

Great Chesterford C of E Primary Academy
Reception Class Newsletter and Topic Web- Spring Term – January 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

I hope you all had a relaxing Christmas holiday and, on behalf of the Reception team, I would like to wish you all a happy and healthy new year.

Topic

Our topic this term is “Explorers and Adventurers” which will enable us to use our imagination to venture forth to different environments including Antarctica and into space! We will continue this topic into the start of the summer term when we will sail away on the high seas and go on a safari too. We will also be thinking about the different seasons with a focus on winter and spring.

Staffing

I will be teaching every day except on Tuesday mornings when Miss Walker will be teaching the class. I am delighted to welcome Mrs Tennison to our Reception team. She will be supporting the class on Mondays and Tuesday mornings. Miss Walker will be supporting the class on Tuesday afternoons and on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

P.E./Games

PE usually takes place in the hall on **Wednesdays and Fridays**. On these days, children should come to school in their PE kit consisting of a white T-shirt, navy shorts and their **school shoes**. They will change into their plimsolls in the classroom. Please could you send your child's plimsolls into school in a small bag that we can hang on their coat pegs. On colder days, children may wish to wear navy skins, jogging bottoms or leggings and a navy sweatshirt, particularly as they will be wearing their kit all day. For safety reasons, children must not wear earrings during PE and these must be removed on PE days.

Outdoor learning

Please make sure your child has appropriate outer wear suitable for the weather conditions as we use the courtyard and playground every day. Children also need their waterproof suit and wellingtons in school so that we can use the nature space.

Show and Tell Dates

The dates for show and tell are below. Please could you ensure that your child only brings one object into school and that it is not too precious or fragile!

Pyramids	Cones	Spheres	Cubes
9 th January	16 th January	23 rd January	30 th January
6 th February	13 th February	27 th February	5 th March
12 th March	19 th March	26 th March	26 th March

Drinks and Snack

During the day, we encourage the children to drink to keep themselves hydrated. Please could you send your child into school with a full bottle of **water** every day.

Each day, the children have the option of a glass of milk and a piece of fruit at snack time. You may provide your own snack if you prefer but this should be fruit or vegetable in its natural form or a couple of savoury crackers. Please cut up grapes, cherry tomatoes, olives etc to avoid them becoming a choking hazard. Please can I also remind you that we are a nut and sesame free school and items which may contain sesame or nuts should not be brought into school for break or in packed lunch boxes.

Optional Challenges

I will continue to upload optional maths activities on Tapestry which you may wish to complete with your child and have also included some ideas for activities below.

Suggested activities:

Practise scissor skills

Practising putting on shoes, fastening Velcro, buttons, zips or shoelaces.

Play counting games and identifying numbers and shapes in the environment.

Encourage independent writing and mark making eg lists

Reading together traditional stories and rhymes.

Identifying 2D shapes in the environment.

Collective Worship

We will be leading Collective Worship on Friday 16th February 2024 and you are welcome to join us in the hall.

Communication

Please note that the Home School Link book should not be used for messages, as it is not checked daily. Should you have any concerns or matters of an urgent nature please inform me separately. I appreciate that it can be tricky to speak at the start and end of the day. Should you wish to speak to me but have been unable to do so, please phone or email the school office (admin@greatchesterford.essex.sch.uk) and I will get back to you as soon as I can.

Also, please notify me in writing if your child is being collected by someone different. If this is a regular arrangement, then one letter to confirm will be sufficient. As the book bags are not checked on a daily basis, please could you remind your child to give the letter to me when they get to school.

Parent Consultation Meetings

Parent Consultation Meetings will take place on 6th and 7th February and more information about booking an appointment slot will be sent to you nearer the time.

2Johns Parent Workshop

On Tuesday 13th February, the 2Johns will be leading a virtual evening workshop on e-safety for parents. Please save the date in your diary for this important topic. More details will follow.

Morning Drop Off

Now that the children are settled into school, Mrs Sargeant has asked that the children are encouraged to come in independently at the school gate. Messages can be passed to the teacher on duty.

I look forward to a very busy but enjoyable term ahead. Thank you for your continued support and please do contact me if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely
Amanda Davies