

GREAT CHESTERFORD C of E PRIMARY ACADEMY
Reception Newsletter - Summer Term 2026

Dear Children and Parents,

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

This term we will continue to find out about the world with a focus on animals native to Africa, our local environment and, finally, heading off to sea on a pirate adventure, learning about different sea creatures along the way.

Staffing

Our staffing remains the same this term. Mrs Sargeant will teach all day on Mondays and Tuesday mornings, Miss Walker on Tuesday afternoons and Mrs Davies on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Mrs Tennison and Miss Walker will continue to support the class.

Show and Tell

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

Pyramids	Cones	Spheres
11 th May	18 th May	8 th June
15 th June	22 nd June	29 th June
6 th July	13 th July	13 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!

Village Walk – Wednesday 20th May

As part of our learning about the local environment, we will be walking around the villages in two groups. We will send out a reminder nearer the time but our aim will be for the first group to leave at 9:15am and the second to leave at 10:00am. If you are able to support either or both walks, please could you let us know.

Collective Worship – Friday 5th June 2026

We will be leading Collective Worship on 5th June 2026 which you are, of course, welcome to attend. This will start at 9:10am.

Reception Class Trip — Thursday 18th June

We will be visiting the **Agricultural Unit at Saffron Walden County High School** on Thursday 18th June. Further details will be sent separately.

Art Gallery – Friday 26th June 9:00am – 9:30am

Reception Class will be hosting an art gallery – more details to follow nearer the date!

Pirate Day – Wednesday 1st July

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 and have lots of fun!

Children may come in “pirate” costume or simply wear sailor type clothes (e.g. jeans and a t-shirt). However, 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.

Open Afternoon – Friday 10th July from 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 newsletter nearer the time.

Reading and Home Learning Activities

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	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
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	<p>"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>Maths activity - Play a track game (e.g snakes and ladders), bingo 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 maths 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. 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 **Mondays and Wednesdays**. PE lessons will continue to be taught mainly in the hall, but we will also take the children outside for some elements of athletics or games. 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 or queries and we will do our best to answer them. Should you wish to have a quick chat, we are 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 we will get back to you soon as we can.

We look forward to a very busy and enjoyable term ahead. Thank you once again for all your support – it is very much appreciated.

With best wishes,
Mrs Davies and Mrs Sargeant