

GREAT CHESTERFORD C. OF E. PRIMARY ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 13th 2017

Dear Parents,

Class 3 Assembly

Well done Class 3 for a super assembly on the theme of thankfulness. The children presented their information with lovely clear speaking voices and we enjoyed listening to their own ideas about what we should appreciate. The class shared lots of examples of what we take for granted - a super reminder to everyone about being thankful. Thank you Year 3!

Mr Robin Brown

Our thoughts and prayers are with Mr Brown as he is currently struggling with his health again. If you would like to send any cards or other correspondence, please leave them at the school office and we will ensure he receives them.

Year 6 Trip to Bletchley Park



Twenty nine Year 6 code-breakers headed to a secret location in the Midlands this week. They spent the day learning about vital World War 2 work. They would like to share more details but having signed the Official Secret's Act, they are not at liberty to do so!

Secondary School Admissions 2017

Please note that the closing date for applications from parents of Year 6 children (for a secondary school place in Year 7 from September 2018) is 31st October 2017. Applications can be made via the website: www.essex.gov.uk/admissions.

Saffron Walden County High School will be increasing its Published Admission Number to 300 for the Year 7 entry September 2018 and subsequent years - this is an increase of 10 places. This change does not affect existing year groups at the high school.

After school

Please may I remind parents that once children have been released to their parents at the end of the school day, teachers are no longer on 'duty' in the playground. This week we have had some behavioural incidents in the playground after school. If you are not able to leave the playground promptly, please can we ask that you supervise your child closely to prevent further negative behaviour - thank you for your support.

E-Safety

On Monday 9th October, Years 5 and 6 enjoyed an afternoon at JFAN listening to a presentation about E-Safety. Ex-undercover police officers talked about staying safe on-line and the threat of 'Stranger danger' on well - known apps such as Instagram, Snapchat, Musicly, Roblox and You-Tube. Stranger danger is where people you don't know from 'the dark web' trick you to disclose personal information or carry out tasks which can then be used in threatening and dangerous ways. The key message was for children to **tell** if someone upsets or worries them when working on line. **"Talk to your parents, your school or call Childline on 0800 1111 if you need help"**.

Year 5 and 6 Parents

Thank you so much for your patience on Monday when the pupils returned to school late following transport problems on their return from Newport. Shuttle buses had to be deployed following a breakdown and we appreciate your support during such unexpected challenges.

Year 3 Multi-skills

Year 3 participated in a lovely sporting event at Debden Primary School this week. The class enjoyed this friendly competition in which they had to complete six different stations involving a variety of sports' skills. Year 3 enjoyed the positive competitive spirit between our four teams with lots of enthusiastic encouragement - particularly during the relay races! A highlight of the afternoon was when members of Class 3 managed to score against some Year 6 boys in the football shoot-out activity. The children had a super time developing team work skills and appreciating the importance of growth mindset in a sporting context. Thank you to Mrs Brookes-Staddon and Mrs Rivett for supporting this event.

VBS Sharing Assembly

Thank you so much to Mrs Fernall and our VBS participants who shared some wonderful musical pieces from their summer programme in our assembly on Monday. We all enjoyed this musical start to the week and have learnt some new songs - well done everyone!

Open Afternoon

Our next Open Afternoon of the academic year will take place on Monday 16th October. The aim of these sessions is to provide parents with an insight into school life on a typical day. The sessions are optional and parents should not feel obliged to attend or rearrange working commitments. On Monday, parents may attend between 1.30 to 2.15pm or 2.15 to 3.00pm. You will be able to visit your child's classroom and those of other year groups; I will also be available during these sessions for informal discussions about general school life. Please inform the school office if you plan to attend so that tours can be organised.

Start of the school day

Please note that the school is open to pupils from 8.45am - we cannot admit pupils before this time unless they are attending Breakfast Club - thank you.

Cauliflower Christmas Cards

You will now all have received the information regarding your child designing a Christmas card which can be printed, and packs purchased to raise money for the school. The children love creating their designs and are so proud to see them printed professionally. Please make sure that your designs are back by Friday 3rd November, so that they can be processed and back in time for the first week in December. Many thanks for your support - **Friends of Great Chesterford C. of E. Primary Academy**.

Midday Assistants

We currently have vacancies for the role of Midday Assistant. Please contact the school office for further information or pass on to anyone who may be interested in this school role.

Birthdays and certificates

Today was the last celebration assembly of this half term. Birthdays from 14th October to 3rd November inclusive, will be celebrated at our next Friday assembly on November 3rd.

Parking

Please be considerate if you have to transport your child to school by car and avoid blocking driveways and access points. Parking on either corner of School Street should also be avoided as it does present a potential hazard to all pedestrians trying to cross the road. I would also like to draw your attention to the signs erected outside the school gates advising all of 'No Stopping' at certain times of the day. We would be

grateful if this notice is complied with to ensure the safety of the children when arriving at and leaving school. We are now being supported by a civil enforcement officer who will issue tickets to offending drivers.

This will be the last newsletter of this half term - please note that **Friday 20th October is a Non-Pupil Day**. Thank you to the pupils and all school staff for continuing to contribute so well to the full life of the school during our building works. The children have worked really hard and are ready for a rest and re-charge in the half term break.

Mrs Sarah Mitchell
Headteacher

Attachment: Cauliflower Cards information

Bonfire Night in Little Chesterford

Our traditional Bonfire Night celebrations will take place on Sunday 5th November, with the lighting of the bonfire at about 6:15pm and then a magnificent Firework Display starting at 6:45pm. Delicious food will be served from 6:00pm onwards including hot dogs, filled baked potatoes, toffee apples, soup and mulled wine. So, whatever the weather, come along to the meadow behind the Village Hall (please leave your cars behind if possible!) and come and enjoy a really good evening. Admission, as always, is free, but we do kindly ask for donations at the gate, please.

Dates for your diary

Date	Event
16th October	Open Afternoon - focus on building developments
18th October	Year 5 Trip to West Stow
20th October	Non-pupil day
23rd-27th October	Half term
1st November	Year 2 Trip to Gunpowder Mills
1st November	Parents' Consultation 5:30-8:00pm
2nd November	Parents' Consultation 3:45-6:15pm
13th-17th November	PSHE Week
23rd November	Open morning - focusing on our values
9th December	Spirit of Christmas for Years 5 and 6
12th December	Christmas Plays for KS1 and Lower KS2 - afternoon performance
13th December	Christmas Plays for KS1 and Lower KS2 - afternoon and evening performances
19th December	Christmas parties
20th December	Christmas Church Service Last day of term
3rd January	Non-pupil day
4th January	Pupils return to school

The full list of dates for the whole academic year can be found on the calendar on our school website.

