

Great Chesterford C E Primary Academy
Class 1 Newsletter
Autumn Term 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to Class 1. I am delighted to be teaching your children this year and look forward to building strong relationships with them. I appreciate that you and your children may be experiencing a range of emotions regarding the start of a new academic year so please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any support during the transition to Year 1.

Our topic this term is 'Toys' which I am sure will be popular amongst the children, especially when they are introduced to 'The Everywhere Bear' (Julia Donaldson). Some curriculum subjects will be taught through this theme, and we hope to have lots of creative fun whilst the children continue their academic journey. The subjects covered in the theme are in line with the Primary National Curriculum and can be seen in the accompanying topic web. If any parents, carers, or grandparents can help to enrich our topic in any way e.g. participating in a class visit to show some childhood toys or providing photographs and information about toys from the past, I would be delighted to hear from you.

Staffing

I will be teaching Class 1 every day, except on Tuesday mornings when Miss Walker will teach the class. Mrs Mosely and Mrs Hinds are the teaching assistants working in Year 1 this year.

P.E.

P.E. will usually take place on a **Tuesday** and **Thursday**. On these days, children should come to school in their PE kit consisting of a white T-shirt, navy shorts and plimsolls or trainers. On colder days children may wish to wear navy skins or jogging bottoms and a navy sweatshirt, particularly as they will be wearing their PE kit all day. Earrings should be removed on PE days. If your child is unable to remove their earrings, I must have a letter in writing saying you take full responsibilities should any injuries which occur. In addition to our timetabled PE lessons, Class 1 will take regular breaks for physical activity and enjoy active lessons in the classroom.

Class 1 will aim to visit the school nature space every **Monday** and will need appropriate clothing for the changing seasons. Please send your child's nature space clothes (Wellingtons, waterproof trousers/splash suit) into school every Monday morning in a named bag, which will be returned each Tuesday afternoon. You may want to keep their nature space clothing in school. In colder weather, you may wish to provide an additional layer of clothing including warm socks and gloves.

Phonics and Reading

All children will continue to read aloud a carefully chosen phonically decodable text in school **3x per week**. As a celebration of the progress made each week, children will bring home the book that they have been reading in class to share with family over the weekend. We hope that you enjoy the opportunity to hear your child read aloud fluently on a weekly basis. It is essential that this book is returned on Monday morning so that phonics teaching can continue.

In addition to the phonically decodable book, on Monday mornings children will be encouraged to choose a book from the class library to take home and enjoy throughout the week. This book will not be matched to your child's reading level, or the phonics taught in class. The purpose of this book is to foster a love of reading and develop vocabulary. **Class library books should be returned and swapped every Monday morning.** Please feel free to comment on your child's engagement with reading in their home school link book.

Homework

Children in Year 1 are expected to complete 10 minutes of homework each day. In order to facilitate this, your child will be given a homework book to structure their learning and create a record of tasks completed. You will

be given a menu of activities to be completed over the term. The activities have been designed to help your child secure the required knowledge for this stage of their education. Homework books will not always be formally marked but will be checked by staff on a weekly basis. I hope that you will enjoy this approach to homework throughout Year 1.

Organisation

I would like to remind you that all children must have a full water bottle in school every day; bottles will be topped up as appropriate during the day. I will continue to prompt children to drink regularly throughout the day, but it is great to see them becoming more independent with this and choosing to take regular hydration breaks. 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 and it is much easier for them to keep track of their clothes if they are clearly named. Bookbags are preferable to rucksacks as they fit neatly into the children's trays and can be accessed easily throughout the day. Please ensure your child has a spare pair of underwear in their bookbags in case of any accidents.

What do I need to remember each week?

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
AM: Homework book to be returned to school. AM: Bring Nature Space clothes in a named bag. Return phonically decodable text. Swap classroom library book. PM: Homework book will be handed out. PM: Nature Space clothes will be returned	PE Kit		PE Kit Children to bring home phonically decodable book to share and celebrate.	
Everyday: Water bottle, bookbag (no backpacks please), raincoat/sunhat, clean pair of pants.				

Class Collective Worship and Key Dates:

Meet the Teacher: You are warmly invited to join me for a 'Meet the Teacher' meeting on Wednesday 10th September at 3:30pm. This meeting will be held in the classroom and is an opportunity for me to introduce myself and the routines and expectations of Year 1 as well as answer any questions you may have about the year ahead.

Harvest Service: 24th October at 9:30am at All Saints Church

Our Class Collective Worship: Friday 26th September at 9:10am. Parents for Year 1 children are invited to attend this in the school hall.

Further dates will be published on the school website and fortnightly newsletters.

I am looking forward to an enjoyable term ahead. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Kind regards,

Miss F. Thorburn