

GREAT CHESTERFORD C of E PRIMARY ACADEMY
Reception Newsletter – Spring 2026

Dear Parents and Children,

Welcome back! We hope that you had a relaxing Christmas break and wish you all a very happy new year! On behalf of the Reception team, we wanted to thank you for all the kind words, beautiful cards and gifts that you gave to us – it was most thoughtful of you.

Learning Focus During the Spring Term

During the first half term, our main topic will be the continent of Antarctica. Whilst it will have a geographical and science focus, it will be an inspiration for artwork and writing too. For the second half of the term, we will have a literacy focus on traditional tales.

Staffing

Reception Class will usually be staffed as follows:

Monday (all day) and Tuesday mornings: Mrs Sargeant will be teaching, supported by Mrs Tennison.

Tuesday afternoons: Miss Walker will be teaching, supported by Mrs Tennison.

Wednesday - Friday: Mrs Davies will be teaching, supported by Miss Walker.

Mrs Davies will be teaching the class during Mrs Sargeant's absence.

Show and Tell

Please note that Show and Tell will take place on **Mondays**. The dates for each group are shown below:

| Pyramids | Cones | Spheres |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 12 th January | 19th January | 26 th January |
| 2nd February | 9 th February | 23rd February |
| 2nd March | 9th March | 16 th March |

Please could you ensure that your child only brings in **one** object to show and that it is not easily breakable or very precious!

Collective Worship – Friday 6th February

We will be leading Collective Worship on Friday 6th February which you are, of course, welcome to attend.

Reading and Homework

Thank you for your continued support with reading and for returning the Little Wandle books so promptly. This enables us to use the set of books for other groups.

Whilst homework is not formally set in Reception Class, it would benefit the children to spend 5 minutes each day practising a range of early learning skills. A suggested timetable is below:

| | |
|---------|---|
| Monday | Phonics – Quick recall of all the GPCs taught to date. Then focus on a spelling/word making activity. Encourage your child to have a go at writing or using magnetic letters to make a couple of words. I will include some suggested words in my weekly update. Daily review of the tricky words. |
| Tuesday | Phonics – Quick recall of the GPCs taught to date. Attempt one of the optional maths activities or play a track game (eg snakes and ladders). Daily review of the tricky words. |

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Wednesday | Phonics/Physical development – Support the quick recognition of phonemes/graphemes by incorporating them into a throwing game or a “run and find” game. Daily review of the tricky words. |
| Thursday | Quick recall of the GPCs taught to date. Practise letter formation and fine motor skills. Daily review of the tricky words. |
| Friday | Maths activity – Play a track game (eg snakes and ladders), bingo or attempt one of the optional activities. Daily review of the tricky words. |
| Weekend | Celebrate success in reading – share the Little Wandle reading book. Talk about the book, including asking the comprehension questions at the back of the book. |

P.E./Games

Please make sure your child comes to school in their PE kit on **Mondays and Wednesdays**. PE lessons will continue to be taught mainly in the hall. For safety reasons, long hair must be tied back every day and earrings and watches must be removed for PE. If your child is unable to take out their own earrings, they must be taken out before they come to school on PE days.

Outdoor work

As part of our work in Reception class, we will be continuing to use the courtyard as our outdoor classroom each day. Your child will also need their waterproof suit and wellingtons in school for when we head off to the nature space.

Water Bottle

Please send your child to school with a **named bottle of water every day** (even if they are having a school dinner), as the children are encouraged to take regular water breaks throughout the day.

Communication

Please do speak to a member of the Reception team if you have any questions and we will do our best to answer them. Should you wish to have a quick chat, we are happy to do so once all the children have been picked up at the end of the day. Alternatively, do drop the school office an email and we will get back to you soon as we can.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to a very busy and enjoyable term ahead.

With best wishes,

Mrs Davies and Mrs Sargeant