

Great Chesterford C E Primary Academy
Class 1 Newsletter
Autumn Term 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to Class 1. I am delighted to be teaching your children this year and I 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. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any support for you or your child during the transition to Class 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 us some childhood toys or providing photographs and information about toys from the past, we would be most grateful.

Staffing and support in Class 1

I will be teaching Class 1 every day, except on Wednesday mornings when Mrs Sargeant will teach the class. On Tuesday afternoons, Mrs Middleton will lead a music session with the class. Mrs Brown, Mrs Huq, Mrs Robson, Ms Roscorla and Miss Thom are the support staff working in Class 1 this year.

P.E/Active learning/Learning outside

PE will usually take place on a **Wednesday** 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. 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 visit the school nature space every **Friday** 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 Friday morning in a named bag, which will be returned each Friday 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 Class 1 are expected to complete 10 minutes of homework each day. In order to facilitate this, your child will be given a maths folder to structure their learning and create a record of tasks completed. The maths folder will contain a different activity each week. The activities have been designed to help your child secure the

required knowledge for this stage of their education. Maths folders will not always be formally marked but will be checked by staff on a weekly basis.

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: Maths folders to be returned to school. Return phonically decodable text. Swap classroom library book.	PM: Maths folders will be handed out.	PE Kit	PE Kit	AM: Bring Nature Space clothes in a named bag. PM: Nature Space clothes will be returned. 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 11th September at 3:30pm-4pm. This meeting will be held in Class 1 and is an opportunity for me to introduce myself and the routines and expectations of Class 1 as well as answer any questions you may have about the year ahead.

Harvest Service: 20th September at 9:30am at All Saints Church

Our Class Collective Worship: 18th October at 9:15am. Parents for Class1 children are invited to attend this in the school hall.

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

I look forward to an enjoyable term ahead.

Kind regards,
Miss F Thorburn