested the following Friday.

Assessments – During May, the children will complete their end of Key Stage assessments. These will be very low-key and are a helpful tool to support teacher assessment. This year, the children have had lots of opportunities to practise answering these types of questions so it will not be anything new for them.

Junk Materials – In science, we would ask that you provide a shoe box (clearly named) for your child to support our learning. You will be advised when these need to be brought in nearer the time. During the second half of this term, we will be using some junk materials in our DT lessons in order to make a lighthouse. We will be wanting shoe boxes or cereal boxes, but more information will follow just before half term. In line with our school policy, please ensure any food packaging sent into school is nut and sesame-free.

SRE – Towards the end of the summer term, we will be covering Sex and Relationship Education with the children. More information about this will follow. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please let us know and we are happy to discuss these with you.

Key Dates

Wednesday 8th May 3 Tees Cricket Tournament

Tuesday 9th July Trip to Hunstanton. (More details to follow)

Tuesday 18th June Sports Day

Friday 5th July Class Collective Worship- 'What are you looking forward to most?'

Friday 12th July Open Afternoon

Please do not hesitate to speak to us if you require any further information or if you need to update us about any issues affecting your child. We look forward to a hardworking but enjoyable term ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Gent and Mrs Lincoln