

GREAT CHESTERFORD C of E PRIMARY ACADEMY
Reception Newsletter – Spring 2025

Dear Children and Parents,

Welcome back! We hope that you had a relaxing Christmas break and wish you all a very happy new year! On behalf of the Reception team, I wanted to thank you for all the kind words, beautiful cards and gifts that you gave to us – it was most thoughtful of you.

This term our main topic will be the continent of Antarctica. Whilst it will have a geographical and science focus, it will be an inspiration for artwork and writing too.

Staffing

I will be teaching every day except on Tuesday mornings when Miss Walker will be teaching the class. Mrs Tennison will continue to support the class on Monday and Tuesday mornings and Miss Walker on Tuesday afternoons and on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Show and Tell

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

Pyramids	Cones	Spheres	Cubes
14 th January	21 st January	28 th January	4 th February
11 th February	25 th February	4 th March	11 th March
18 th March	25 th March	1 st April	1 st April

Please could you ensure that your child only brings in **one** object to show and that it is not easily breakable or very precious!

Collective Worship – Friday 31st January

We will be leading Collective Worship on Friday 31st January, which you are, of course, welcome to attend.

Reading and Homework

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 – Quick recall of all the GPCs taught to date. Then focus on a spelling/word making activity. Encourage your child to have a go at writing or using magnetic letters to make a couple of words. I will include some suggested words in my weekly update. Daily review of the tricky words.
Tuesday	Phonics – Quick recall of the GPCs taught to date. Attempt one of the optional maths activities or play a track game (eg snakes and ladders). Daily review of the tricky words.
Wednesday	Phonics/Physical development – Support the quick recognition of phonemes/graphemes by incorporating them into a throwing game or a “run and find” game. Daily review of the tricky words.

Thursday	Quick recall of the GPCs taught to date. Practise letter formation and fine motor skills. Daily review of the tricky words.
Friday	Maths activity – Play a track game (eg snakes and ladders), bingo or attempt one of the optional activities. Daily review of the tricky words.
Weekend	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.

P.E./Games

Please make sure your child comes to school in their PE kit on **Wednesdays and Fridays**. PE lessons will continue to be taught mainly in the hall. 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.

Morning Drop Off

We are very impressed with the way that many of the children have been saying their goodbyes at the gate in the mornings. As we move into the spring term, to encourage further independence, it would be brilliant if all the children could be encouraged to do so.

Outdoor work

As part of our work in Reception class, we will be continuing to use the courtyard as our outdoor classroom each day. Your child will also need their waterproof suit and wellingtons in school for when we head off to the nature space.

Water Bottle

Please send your child to school with a **named bottle of water every day** (even if they are having a school dinner), as the children are encouraged to take regular water breaks throughout the day.

Items from Home

Please encourage your child not to bring toys, jewellery etc into school. They are getting forgotten, lost and broken which is causing quite a lot of distress.

Communication

Please do speak to a member of the Reception team if you have any questions and we will do our best to answer them. Should you wish to have a quick chat, I am 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 I will get back to you soon as I can.

I look forward to a very busy and enjoyable term ahead. If you have any queries, then please do not hesitate to speak to me or another member of the team. Thank you once again for all your support.

With best wishes,

Mrs Davies and the Reception team