

GREAT CHESTERFORD C of E PRIMARY ACADEMY
Reception Newsletter - Summer Term 2024

Dear Children and Parents,

Welcome back to school. I hope you have all had a happy and relaxing Easter break.

This term we will begin by finding out about animals that are native to Africa. Then, we shall head off to sea on a pirate adventure and find out about different sea creatures too. We will also be thinking about our local community and healthy lifestyles.

Staffing

I will be teaching every day except on Tuesday mornings when Miss Walker will be teaching the class. Mrs Tennison will continue to support the class on Mondays and Tuesday mornings and Miss Walker on Tuesday afternoons and on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Mrs Slyfield will also provide support each morning.

Show and Tell

Please note that Show and Tell will take place on **Tuesday** mornings. The dates for each group are shown below:

Pyramids	Cones	Spheres	Cubes
23 rd April	30 th April	7 th May	14 th May
21 st May	11 th June	18 th June	25 th June
2 nd July	9 th July	16 th July	16 th July

Please could you ensure that your child only brings in **one** object to show and that it is not easily breakable or very precious!

Road Safety Information for Parents and Children – Thursday 9th May 9:00am

The Essex Safer Road partnership will be visiting school to speak to parents and children about road safety. Please keep this date in your diary.

Village Walk – Wednesday 22nd May

We will be walking around the village looking at key features as part of our geographical learning in “Understanding the World”.

Collective Worship – Friday 24th May

We will be leading Collective Worship on Friday 24th May, which you are, of course, welcome to attend.

Pirate Day Wednesday – Tuesday 4th June

As part of our topic, we will be having a pirate dressing up day. The whole day will have a pirate theme and there will be opportunities to play pirate games, make pirate accessories (e.g. maps, telescopes) and have lots of fun!

Children may come in “pirate” costume or simply wear sailor type clothes (e.g. jeans and a t-shirt). We ask that the children do not bring swords into school! We will be playing games outside so children must be able to move freely in their costume and be prepared to wear their plimsolls or trainers.

Reception Class Trip — Wednesday 26th June

We will be visiting the **Agricultural Unit at Saffron Walden County High School** on Wednesday 26th June. I will send out further information about this trip, including the cost, shortly.

Open Afternoon – 12th July 2:15pm

During the afternoon, you will be able to join your child in Reception Class and look at their work together. You will also be able to collect their end of year report. Further information will be on the weekly newsletter nearer the time.

Morning Drop Off

We are very impressed with the way that many of the children have been saying their goodbyes at the gate in the mornings. As we move into the summer term, to encourage further independence, it would be brilliant if all the children could be encouraged to do so.

Reading and Homework

Thank you for your continued support with reading and for returning the Little Wandle books so promptly. This enables us to use the set of books for other groups.

Whilst homework is not formally set in Reception Class, it would benefit the children to spend 5 minutes each day practising a range of early learning skills. A suggested timetable is below:

Monday	<p>Phonics – Focus on a spelling activity. For example, pick a digraph and show it to your child. Give them suggestions of words to write using the digraph. You could also use magnetic letters and play a form of “Change It”. For example, start with feet, challenge your child to change it to meet, sheet, sheep, beep etc.</p> <p>Daily review of the tricky words.</p>
Tuesday	<p>Optional maths activity or play a track game (eg snakes and ladders), make bingo cards or attempt one of the optional maths activities</p> <p>Daily review of the tricky words.</p>
Wednesday	<p>Phonics/Physical development – Support the quick recognition of phonemes/graphemes by incorporating them into a throwing game or a “run and find” game. See the separate sheet for further suggestions.</p> <p>Daily review of the tricky words.</p>
Thursday	<p>Phonics/Letter formation skills – Write a sentence. (Focus on letter formation, use of phonics and correct spelling of tricky words).</p> <p>Daily review of the tricky words.</p>
Friday	<p>Maths activity – Play a track game (eg snakes and ladders), bingo or attempt one of the optional activities.</p> <p>Daily review of the tricky words.</p>
Weekend	<p>Celebrate success in reading – share the Little Wandle reading book. Talk about the book, including asking the comprehension questions at the back of the book. They may also like to have a go at writing the answer to one of these questions.</p> <p>You may want to encourage your child to keep a journal, diary or scrap book. They could then write a sentence eg I went to ... I had ...</p>

P.E./Games

Please make sure your child comes to school in their PE kit on **Wednesdays and Fridays**. PE lessons will continue to be taught mainly in the hall, but we will also take the children outside for some elements of athletics. Nearer the time, we will take the children to the school field to practise for sports day. For safety reasons, long hair must be tied back every day and earrings and watches must be removed for PE. If your child is unable to take out their own earrings, they must be taken out before they come to school on PE days.

Outdoor work

As part of our work in Reception class, we will be continuing to use the courtyard as our outdoor classroom each day. Therefore, when the weather is hot or forecast to be hot, please ensure your child has a **named sun-hat** and that **long-lasting sun lotion has been applied before they come to school**. Please send your child to school with a **named water bottle every day** (even if they are having a school dinner), as we take regular water breaks throughout the day and encourage the children to keep hydrated. Your child will also need their waterproof suit and wellingtons in school for when we head off to the nature space.

Communication

Please do speak to a member of the Reception team if you have any questions and we will do our best to answer them. Should you wish to have a quick chat, I am happy to do so once all the children have been picked up at the end of the day. Alternatively, do drop the school office an email and I will get back to you soon as I can.

I look forward to a very busy and enjoyable term ahead. If you have any queries, then please do not hesitate to speak to me or another member of the team. Thank you once again for all your support.

With best wishes,

Mrs Davies and the Reception team