

Great Chesterford C.of E. Primary Academy

Class 6 Newsletter Spring Term 2026

Dear Children and Parents

Welcome back and a very Happy New Year to you all! The Spring Term is always a busy one so it is good to see that the children are well rested and raring to go!

An outline of the curriculum topics that will be taught this term has been added to the Topic Web, which accompanies this Newsletter. If parents can help in any way by providing information or resources, I would be very pleased to hear from you.

Children in Class 6 are expected to be in school at 8:45am. Good habits of punctuality and attendance are proven to impact attainment and a prompt start helps to maximise time in school. Year 6 complete starter activities first thing in the morning and may have a whole school job so arriving on time really helps to get the day off to a good start.

This term, Mrs McCullough will teach the class on a Thursday and Mrs Munday will teach the class on a Tuesday afternoon. During January, Mrs Munday will also teach the class on a Wednesday afternoon. Mrs Hitchings is the class T.A.

Art this half term will involve lino-printing. If your child does not already have one in school, **an old, large, buttoned shirt** to wear over their school uniform while they are using the printing ink would be advisable.

P.E/Games

P.E. will take place on a Tuesday morning and Wednesday afternoon. Please ensure children come to school dressed for P.E. on these days.

The focus for PE on Tuesdays before half term will be gymnastics and after half term, football. These will be taught by our PE coach, Mr Duers. On Wednesdays, after the first two weeks of term, the focus for PE will be hockey.

For outside PE lessons, children should wear a navy school tracksuit or skins. **Children will need alternative footwear and a spare pair of socks** to change into on their return as the field can be very wet and muddy at this time of year, even if it is not raining. For this reason, tights are not suitable for P.E. **Football boots can be worn but these must have plastic studs. Please provide a plastic bag or boot bag for wet items. Children will need shin pads for both football and hockey, and a gum shield will be needed for hockey if they are to participate fully.** These can be left in their lockers at school but please ensure all items are clearly labelled. If children have their own hockey stick, they can bring this with them for lessons on Wednesdays. It is also a requirement that hair should be tied up and earrings are removed before any P.E. lessons in line with Essex regulations. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

Homework

Children in Class 6 are expected to do approximately 30 minutes of homework per night. Reading is an important part of homework and children in this class should spend at least 15 minutes reading each day. We are encouraging the children to read one book, at home and school, and to bring this text into school every day. This facilitates progress through a book, comprehension and enables them to complete their 'Reading Challenge'.

Homework will usually be set as timetabled below:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
English	Spelling	Maths	Science	

Homework planners need to be signed weekly by parents. They should be used to record the amount of time spent on homework and reading each day. Children are responsible for writing down their homework and ensuring that they understand what they need to do before they leave school. They also need to make sure they have their reading book and equipment in school each day. Parents are invited to comment in these books on their child's progress in any aspect of homework, including reading. Please note that homework will be looked at on a regular basis but may not always be marked in the same way. It will sometimes be more appropriate to check children's understanding through discussion or use work started at home as a basis for continued work in the classroom.

In addition to the homework set, children might like to spend time each week revising key skills. This may involve using the study guides or websites such as BBC 'Revisewise'. Mental maths skills (such as quick recall of times tables and related division facts and using mental strategies for addition and subtraction) and spellings could be a focus on car journeys or during walks. The school website includes details on the Year 6 page: 'How to Help Your Child at Home', which includes the spellings that will be a focus. A little regular revision will be more beneficial than a panic in May!

Dates for your diary

The planned date for our class Collective Worship is **Friday 20th March** at 9:10 to which you are warmly invited.

I also ask that you note the dates for SATs in the summer term. The statutory tests will take place **each day between Monday 11th May and Thursday 14th May**. Please avoid booking advance appointments such as dentist /orthodontist etc. during this week. It is also important to note that work carried out during May and June in English writing and science will make an important contribution to children's overall assessments for the year, with samples of children's work forwarded to secondary schools, so attendance at this time should remain a priority. Thank you for your cooperation and support with this.

I am looking forward to another busy, enjoyable term ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Starbuck