

Great Chesterford C of E Primary Academy
Reception Class Newsletter - Autumn Term 2026

Dear Parents,

Thank you for accommodating the home visits; we are very much looking forward to welcoming the children to Reception Class and supporting their transition into school.

Below is some general information which we hope you will find useful over the coming weeks.

Staffing

Reception Class will usually be staffed as follows:

Monday (all day) and Tuesday mornings: Mrs Sargeant will be teaching, supported by Mrs Tennison.

Tuesday afternoons: Miss Walker will be teaching, supported by Mrs Tennison.

Wednesday - Friday: Mrs Davies will be teaching, supported by Miss Walker.

Additionally, we welcome Mr Henderson who we hope will be starting shortly and Miss Hitchings who will be providing some additional support in Reception Class across the week.

EYFS/Reading Meeting – Wednesday 9th September 7pm

During this meeting, we will talk more about the routines and a “typical” day in Reception Class and how phonics and reading is taught. We very much hope that you will be able to attend this meeting.

Topic Web

At the beginning of each term, we will send out a topic web with examples of the type of activities that we may do in class. We will spend a lot of time during the first few weeks settling into school, building friendships and becoming familiar with new routines and our classroom environment. The basis of our EYFS curriculum in Reception is “A Story Based Journey of Wonder and Discovery”. This term, our focus will be on “Discovering Our Place and Our Community” and we will be thinking about the following questions “Who am I and where do I belong?” and “Who helps us in our local community?”. It is a wide-ranging topic which will include thinking about our amazing bodies and the people that help us, for example, the police, the fire service and medical staff, in our local community. If you have resources that you think might enhance our learning, or if there is any information that you would like us to be aware of, please do let us know.

To support this topic, we are having a visit from “Little City” on **Thursday 17th September** when the children will have the opportunity to role play and engage in activities in different parts of the “city”. We will send you a separate letter with more information about the visit. As with all trips and classroom visit days, there will be a charge related to this visit, but we know, based on previous years, that this will be a very exciting and engaging activity for the children.

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. We are always happy to speak to you at the end of the school day, but we ask that you wait until we have seen all the children safely to their parents/carers.

Thank you for returning the Going Home Arrangements form. If your child is going home with someone that is not on the form, please could you send a note into school or email the school office. It would be helpful if you could remind your child to give notes to the teachers too!

P.E./Games

P.E. lessons will usually take place on Monday and Friday this term so children should come to school in their P.E. kit on these days. For safety reasons, jewellery and watches/fitbits should not be worn. In line with Essex Health and Safety guidelines, earrings must be removed. If a child is unable to remove their earrings, we must have your written consent that school is not liable for any incidents relating to wearing this item of jewellery. Should your child be unable to take part in P.E. due to injury, please inform the school in writing. Navy blue leggings or tracksuit bottoms may be worn as required during colder weeks. However, no hooded tops can be worn. When PE is taught inside, children should wear clean trainers, plimsols (which can be left in school) or bare feet.

Outdoor Activities

We use the courtyard area every day and regularly visit the nature space - whatever the weather! Please ensure your child has named waterproofs and wellingtons in school. 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. We will, of course, top up water bottles as required.

Snacks

A piece of fruit or vegetable is usually provided each day for Reception Class children. We never know in advance what we are going to have so would suggest that, if your child is not overly keen on different fruits, then you may want to supply your own fruit, a couple of crackers or a piece of cheese if you would prefer. This only needs to be a light snack.

Homework/Reading

Your child will bring home a class library book to share with an adult each week and they are expected to spend around 10 minutes each day engaging with this book or other books from home. Additionally, an appropriate phonics book will be brought home at the end of each week for your child to read and celebrate the reading skills they have been practising in school. A weekly tricky word activity (including learning to read these words) and an optional maths activity will also be shared. 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.

Baseline Assessment

All Reception classes take part in the Standards and Testing Agency's Baseline Assessment during their first few weeks at school. The link below provides further information for parents.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reception-baseline-assessment-information-for-parents#full-publication-update-history>

Collective Worship – Friday 2nd October 2026

Reception Class will be leading Collective Worship on Friday 2nd October and you are welcome to join us in the school hall at 9:10am.

Further dates and updates will be included in the fortnightly whole school newsletters so please do read these carefully.

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. Please do check bookbags regularly.

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

With very best wishes,

Mrs A. Davies and Mrs A. Sargeant