

GREAT CHESTERFORD C. OF E. PRIMARY ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 16th 2018

Dear Parents, Year 6 Assembly

Thank you to Year 6 for leading an informative assembly on the topic of Children in Need; the whole school community learnt about both the development of, and work carried out, by this valued charity. The pupils provided a mature perspective of this charity's role throughout society which they presented clearly and confidently. The younger pupils particularly enjoyed the drama items.

Friday assemblies

Please can I remind parents that hot drinks should not be brought into the school hall when watching class assemblies - thank you for your understanding.

Children in Need

Today, the school has been ablaze with colour as everyone supported Children in Need dressed in their pyjamas. We are delighted to share that we have raised £249.36 for this charity - a great team effort everyone!

Chesterfords' Festival of Remembrance

The school enjoyed playing a key role during the Chesterfords' Remembrance Festival at the weekend. Mrs Witney transformed our school hall into a wonderful exhibition where visitors could look at pupils' writing and art work about World War I. The Tommy shoe box entries were also displayed at the exhibition and these too received lots of positive feedback from the whole community. Thank you to Mrs Witney and Mrs Davies for hosting the exhibition on Saturday afternoon; it was lovely to have so many visitors sharing the pupils' work.



Despite the challenging weather, the Friends Committee worked tirelessly in running stalls to support the festival and we are grateful for their hard work and support in doing this.

Following the poignant lighting of the beacon, many pupils helped to process the 'Tommies' to All Saints' Church prior to the Remembrance Concert of Words and Music. I must say a huge thank you to the Year 5 and 6 choir members who participated at this event. They truly were an absolute credit to the school with both their performance and respectful behaviour. They performed a medley of 'War Songs' and then had the privilege to sing the premier of 'Goodnight Soldiers' (words by Moyra Tourlamin and music by Sarah Cattley, a former pupil). Our sincere thanks also go to Mrs Kathryn Middleton for preparing and leading our school choir so well.

Mr Bob Tonkins joined our assembly this morning and we were able to share a recording of the choir's performance with the rest of the school. Mr Tonkins also had the task of selecting and presenting the prizes for the 'Tommy' shoe box competition - a very challenging job. Thank you to everyone who participated - we now have a lovely selection of items to be donated to Jimmy's Night Shelter in Cambridge. The competition winners were: Amie Beard and Neve Roberts - well done!

Cross Country

Our cross country competitors took part in the Uttlesford Cross Country Competition on Wednesday. Once again, the pupils were superb in terms of their physical achievements and positive mindset. All the competing children should be congratulated on their participation but we do have individuals deserving particular recognition: Niah Worrall 3rd place, Hannah Cullen 4th place, Laurence Cox 3rd place and Raphael Buchallet 5th place. In addition to these individuals, the Year 5 boys' team, Laurence Cox, Raphael Buchallet, Paul Coe, Theo Potton and Karim Rokeby Hoole, has also qualified for the next stage which will be held at Hadleigh Park in the spring. In addition to these particular results, the children demonstrated superb team work and a specific act of kindness made everyone proud when one pupil assisted someone who had fallen in the race and accompanied them to the finish line! Thank you to Mrs Van Weede, Mrs Neylon, Mrs Kovacs and Mrs Dunlop for their practical support and encouragement at the race. Thank you to Mrs White for organising the event and her continual promotion of physical activity throughout the school. A special mention must be given to our running coach, Mrs Dunlop, who continues to provide so many pupils with exemplary coaching in order to develop their running skills.

Reception Class visit to Saffron Hall

Reception Class really enjoyed the performance of Luna at Saffron Hall on Wednesday morning. Luna is an enchanting play about friendship, the moon and being brave in the dark. All the children loved the songs and moonbeams travelling across the sky! Thank you to our many helpers who supported Mrs Davies and Mrs Green to make this Early Years' visit possible: Mrs Howes, Mrs Vandrau, Miss Andrews, Mrs Middleton, Mrs Seymour and Ms Smither.

Basketball

A team of Year 6 pupils participated in a basket ball tournament at Forest Hall on Thursday this week. Mrs Balchin accompanied the pupils and we received super feedback from the accompanying adults and external coaches. They impressed others with their team spirit, enthusiasm and commitment. They finished in second place on the day and they are all keen to pursue this new sport further which is great news! Thank you very much to Mrs Trigg, Mrs Cullen and Mrs Balchin for providing transport and support. Well done for fabulous team work!

Friends of Great Chesterford Primary Academy

Please support our school by attending the forthcoming 'Bling, Bubbles and Beauty' event which will take place on Thursday November 29th. Your support is needed as all proceeds benefit every child in our school. Recent funds have contributed to school visits and the super playground improvements in our KS1 playground. Don't forget we also have a festive Film Night on Thursday 22nd November for anyone wanting to make a start on Christmas shopping whilst the children have a longer day at school.

Behaviour 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. Children should not play on the mound or play equipment as we need to ensure their health and safety. We do expect children to be kind and respectful to others during the school day and rough play after school does not support this ethos. If you are not able to leave the playground promptly, please can we ask that you supervise your child closely to prevent any negative behaviour - thank you for your support.

Open Morning

Our next Open Afternoon of the academic year will take place on Monday 19th November. 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 work commitments. On Monday, parents may attend at 9.30am or 11.00am. 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.

Parking

If you park near our neighbours' houses, please can I ask that you take care not to damage property, including walls, when opening cars doors. Unfortunately, this has happened on several occasions recently.

Mrs Sarah Mitchell
Headteacher

Dates for your diary

| Date | Event |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 19th November | Open morning - focusing on our values |
| 8th December | Spirit of Christmas for Years 5 and 6 |
| 11th December | Christmas Plays for KS1 and Lower KS2 - afternoon performance |
| 12th December | Christmas Plays for KS1 and Lower KS2 - afternoon and evening performances |
| 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 |