

GREAT CHESTERFORD C. OF E. PRIMARY ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 22nd 2019

Dear Parents,

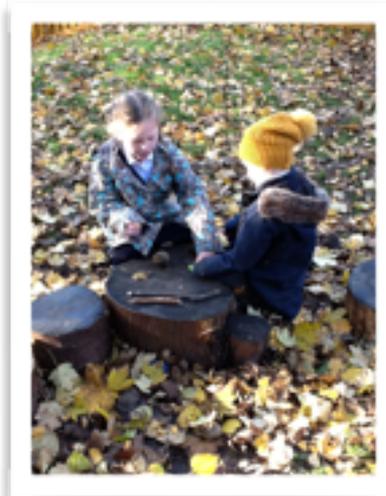
Thank you very much to our school orchestra and the Year 5 and 6 choir for their musical contributions in this morning's collective worship. We are really fortunate, as a school, to have Mrs Middleton, Ms Wheeler and her able team supporting such a wide range of musical opportunities in our school. - thank you to everyone involved.

Dodgeball

10 children from Year 6 took part in the Dodgeball District Finals held at JFAN, Newport, on Wednesday. 15 teams took part and the group were praised for their fair play, honest application of rules and positive behaviour in what was a busy, fast-moving environment. Although the team came 13th overall, everyone played with a positive and enthusiastic attitude throughout the tournament; they clearly improved winning their last 3 matches and were a credit to the school. Thank you to Mrs White and Mrs Mannix for organising; to Mrs Balchin for accompanying the group and to Ms Berthoud and Mrs Rokeby-Hall for providing transport and lots of positive support.

Nature Space News

On Monday, **Year One** used the nature space for maths. We compared the length of natural objects that we found and also added some food scraps and leaves to the wormery. The children also put fresh food and water close to the hedgehog house.



Out in the playground and in the nature space, **Year 3** collected a variety of shapes and sizes of leaves which we used to create our fun leaf creatures, complete with googly eyes. We found out about the different trees in our surroundings and we were amazed at the variety of Autumn colours which we used creatively in our pictures.



The Big Question this week has been 'What Connects You to God.' To support this and linking with the idea that 'Taking Notice' and 'Making Connections' are important for mental health, during their Class Collective Worship, Year 6 went out in groups to the nature space. They spent time, in silent reflection, just listening to the sounds they could hear. They then compared notes with their learning partner. After that, they chose something to photograph and used this as a stimulus for some short-burst writing.



Spirit of Christmas - Years 5 and 6

Please can we ask that all reply slips are returned by Monday 25th November for all children in Years 5 and 6. Saffron Walden Choral Society require exact numbers for their arrangements and safeguarding.

Open Morning

Our next Open Morning of the academic year will take place on Monday 25th November. The aim of these sessions is to provide parents with an insight into school life on a typical day. 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.

Christmas Jumper Fundraising

As part of our Christmas activities all children are invited to wear a Christmas jumper to school on Tuesday 17th December which will also be our Christmas lunch and Christmas parties day! Please do not feel any special purchase should be made - any festive colour such as red and green would be welcome.

To support our 'Christmas Jumper Day', and promote recycling, our School Council will be organising a Christmas jumper fund-raiser. They are appealing for any outgrown Christmas jumpers to be donated to school so that they can then be passed on to a new owner for a donation to charity. The charity will be announced once our busy School Council have collated class votes. Please can jumpers be sent to school by Monday 2nd December clearly labelled 'For Sale' to avoid any confusion with play costumes. We will be holding the sale on Wednesday 4th December at 3pm.

Friends of Great Chesterford Primary Academy

Film Night - Thank you to the Friends' Committee for organising last week's film night, 'Toy Story 4'. Mrs Clark, Mrs Davies, Mrs Diggins, Mrs Farrimond and Mrs Helliard worked really hard with over 100 children and

thank you to all staff who stayed in school to support this event. Thanks to your support, we raised £285.44! Thank you to everyone who has been able to support the Friend's Winter Party by attending the event or purchasing raffle tickets.

Winter clothing

Temperatures are now falling and some children have struggled with the colder temperatures at break and lunchtimes. During cold weather, please can you ensure that your child is suitably prepared for outdoor activities at school. All children should wear a warm coat to school each day and gloves and hats are useful during these colder days. Items such as long trousers and warm tights also help children during cold playtimes and lunchtimes. Should we ever have a notable snowfall, please ensure that your child has wellingtons or boots for playtime and lunch time - they will not be allowed to play in snow in their usual school shoes. All children will also be expected to wear long trousers and not shorts if we have snow. Please can we request that all uniform and outerwear is named.

PE Kit

Outside games lessons continue this term and we ask that children have suitable kit in school for these activities. For health and safety reasons, hooded tops cannot be worn. It is really helpful for children to have skins, school tracksuits or school jumpers to keep them warm. Navy skins are recommended, which can be ordered on-line from our school uniform supplier, but black or white are also permitted. If your child is using a school sweatshirt for PE, this needs to be in addition to their regular school clothes to ensure that they can change into warm and clean clothes after their sports activity. If girls wear tights to school, please ensure that they have warm socks in their PE bags. The long school PE socks are also helpful for warmth and these can also be obtained on-line or plain navy blue ones can be found at many well known retailers - thank you.

Christmas Post Box

From Monday December 2nd, the school Christmas post box will be in operation. If pupils wish to send their Christmas cards to friends in school, they can use the post box up to Monday 16th December. Each envelope needs the child's full name and class number to ensure our Year 6 postal team are able to deliver it to the correct pupil.

Christmas Plays

The letter regarding our forthcoming KS1 and lower KS2 Christmas Plays, including ticket allocation, were sent out yesterday. Please check you have received this letter as ticket booking opens on November 24th.

Parking

It is disappointing that we have received further complaints of inconsiderate parking from local residents and parents. If driving to school is necessary, please allow adequate time for safe and considerate parking. We value our positive links with the local community and do not want poor parking from a minority of our parents / guardians to cause problems for our own pupils travelling to school, pedestrians and local residents. Parents / carers should not be parking on the yellow lines outside school at drop off or collection times. Please can you also ensure that childminders and grandparents are also aware. We have also been informed that there will be some additional building works taking place in South Street from next week so parking along this particular road may not be possible. When waiting in cars, please can you turn engines off as local pedestrians have raised concerns about all the unpleasant exhaust fumes. For anyone unaware, The Crown and Thistle kindly allow parents to use their car park at drop off and collection times. Thank you for your support.

Primary School Admissions for 2020

As you may be aware, the primary school (Reception) admission round opens on 11th November 2019, for parents of children to apply for a Reception school place for the academic year that starts in September 2020. The statutory national closing date for applications is 15 January 2020. From 11 November 2019, applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions.

Breakfast Club Assistant

We currently have a vacancy for Breakfast Club Assistant - please refer to our website for further details or speak to a member of the office team.

Mrs Sarah Mitchell
Headteacher

Dates for your diary

Date	Event
25th November	Open morning - focus 'our values'
7th December	Spirit of Christmas for Years 5 and 6
10th December	Christmas Plays for KS1 and Lower KS2 - afternoon performance
11th December	Christmas Plays for KS1 and Lower KS2 - afternoon and evening performances
12th December	Flu immunisations
13th December	Friends' KS1 Christmas Disco Friends' KS2 Christmas Disco
17th December	Christmas Jumper Day Christmas lunch Christmas parties
19th December	Christmas Church Service at All Saints' Church, 9.30am Last day of term
6th January	Non-pupil day
7th January	Pupils return to school