

GREAT CHESTERFORD C. OF E. PRIMARY ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 14th 2018

Dear Parents,

New term, new year...

The whole school has been focusing on new starts and new beginnings this week. All the children have made a fantastic start to the new academic year and I am so proud of just how well the children have settled into their new classes. I must give a special mention to our new Reception Class children who have settled into our daily routines at Great Chesterford with the help of their buddies; they have already made super contributions to our school assemblies. Please may we take this opportunity to remind **Reception Class parents of next week's parent meeting which will take place on Monday at 7.30pm in the school hall.**

Building works

Our building works are now complete and we are all really pleased with the new office and improved access around school - thank you for your positive feedback. The builders were super and supported us in our aim to be open for business at the start of the school year. The admin team have obviously had the biggest upheaval and we thank you for your patience during this transition period. Please join us at one of our Open Morning or Afternoons to see the work that has been completed.

Class 1 Assembly

What a fantastic start to this year's class assemblies. Class 1 had worked really hard this week to find out about what teachers and headteachers do as part of their daily work. They were brilliant at interviewing staff and presented their findings to the whole school with great confidence this morning. My favourite part was your lovely song and the amazing portraits. Well done Class 1!



E-Safety – keeping your child safe online

As a school, we recognise the need to educate and support children so that they are able to use the internet in a safe and informed manner. Resources are listed on our school website under the 'Parents tab' to support parents in this fast – moving area where your child needs constant monitoring and support if they are to use online resources safely and appropriately. At recent staff training on safeguarding and E-safety, the following site was recommended for parents: net-aware.org.uk

As part of our on-going E-safety, please can we ask parents and children in Key Stage 2 to read the guidance and sign the permissions on pages 4 and 5 of their planner.

After school

Please may I remind parents that once children have been released to their parents at the end of the school day, teachers are no longer on 'duty' in the playground. Children should not play on the mound or play equipment in the absence of staff as we need to ensure their health and safety.

Scooters and bicycles

If your child travels to school by scooter or bicycle, please remind them to take care with road safety and pedestrians. Children should not ride their scooters or bicycles in the playground - thank you.

Road Safety

Please can you remind your child about the importance of road safety when walking to school. It was brought to my attention, that two pupils walking to school today walked out into the road without looking and were totally unaware of an approaching car. We have talked to Upper Key Stage 2 today in school about remaining alert when walking to school with friends and the importance of not being distracted or chatting when crossing roads.

Extra - Curricular Clubs

Many thanks to all the staff and volunteers who have enabled us to offer a diverse range of clubs. They provide an invaluable contribution to our school community and I sincerely appreciate the time, effort and enthusiasm that you all generously provide in sharing your many talents and skills. We will of course be working with our school council to review new clubs and old during the academic year.

Volunteers

Volunteers add great value to the life of Great Chesterford C of E Primary Academy and we welcome support for so many things: reading, class visits, craft activities, clubs and the list goes on. If you would like to act as a volunteer for our school, either regularly or on one-off occasions, please refer to the procedures and guidelines for volunteers on the school website: www.greatchesterfordprimary.co.uk.

Congratulations

We are delighted to share the news that Mrs Lincoln is expecting her second child in the spring and I am sure that you will all join us in passing on our best wishes and congratulations.

Staff Changes

Ms Kate Stacey, admin assistant, will be leaving our admin team later this month for a new role. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her hard work and commitment during her time at Great Chesterford Primary Academy and we wish her all the best in her new position. Mrs Jo Aveston is also starting a new job later this month which will mean that she will no longer be the school caretaker. Once again, we would like to thank her for all of her hard work and support, particularly during our building works. We are delighted that she will continue to be part of the staff team as she is continuing her roles as Breakfast Club Leader and a Midday Assistant.

Both of these positions: Admin Assistant and Caretaker are currently being advertised on our school website and in the local press.

Thank you message from Mrs June Howes

Dear Staff, parents and children,

A huge thank you for all the wonderful gifts, cards, kind words and all the effort that went into arranging the tea party, not forgetting the very amusing and perfectly performed song.

It was an amazing 'send off' and I have loved looking through the large leaving book, enjoying all the different comments that the children have written. A special thank you to the parents and children involved in the 'Goodbye' film. I still get emotional seeing it.

I hope you've all had a super summer holiday and look forward to seeing you soon.

Very best wishes,

June Howes.

Harvest Festival

We hope that many of our parents and friends will be able to join us for our Harvest Festival on Friday 28th September at All Saints' Church. Once again, we will be supporting Jimmy's Night Shelter with our Harvest offerings - thank you for your continued support. Birthday celebrations will not take place on Friday 28th September because of our church service. Children with birthdays from 22nd September to 5th October inclusive will all be celebrated on Friday 5th October in our whole school assembly.

Biggest Coffee Morning 2018 for MacMillan Cancer Support: Friday 28th September

Once again we are pleased to hold this event to raise money for a cause we know is valued by so many of us. However, this year we are delighted to join forces with our local school, Great Chesterford Primary Academy. The coffee morning will be held at the school straight after the school Harvest Festival Service for everyone to enjoy a cuppa, a chat and a lovely cake! It will also be an opportunity to come and visit our

fantastic village school. We will have our usual table games (Guess the Weight or Length of the Bake), and this year an-every-ticket-wins-tombola instead of a raffle.

The Coffee Morning will be held in the School Hall – all visitors should come to school reception to enter – the event will finish at midday. Please do join us.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP please contact either Elfreda Tealby-Watson 530175 or Debbie Marshall 530738. Mainly we need offers of cakes, and tombola gifts (big or small or even promises) but if you would like to help set up and serve then please say.

Thank you very much and let's hope we can raise even more cash this year, a tall order as your generosity took our total to £520 including gift aid in 2018!

Mrs Sarah Mitchell
Headteacher

Dates for your diary

Date	Event
17th September	Meet the teacher / reading meeting for Reception Class
17th - 21st September	Values Theme Week
24th September	Year 5 Trip to West Stow
25th September	Open morning - Welcome to our school
28th September	Harvest Festival Service at All Saints' Church, 9.30am Macmillan Coffee Morning in school
8th - 12th October	PSHEE Theme Week
16th October	Parents' Consultation 3:45-6:15pm
17th October	Parents' Consultation 5:30-8:00pm
18th October	Year 4 Trip to Audley End
19th October	Non-pupil day
22nd-26th October	Half term
1st November	Open Morning - Focus 'Reception Class 2019'
2nd November	Year 6 Trip to Bletchley Park
5th - 9th November	Computing and Maths Theme Week
6th November	Year 2 Trip to Gunpowder Mills
14th November	Luna Performance at Saffron Hall for EYFS
19th November	Open morning - focusing on our values
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

Date	Event
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

The full list of dates for the whole academic year can be found on the calendar on our school website.