

GREAT CHESTERFORD C. OF E. PRIMARY ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER WEEK ENDING JULY 3rd 2020

Dear Parents,

As we draw towards the end of the academic year, I just wanted to say a huge well done to all of our children and families for coping so well in these unprecedented times. The children's positive contributions during our weekly Zoom sessions have been uplifting for so many members of the school - teachers and friends alike.

The school has focused on the pupils' emotional well-being as directed by the Department for Education's current priorities for primary schools:

- pupils' mental health and wellbeing
- supporting pupils in Year 6 with transition
- resocialisation
- speaking and listening
- opportunities for physical activity
- early reading skills in Year 1
- all strands of the EYFS curriculum

This has been provided through the directed provision for Reception, Year One and Year Six; weekly Zoom calls to all year groups and face to face outdoor sessions for Years 2 to 5. All children in Reception to Year 5 will be invited into school for face to face transition sessions with their new class teachers in the last week of term.

Please try not to worry about your child's academic progress. In September, teachers will do what we have always done - assess where the children are and teach accordingly. Teachers will be spending considerable time carrying out comprehensive hand overs and explaining what work has been covered. We are working on the curriculum and how it will be delivered to ensure that all pupils are supported to make progress within a broad and balanced curriculum.

Full details of transition arrangements will be sent to each family next week. Further guidance has now been released by the Department for Education and once this has been fully reviewed, we will detail the intended plans for a full school re-opening in September.

The whole staff body has been absolutely amazing during this pandemic. Everyone has been flexible and accommodating as they have worked with different groups, changed working patterns and prioritised school. Teachers have had to continue to provide home learning for their classes as well as work in school, teaching bubbles from different year groups and I am grateful for their continued support.

Warmest regards,
Mrs Mitchell

Birthdays

As we are currently unable to celebrate birthdays in school, we would like to wish many happy returns to those in our school community who are celebrating this week:

Samuel in Class 2
Jessica in Class 3
Isabelle in Class 6
Anya in Class 6
Grace in Class 6
Mr Duers, our Sports' Coach



USSP KS2 Quad Athletics Competition

Are you in Years 3,4,5 or 6? Do you enjoy running, throwing and jumping? Look at the 'Sports' page on the school website to find out how to enter this competition. Good luck!

Drop off and pick up

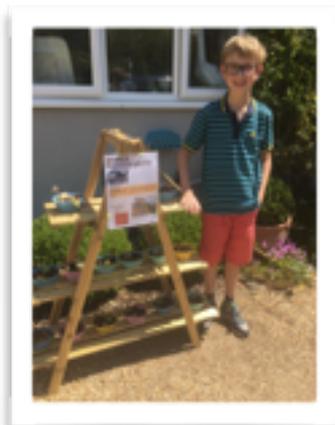
Please can we request that drop off and pick ups are executed quickly both at school and the school field. Problems are arising where children are arriving too early for their sessions and then waiting in groups to enter. As we have previously communicated, we must follow DfE guidance which includes:

- if a child needs to be accompanied to the education setting, only one parent should attend
- make clear to parents that they cannot gather at entrance gates or doors, or enter the site (unless they have a pre-arranged appointment, which should be conducted safely)

These actions are to prevent gatherings and support the required social distancing measures. Some local residents have raised concerns of gatherings near the school and field - thank you for your support.

Enterprise Projects

Year 6 have been really busy planning and carrying out their Enterprise Projects. While they have not been able to collaborate in school for this, social distancing considerations have enabled them to come up with inventive and creative ways to raise money for their own favourite charities. From sponsored bike rides, bake sales, plant stalls, car washing, selling their art to a 'harpathon' - they have all been really impressive deciding logos, designing posters and planning their publicity and marketing! Hopefully, we will be able to let the school community know how much money has been raised by the end of term.



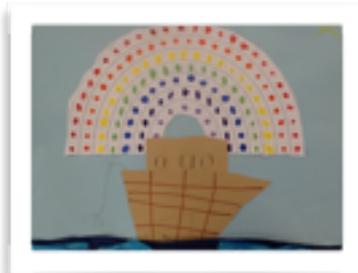
Year One Butterfly Release

Having nurtured their class caterpillars, Ants and Beetles bid a fond farewell to their beautiful butterflies this week in the school grounds. This has been a lovely experience to support each group with their science and topic work.



Artistic Reception Class

Seahorse group have been enjoying exploring their Under the Sea topic. They have created some wonderful art work and writing about different sea creatures. Starfish have made Noah's Ark pictures linked to RE this week. They used their fine motor skills to paint the rainbows with cotton buds and then carefully cut around them. Then they designed and cut out their arks too. Well done everyone!



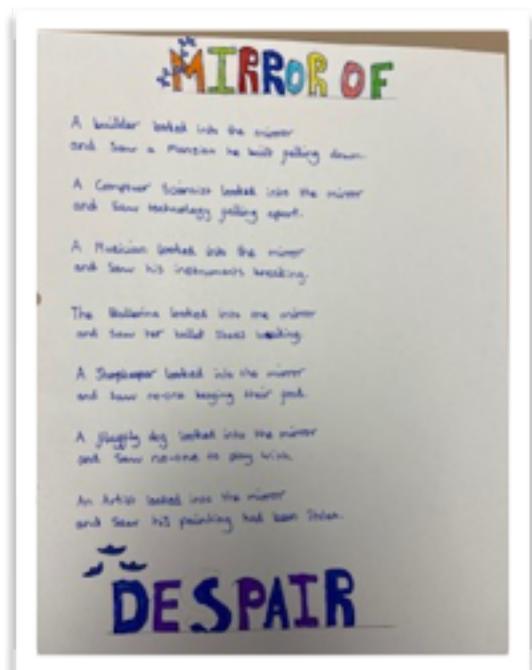
Poetry

It has been a productive week for poetry writing - here are a few examples from Class 5 for you to share:

Want Mirror

I looked in the mirror and saw me as a green shape shifter hero.
Russell looked in the mirror and saw me doing all the work for him.
Mum looked in the mirror and saw a clean house.
Dad looked in the mirror and saw sport retuning.
Cookie looked in the mirror and saw a long walk with hukulies the dog.
Grandma looked in the mirror and saw us clearly.
Granddad looked in the mirror and saw Grandma driving.
By Michael

By Sofia



Our Key Worker group portrayed hope through these beautiful stained glass windows as part of their work on Pentecost.



Keeping in Touch

If your child is currently home learning, please keep in touch with their teacher via the class email address at least once a week. If we have not had any contact, we will try to contact you.

For all other queries, please follow the normal practice of emailing the office via:
admin@greatchesterford.essex.sch.uk.

Mrs Sarah Mitchell
Headteacher

Dates for your diary

| Date | Event |
|----------------|---|
| 17th July | End of current provision for Reception, Year One and Year Six |
| 20th-22nd July | Transition Sessions for current Reception to Year 5 |
| 22nd July | Last day of term |
| 23rd July | Non-pupil day |