

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

Dear Children and Parents,

Topic

After the Easter break, we will move into the final term of the academic year. Our class topic for the summer term, will be 'Bugs, Butterflies and Beautiful Blooms'. This is a hands-on topic with lots of opportunities to learn from the natural world. I will follow the children's interests where possible in order to make the learning relevant and engaging for them. If you have any resources relevant to our topic, or you are able to support in any way please do let me know.

Preparing your child for the summer term

- Please continue reading and sharing books with your child. Children who read for pleasure do better in a wide range of subjects at school and it also positively impacts children's wellbeing. The Book Trust website <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/> is a great place for new book recommendations as well as local libraries.
- In geography we will be learning more about the wider world. If you are going on holiday, or on day trips away from the local area please do send us a postcard or photographs with some information about your journey and destination. Postcards and photographs will be shared and displayed in class. If you have friends and family going to interesting destinations, please do encourage them to get involved too.
- Look for signs of Spring / Summer and observe the changing seasons.

Staffing

I will continue to teach the class full time, except on Tuesday mornings where Miss Walker will take the class; this is the best time to arrange a telephone conversation or meeting if there is anything you wish to discuss. Mrs Mosley, Mrs Hinds and Miss Hitchings will support the class throughout the week.

P.E/Active Learning/Learning outside

PE lessons will continue take place 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 10 minutes of additional physical activity each day. We will be using the nature space on Tuesdays every week. When visiting the nature space, your child needs: named wellington boots and suitable clothing. During the summer term we might not always need the waterproof layers, but it may be best to keep them in your child's bag just in case. When the weather gets warmer please apply long lasting sun cream at home and provide a named sun hat for your child.

Homework/Reading books

I will not be setting Maths homework this half term. In place of this please practice all weekly GPCs in the Orange reading books, in preparation for the Phonics Screening Check. Additionally, I will be sending home a phonics activity or a list of real words/alien words to practice. Occasionally, your child may bring home a Little Wandle phonics book that they have previously read. 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 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.

Organisation

I would like to remind you that all children must have a full water bottle (no squash, juice or energy drinks) in school every day. Children may bring a fruit snack or crackers/breadsticks to eat at playtime; please remember that snacks 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. Children should wear school shoes except for PE days. Jewellery and smart watches should not be worn to school. Sun cream should be applied before school on sunny days and children should bring a named sunhat.

Key Dates

Birthdays and achievements are celebrated on a weekly basis in our whole school Friday worship. Should your child wish to share any achievements (medals/certificates/badges etc) with the school community, they can bring these into school on Fridays.

Friday 8th May at 9:30am: Class One will lead the whole school worship; they will deliver their ideas linked to the weekly 'Big Question'.

Monday 8th June – Friday 12th June: Children will take part in the Year 1 statutory phonics screening check. This is a very low-key activity, the children are given a colourful booklet and asked to have a go at reading the words to me, they will not be aware that it is an assessment at all. Some useful information about the check can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/phonics-screening-check-information-for-parents>

I have also attached some additional information.

Friday 18th May: Sports Day

Monday 6th July: Class trip to Wandlebury (More information to follow)

Please read the newsletter from Mrs Sargeant and regularly check the school website to keep up to date with important events. <http://www.greatchesterfordprimary.co.uk>

If you have any questions or need to update me about any issues affecting your child, please do not hesitate to contact me via the school office. I look forward to another enjoyable term ahead.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Yours sincerely,

Miss F Thorburn