

Great Chesterford C of E Primary Academy
Class 1 Newsletter
Spring Term 2026

Dear Parents and Children,

Welcome back everyone! I hope that you have all enjoyed a super Christmas break and are feeling rested and ready for an exciting and busy term ahead. Mrs Mosely, Mrs Hinds and I would like to express our gratitude for the cards, gifts and kind words that we received at the end of the autumn term; it is greatly appreciated.

Staffing

Staffing arrangements remain the same as last term. I will be in class full time, except on Tuesday mornings when I have non-contact time; this is the best time to arrange a telephone conversation or meeting if there is anything you wish to discuss. Mrs Mosely and Mrs Hinds will continue to support the class as last term.

Topic

Our topic this term is 'Dinosaurs' and we will incorporate this theme across the subject areas through a wide variety of activities. I hope this will be a motivating and engaging topic for all learners, some of whom may already have a keen interest and sound knowledge base. Please find attached our topic web. This outlines activities that may be covered throughout the term. We have started our topic work this week by discussing what children already know, what they would like to find out and how they would like to learn. I will be using the children's super ideas as a starting point for the topic planning and cross curricular activities.

P.E

PE lessons will take place this term on a **Thursday** and **Friday**. Children should come to school in their PE kit on these days. In addition to our timetabled PE lessons, Class One will endeavour to participate in additional physical activity each day.

Nature Space

This term, we will be using the nature space on Monday afternoons most weeks. When visiting the nature space, your child needs: named wellington boots or sturdy waterproof boots, named waterproof trousers and coat, or a waterproof all-in-one (this is important even on dry, sunny days as the seating in the log circle is likely to remain damp). I also recommend additional layers for colder days e.g. an extra jumper, spare socks, gloves and a warm hat. Please send nature space clothes into school on Monday mornings and these can be returned on Monday afternoon or these can also be kept in school.

Reading books

This term, all children will read aloud a carefully chosen, phonetically decodable text in school 3 times per week. As a celebration of the progress made each week, your child will bring home their Little Wandle reading book every Thursday. It is **essential** that this book is returned on Monday morning so that the phonics teaching can continue. This book will be familiar to them as they will already have read it several times in school during the week to develop their reading skills and build fluency. We hope you continue to enjoy celebrating your child's progress with reading. Occasionally, your child may bring home a phonics book that they have previously read, during the summer or autumn term. Please do not be concerned if this happens, reading books are carefully selected to match your child's developing phonic knowledge so it may be necessary to return to previously read texts to target particular GPC's or build fluency.

On Mondays your child will choose a book from the class library. This book is intended to help foster a love of reading and expose children to a variety of high-quality texts. This book will not be matched to your child's phonic level and is not expected to be read independently. Please read this book to your child or share the reading experience with them. Please feel free to comment in the home/school link book about the books your child is enjoying, including texts other than their school reading book.

Homework

Children in Year 1 are expected to complete 10 minutes of homework each day. In order to facilitate this, your child has a homework book to structure their learning and create a record of tasks completed. You will be given a menu of activities to be completed each half term. The activities have been designed to help your child secure the required knowledge for this stage of their education. Homework books will not always be formally marked but will be checked by staff on a weekly basis. I hope that you will enjoy this approach to homework throughout Year 1.

Organisation

I would like to remind you that all children must have a full water bottle in school every day; bottles will be topped up as appropriate during the day. I will continue to prompt children to drink regularly throughout the day, but it is great to see them becoming more independent with this and choosing to take regular hydration breaks.

Children are provided with a fruit snack during playtime but may also bring a snack from home. Snacks must be fruit, crackers, breadsticks, or cheese, and **must be nut- and sesame-free**.

Please ensure all clothing and personal items are named as we encourage children to take responsibility for their own belongings and it is much easier for them to keep track of their clothes if they are clearly named. Bookbags are preferable to rucksacks as they fit neatly into the children's trays and can be accessed easily throughout the day.

Key Dates

Our class assembly this term will be on Friday 30th January. You are invited to join us in the hall at 9.15am to watch the class lead the worship and share their ideas.

Parent consultations will be held on Tuesday 27th January and Thursday 29th January via Zoom. Further details will be emailed from the office.

Please check the newsletter and school website to keep up to date with important events.

If you have any questions regarding the information in this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to another enjoyable term ahead.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Yours sincerely,

Miss F Thorburn