

GREAT CHESTERFORD C. OF E. PRIMARY ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER WEEK ENDING APRIL 24th 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope that you all had a safe and 'restful' Easter break and are managing to stay in contact with friends and family.

We have all had to adapt to new ways of working so I wanted to take the opportunity to say what an amazing job you are doing in supporting your child's wellbeing and learning. We all miss the children very much but we must continue to follow the guidance in order to keep everyone in our local community safe.

Mrs Sargeant and the whole staff team are there to support you with your home learning and have enjoyed hearing about your wide ranging activities. We all recognise, that your home learning needs to be flexible to support you and your families at this time of uncertainty. Please remember that you do not need to be completing home learning for 6 hours a day. At school, having class discussions, going to worship, break and lunchtimes, handing out resources, etc., all take a surprising amount of time out of the average school day. Be kind to yourselves and take a break outdoors and play lots of games together. When we get back to business as normal, teachers will do what we have always done – assess where the children are and teach accordingly. During regular school time, children do not access learning opportunities consistently, either at school or home, so please do not be concerned about how home learning is taking place for other families. Your family's health and well-being has to remain your priority right now.

Following my leave of absence last term, I am really looking forward to increasing my working to fifty percent this term and leading the school together with Mrs Sargeant. Mrs Sargeant will continue to lead home learning but please feel free to contact either of us should you have any queries or concerns via the school email: admin@greatchesterford.essex.sch.uk.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere gratitude to Mrs Sargeant for leading the school last term in what has been incredibly challenging times – I know that everyone will agree that she has done a fantastic job. Alongside Mrs Sargeant, I must also thank every member of staff for their resilience, compassion and care during the continuation of these extraordinary difficult times.

Please keep in touch via the school twitter feed and class email contacts - we all enjoy the updates on your home learning activities and interesting pass-times.

Take care and keep safe.
With warmest wishes

Mrs Sarah Mitchell
Headteacher

Birthdays

As we are currently unable to celebrate birthdays in school, we would like to wish many happy returns to those in our school community who are celebrating this week:

Ella in Class 2

Etienne in Class 6

Mrs Brackstone in Year 2 and member of our MDA team



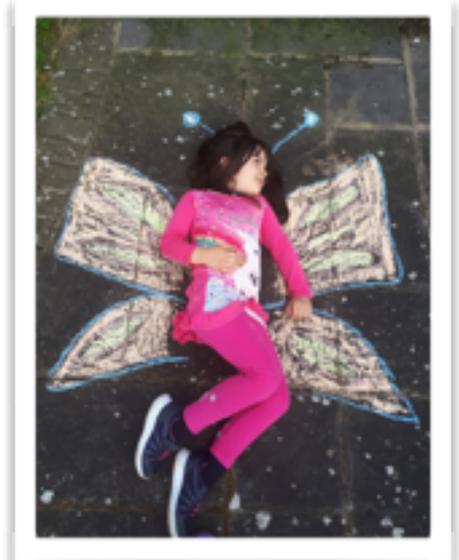
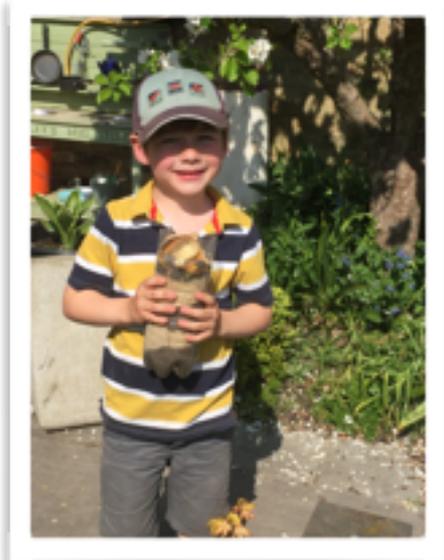
Key Stage One Dance

Thank you to our SSCO, Mrs Jackie Coleman, for continuing to provide some activity ideas for schools during this period of home learning. Please see the attachment for some fun Key Stage One dance suggestions.

Home learning this week

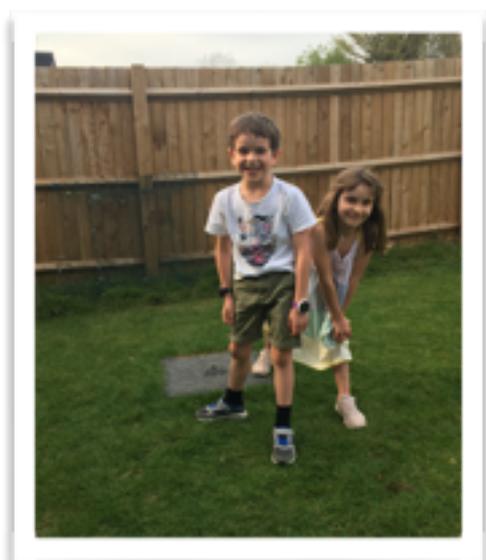
Lots of your home learning this week has made great use of the sunny outdoors. Activities have included wormeries, bug-spotting, table tennis, outdoor art, badminton and creative chalks.

Class One have started a new topic and look forward to lots of opportunities to learn outside and find out about mini-beasts. Class Two have designed a cake for the Queen's birthday; some children also chose to design a crown.



Alys and Seth's Run Around London Fundraiser

Well done to Alys and Seth who are working hard to complete this active fundraiser. Today is day 9 of their challenge when they are due to reach the mid-way point. Good luck completing your fundraising marathon!



Keeping in Touch

During term time, we encourage you to keep in touch with your child's class teacher via the class email address at least once a week. If we have not had any contact, we will try to contact you.

For all other queries, please follow the normal practice of emailing the office via admin@greatchesterford.essex.sch.uk.

Activities on offer from Ely Cathedral:

Ely Cathedral has had to shut its doors for only the 2nd time in its 900 year history so they have put together the following resources to try and support the wider community during its closure and this period of home learning.

A FaceBook group has been created - **Ely Cathedral Learning Fun for Families** - through which they are sharing the following resources:

Mondays @ 10.30am - Bible Stories for children aged 2-6 with suggested craft activities. This is closely linked to our sessions around the stained glass windows in the Cathedral and the stories they tell.

Wednesdays @ 10.30am - The History of Ely Cathedral. This is a series of 10-20 minute videos which cover the history of the Cathedral in chronological order. This would be particularly useful for those schools who would wish their students to work on their local history projects over the course of the next half term. It is closely linked to our sessions round Etheldreda, Hereward and Monastic Life and is aimed at children aged 7-12.

Fridays @ 10.30am - "The Wickit Chronicles". Each week we will read a new chapter of "The Wickit Chronicles - Ely Plot". This is a book about a young orphan boy who is brought up in a monastery on the Fens during the middle ages. After each chapter there will be suggested activities for the children to have a go at that will help them to learn more about the history of the Fens as well as medieval monastic life. We are really lucky that the author, Joan Lennon, has also joined our group and will be on hand to answer any questions that the children might have about the story and the characters. These stories are aimed at children aged 7-11.

For any parents without Facebook, links to all of these resources can be found on the Ely Cathedral Website, in the learning tab.

Mrs Sarah Mitchell
Headteacher