

Great Chesterford C of E Primary Academy
Reception Class Newsletter - Autumn Term 2019

Dear Children and Parents,

Firstly, I would like to thank you so much for welcoming Mrs Mitchell and I into your homes at the end of the summer term. It was lovely to meet you all and we hope that we were able to answer some of your questions about starting school.

At the beginning of each term, I will send out a topic web with examples of the type of activities that we may do in class. Our topic for this term will be **'Real-life Superheroes'**. This is a wide-ranging topic which will include thinking about ourselves and our amazing bodies and also real-life superheroes, for example, the police, the fire service and doctors. If you have resources that you think might enhance our learning or if there is any information that you would like me to be aware of, please do contact me. We will also spend a lot of time during the first few weeks settling into school, building friendships and familiarising ourselves with new routines.

Staffing

I will be teaching the children every day except on Tuesdays mornings when Mrs Sargeant, our Deputy Headteacher, will be teaching the class. We are also very fortunate to have Mrs Green and Mrs Gascoyne as our Teaching Assistants. Mrs Green will be in class all day on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday and also Tuesday and Friday mornings. Mrs Gascoyne will be in class on Tuesday and Friday afternoons.

Communication

Please do come and speak to a member of the Reception team if you have any questions and we will do our best to answer them. We are always happy to speak to you at the end of the school day, we would, however, ask that you wait until we have seen all the children safely to their parents/carers.

If your child is going home with someone else, please could you send a note into school. If this is a regular arrangement, then one note confirming this will be sufficient. It would be really helpful if you could remind your child to give the note to me too! Please also let me know if your child is attending after school club so that I can hand them over to the club leaders at the end of the day.

P.E.

P.E. will usually take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Children should have a school white PE t-shirt, navy shorts and plimsolls which should be kept in class in a named P.E. bag. Please make sure that all uniform, including shoes, are clearly named. If your child wears tights, you may also wish to include a pair of socks. The PE kit will be sent home at half term for washing. Children are unable to wear earrings during PE and these **must** be removed on PE days.

Outdoor Activities

We use the courtyard area everyday and also regularly visit the nature space - whatever the weather! Please ensure your child has waterproofs and wellingtons in school every day. Again, please make sure that these are clearly marked. On hot days, please ensure that your child has a sun hat and that you apply a long-lasting sun-lotion before school.

Drinks

During the day we encourage the children to drink water to keep themselves hydrated. Please could you send your child into school each day with a full, **named** water bottle. We ask that only water is in the bottle, however, if your child is having a packed lunch they may bring an alternative drink to have with it.

Parent Information Evening – Reading

A parent's information session on phonics and how we teach reading will take place on **Monday 23rd September at 7pm**. We will not be sending reading books or letter/word tickets home until after the meeting.

Reading

Children are expected to spend approximately 10 minutes each night learning their letter sounds or sight words and reading. Once children progress to reading books, they should bring home their reading record book each day. Please could you record the title of the reading book once the book has been read and comment on your child's progress. Reading books are normally changed on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Please note the reading record book should not be used for other messages, as it is not checked daily.

Optional Challenges

Homework tasks are not formally set in Reception Class. The emphasis at this stage should be on enjoying an activity together which gives the children an opportunity to practise and consolidate what they are learning in school. Additionally, I will include an optional challenge in future newsletters which you may wish to complete with your child.

Collective Worship

Parents are welcome to join our whole school Friday collective worship where we celebrate birthdays and achievements. If your child has a certificate that they would like to celebrate then please send it in and we will pass it on to the office. We will also be leading collective worship on **Friday 8th November** and it would be lovely if you could join us.

Harvest Festival

On Friday 27th September, we will be walking to the church and taking part in our harvest festival. The children will be singing a song with Year 1 and Year 2 and you are welcome to attend the harvest service should you wish. More details will follow.

Road Safety

On Tuesday 17th September, an Essex Road Safety Officer will be visiting Reception Class. Parents are invited to attend this important session on keeping our children safe. As this session will take place in the morning, those children who are attending afternoon only sessions are warmly welcomed to join us too. I will be sending out a separate letter with more information.

Bumps and Grazes

Rarely a day goes by when there is not a bump or graze in Reception Class! We will inform you of any minor bumps and grazes via a note in the book bag and speak to you directly regarding any other injuries.

Junk Modelling

We love model making in Reception and always gratefully receive any materials that you may have to spare. Boxes and plastic bottles that might usually go straight into your recycling bin can be turned into fantastic models! Please note, however, we cannot accept anything where the original contents may be harmful to children or that may have contained nuts or sesame due to allergies within school. Please could you also ensure plastic bottles have been rinsed.

I look forward to working with you and your child as they start their learning journey at Great Chesterford. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss any aspect of this newsletter.

With very best wishes,

Mrs Amanda Davies