

**Great Chesterford C of E Primary Academy**  
**Reception Class Newsletter - Autumn Term 2023**

Dear Parents,

I hope that you have all had a happy and relaxing summer holiday. We have really enjoyed welcoming the children to Reception Class and have been delighted with how well they have settled during the transition sessions.

### **Staffing**

I will be teaching the children every day except on Tuesday mornings when Mrs Green will be teaching the class. In addition, Mrs Green will be in class all day on Mondays and Tuesday afternoon and Miss Walker on Tuesday mornings and all day on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

### **Topic Web**

At the beginning of each term, I will send out a topic web with examples of the type of activities that we may do in class. We will spend a lot of time during the first few weeks settling into school, building friendships and becoming familiar with new routines and our classroom environment. Our topic for this term will be **'Real-life Superheroes'**. This is a wide-ranging topic which will include thinking about our amazing bodies and real-life superheroes, for example, the police, the fire service and medical staff. If you have resources that you think might enhance our learning, or if there is any information that you would like me to be aware of, please do contact me.

To support this topic, we are having a visit from "Little City" on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September when the children will have the opportunity to role play and engage in activities in different parts of the "city". As with all trips and classroom visit days, there will be a small charge related to this visit and I will send you a separate letter with more information.

### **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. We are always happy to speak to you at the end of the school day but we ask that you wait until we have seen all the children safely to their parents/carers.

If you haven't already done so, please could you return the form stating the end of day arrangements for your child. If they are going home with someone else, please could you send a note into school. It would be really helpful if you could remind your child to give the note to me too!

### **P.E.**

P.E will usually take place on Wednesday and Friday mornings. On these days, children should come to school in their P.E kit consisting of a white T-shirt, navy shorts and their school shoes. They will change into their plimsolls in the classroom. On colder days children may wish to wear navy skins, jogging bottoms or leggings and their school sweatshirt, particularly as they will be wearing their kit all day. Children are unable to wear earrings during P.E and these **must** be removed before they come to school on P.E days.

### **Outdoor Activities**

We use the courtyard area everyday and regularly visit the nature space - whatever the weather! Please ensure your child has named waterproofs and wellingtons in school. On hot days, please ensure that your child has a sun hat and that you apply a long-lasting sun-lotion before school.

### **Drinks**

During the day we encourage the children to drink water to keep themselves hydrated. Please could you send your child into school each day with a full, **named** water bottle. We ask that only water is in the bottle, however, if your child is having a packed lunch they may bring an alternative drink to have with it. We will, of course, top up water bottles as required.

### **Snacks**

A piece of fruit or vegetable is usually provided each day for Reception Class children. We never know in advance what we are going to have so I would suggest that, if your child is not overly keen on different fruits, then you may want to pop a packet of raisins in their book bag. You may, of course, supply your own fruit or a couple of crackers or a piece of cheese if you would prefer.

### **Parent Information Evening – Phonics and EYFS information**

Please refer to the letter sent out by Mrs Sargeant and Mrs Mitchell regarding the above event on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Homework/Reading**

Your child will bring home a class library book to share with an adult each week and they are expected to spend around 10 minutes each day engaging with this book or other books from home. Additionally, an appropriate phonics book will be brought home at the end of each week for your child to read and celebrate the reading skills they have

been practising in school. A weekly tricky word activity (including learning to read these words) and an optional maths activity. will also be shared. The emphasis, at this stage, should be on enjoying an activity together which gives the children an opportunity to practise and consolidate what they are learning in school.

### **Baseline Assessment**

All Reception classes take part in the Standards and Testing Agency's Baseline Assessment. I have included a link below which provides further information for parents.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reception-baseline-assessment-information-for-parents>

### **Harvest Festival – 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023**

We will be going to church to celebrate Harvest Festival with the rest of the school on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September at 9:30am and you are most welcome to join us.

### **Collective Worship – 3rd November 2023**

We will be leading Collective Worship on Friday 3rd November at 9:10am and you are welcome to join us in the school hall.

### **Bumps and Grazes**

Rarely a day goes by when there is not a bump or graze in Reception Class! We will inform you of any minor bumps and grazes via a note in the book bag and speak to you directly regarding any other injuries.

I look forward to working with you and your child as they start their learning journey at Great Chesterford. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss any aspect of this newsletter.

With very best wishes,

Mrs Amanda Davies