

GREAT CHESTERFORD C. OF E. PRIMARY ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 14th 2018

Dear Parents,

Year 5 Assembly

Thank you Year 5 for a super assembly on our theme of Christmas traditions. This engaging assembly educated us all on Christmas traditions from around the world. We enjoyed listening to your own favourite traditions; taking part in the quiz and listening to your singing! Well done Class 5 - what a lovely Christmas gift for the whole school.

Spirit of Christmas:

Our Year 5 and 6 choir attended the annual Spirit of Christmas Service in St Mary's Church on Saturday evening. It is always a wonderful festive event and the children who attended were a credit to the school; they performed 'War Is Over' and 'Rejoice, Rejoice, Rejoice' beautifully and participated with energy and enthusiasm in the rest of the service. According to one critic "it was a harmonious sound that filled the hall." Special thanks must go to Mrs Taylor for her continued support in accompanying the choir and Mrs Middleton in teaching the children. Thank you to Mrs Sargeant, Mrs Starbuck, Mrs Barden and Mrs Witney for their support.

We were thrilled with the success of several Great Chesterford pupils winning prizes in the Compose a Carol competition. They were: Georgia Gregory & Arabella Balchin for the best lyrics and Edward Taylor, Yasmin Burley & Alice Fernall all with Highly Commended - congratulations to you all!



Christmas plays:

Thank you Key Stage One and Lower Key Stage Two for entertaining everyone with your joyful Christmas plays: 'Our Very Own Nativity' and 'Rock Around Christmas'. These wonderful performances reflected all the hard work put in by both the children and staff. I was particularly impressed with the quality of singing and enthusiastic participation of each and every pupil regardless of their role. Congratulations to everyone involved!

Friends

Thank you to our Friends Committee for providing the much appreciated refreshments at Wednesday night's performances. Thanks to their hard work and your generous contributions they were able to raise £107.92. We are also delighted to share that the recent Beauty, Bling and Bubbles event has raised £1,600 which will be used for future whole school projects - thank you to everyone who organised, prepared and supported this Friends fundraiser.

Class 5 DT

Year One children came to test out Year 5's moon buggies on Thursday afternoon. Class 5 had designed the toy moon buggies with younger children in mind so the feedback from Year One was really valuable for our evaluations. We enjoyed sharing our work with younger members of our school community!



Christmas Corner:**Christmas Postbox**

Last day for the Christmas postbox is Monday 17th December. Each envelope needs the child's full name and class number to ensure our Year 6 postal team are able to deliver it to the correct pupil.

All Saints' Carol Service:

Years 5 and 6 Choir have been invited to perform at All Saints' Church on Sunday 16th December.

Christmas Jumpers:

All children are invited to wear a Christmas jumper to school on Tuesday 18th December. Please do not feel any special purchase should be made - any festive colour such as red and green would be welcome. Your child should wear their normal school uniform with their Christmas jumper - it is not a non-uniform day - thank you.

Christmas Parties:

Christmas parties will be taking place on the afternoon of Tuesday 18th December.

Christmas Service:

Our end of term service will take place on Wednesday 19th December at All Saints Church, Great Chesterford at 9.30am and everyone is most welcome to join us. This service will be led by Years 5 and 6.

Friday 14th December

Today was the last Friday assembly of the year when we celebrate birthdays up to and including the 31st December. Children with birthdays from 1st January will be celebrated on Friday 11th January 2019 and any awards or certificates will be most welcome in the new year.

Learn to Ride

Years 1 and 2 have been amazing today learning to ride or improving their cycling skills. We were all so proud and impressed with the progress they have made - fantastic effort!

Reception admissions 2019

The Primary School (Reception) admission round is now open, for parents of children to apply for a Reception school place for the academic year that starts in September 2019.

The statutory national closing date for applications is 15th January 2019.

From 12th November 2018, applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions. The website www.essex.gov.uk/admissions also has a copy of the Primary Education in Essex 2019-20 booklet and the Schools Admissions Policies Directories contain details of all admission policies.

May I take this opportunity to wish all the children, staff, governors and our families a wonderful Christmas and best wishes for a happy and peaceful 2019!

Mrs Sarah Mitchell

Headteacher

Dates for your diary

Date	Event
16th December	Years 5 and 6 Choir performance at All Saints' Church Carol Service
18th December	Christmas Lunch Christmas parties
19th December	Christmas Church Service 9.30am Last day of term
4th January	Non-pupil day
7th January	Pupils return to school