

GREAT CHESTERFORD C. OF E. PRIMARY ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 23rd 2018

Dear Parents,

Together We Are Great

I am delighted to share with everyone some positive external feedback that the school has received and been recognised for this week.

Times Primary League Tables (based on KS2 SATs)

Great Chesterford came 71st in the top 500 primary schools nationally which is a great achievement given that there are over 20,000 primary schools in the country. The top 500 is basically the top 2% so achieving 71st is great news. In terms of regions we came 4th in Essex and 4th in East Anglia.

We also received a letter from the Rt Hon Nick Gibb, MP, to congratulate the school on being in the top 7% of the country for our KS1 phonics outcomes.

This is super feedback for all of our stakeholders and recognition for all the hard work and commitment given by the pupils, staff, governors and families at Great Chesterford C. of E. Primary Academy. What makes this feedback so positive is that it has been achieved alongside the National SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) Quality Mark from the Citizenship Foundation at Gold level where the school was praised for the "fabulously enriching environment" and the "hugely varied opportunities both within and outside the curriculum."

Reception Class Assembly

Thank you to Reception Class for leading their first whole school assembly of the academic year on the theme of Hanukkah. We all enjoyed listening to your sweet song and looking at your beautiful Menorah art work - well done!



Friends of Great Chesterford Primary Academy

Film Night - Thank you to the Friends' Committee for organising yesterday's film night, 'Arthur Christmas'. Mrs Allen, Mrs Thackray and Mrs Williams worked really hard with over 100 children and thank you to Mrs White, Mrs Starbuck and Mrs Barden for giving their time to help supervise the children. Thanks to your support, we raised £280.

Bling, Bubbles and Beauty

Please support our school by attending the forthcoming 'Bling, Bubbles and Beauty' event which will take place on Thursday November 29th - all proceeds benefit every child in our school. Recent funds have contributed to school visits and the super playground improvements in our KS1 playground.

Cake stalls

Today is our last class cake sale until the spring and we would like to thank the Friends for coordinating this popular fundraising event and to the whole school community for their support - there are very rarely any left overs!

Dodgeball

10 children from Year 6 took part in the Dodgeball District Finals held at the Lord Butler Leisure Centre on Wednesday. 14 teams took part and the group were praised for their focus and behaviour in what was a busy, fast-moving environment. The team came third in their group with everyone playing with a positive and enthusiastic attitude; they were a credit to the school. Thank you to Mrs White and Mrs Mannix for organising; to Mrs Balchin for accompanying the group and to Mr Gregory and Mrs Hopton for transport.

Parking

It is disappointing that we have received further complaints of inconsiderate parking from local residents. It is not acceptable to obstruct people's driveways - even for a couple of minutes. If driving to school is necessary, please allow adequate time for safe and considerate parking. We value our positive links with the local community and do not want poor parking from a minority of our parents to cause problems for local residents, pedestrians and other members of the community. I would welcome any suggestions of how we could prevent such incidents in the future and promote considerate parking and driving in the local area. Please note that the school is supported by a civil enforcement officer who will issue tickets to offending drivers.

Spirit of Christmas - Years 5 and 6

Please can we ask that all reply slips are returned by Monday 26th November for all children in Years 5 and 6. Saffron Walden Choral Society require exact numbers for their arrangements and safeguarding.

Christmas Post Box

From Monday December 3rd, the school Christmas post box will be in operation. If pupils wish to send their Christmas cards to friends in school, they can use the post box up to Monday 17th December. Each envelope needs the child's full name and class number to ensure our Year 6 postal team are able to deliver it to the correct pupil.

Football Kit Appeal

Year 5 / 6 boys and girls and their parents please can you all check that you do not have any school football kits, or parts of, at home, we have quite a few missing items. We think that some girls may still have kits at home following a cancelled match - thank you.

PE Kit

The weather is much colder now and we ask that children have suitable kit in school for outdoor PE. For health and safety reasons, hooded tops cannot be worn. Children are encouraged to wear navy skins, which can be ordered on-line from our school uniform supplier, but black or white will also be permitted. If your child is using a school sweatshirt for PE, this needs to be in addition to their regular school clothes to ensure that they can change into warm and clean clothes after their sports activity. If girls wear tights to school, please ensure that they have warm socks in their PE bags - thank you.

Reception admissions 2019

The Primary School (Reception) admission round is now open, for parents of children to apply for a Reception school place for the academic year that starts in September 2019.

The statutory national closing date for applications is 15th January 2019.

From 12th November 2018, applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions. The website www.essex.gov.uk/admissions also has a copy of the Primary Education in Essex 2019-20 booklet and the Schools Admissions Policies Directories contain details of all admission policies.

Christmas Plays

Details for our forthcoming KS1 and lower KS2 Christmas Plays, including ticket allocation, will be sent out by separate letter in due course. Rehearsals are starting!

Mrs Sarah Mitchell
Headteacher

Message from Reverend Alex**LITTLEBURY'S CRIB SERVICE – WE NEED YOU!**

All children age 4 and above are invited to be part of this very special Christmas Eve tradition.

Every year on Christmas Eve we look forward to the charming and enchanting Crib Service which re-tells the nativity story through a series of scenes and carols, with a number of reading and speaking parts for the children.

If your children would like to be involved and will be here on Christmas Eve at 4pm, please call Louise on 522999 or email lou62johnson@gmail.com by Sunday 25th November. You definitely do not need to be Church-goers to take part. Everyone Welcome.

Dates for your diary

Date	Event
8th December	Spirit of Christmas for Years 5 and 6
11th December	Christmas Plays for KS1 and Lower KS2 - afternoon performance
12th December	Christmas Plays for KS1 and Lower KS2 - afternoon and evening performances
18th December	Christmas Lunch Christmas parties
19th December	Christmas Church Service 9.30am Last day of term
4th January	Non-pupil day
7th January	Pupils return to school