

GREAT CHESTERFORD C. OF E. PRIMARY ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER WEEK ENDING March 20th, 2020

Dear Parents,

Message from Mrs. Mitchell

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the whole school community in working together during this time of unprecedented challenge. Mrs. Sargeant and the whole staff team have worked tirelessly to provide the best possible care and education for all our pupils. Staff have gone above and beyond - stepping in to cover absence and staff isolation whilst preparing for a new system of supporting the education of our pupils and much, much more. The children have continued to be excellent ambassadors for our school, and we have all been impressed by their caring and responsible approach – particularly their meticulous hand washing! As we move into this period of home learning, my thoughts and prayers are with you all and I wish all our school community and their families good health. Regular contact will continue throughout the school closure via the home learning process, newsletters and the school website. Look after yourselves and one another - with warmest regards, Mrs. Mitchell.

Business as usual



Our 'Poitivtree' is positively blooming this week as we celebrate everything that is positive in our lives during Lent.

Word Wall

Following our dressing up challenge in Book Week, a word wall was constructed this week with all the awesome adjectives that inspired such creative costumes.

Readathon update

Thank you everyone for your generous support of our Readathon this year. You have raised an amazing £759.35 which will all be spent on updating the reading books in school.



Easter gardens in Reception Class

The children worked brilliantly in groups to design and create their own Easter gardens in the nature space this week. Ms. Benson praised their teamwork and enthusiasm.



Discussion time in Year 1

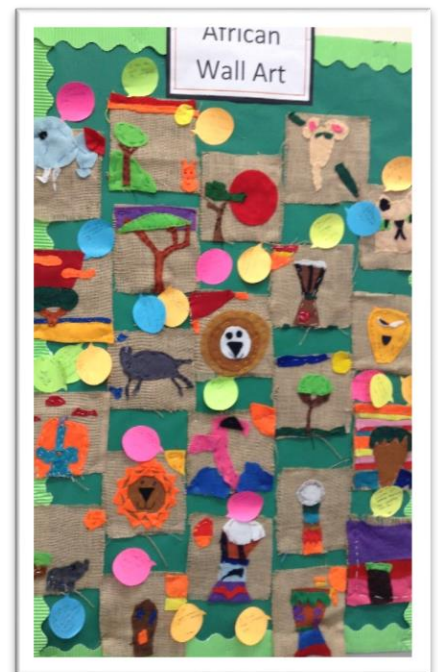
Year One held a lively discussion on Thursday about whether they would like to travel back in time to the time of the dinosaurs. Mrs. White was impressed with the good ideas which were shared; how well the children listened to each other and how they respected each other's opinions.

Green Fingers in Class 2

Class 2 have been 'chitting' their potatoes in preparation for planting them this week. They have used the raised beds in the rear of the Infant playground, and we are all looking forward to harvest time. Their enthusiasm for the task was obvious for all to see.

African Art in Class 3

Visitors to Class 3 can't miss the eye-catching and colourful wall hanging which has been inspired by their African topic. Well done Class 3!



DIALLS Project in Class 4

Year 4 had another online platform discussion with their DIALLS partner school. After sharing the Portuguese book Partida, they discussed climate change and what we could do to help in our lives.

School Values in Class 5

In our PSHEE lesson we reminded ourselves of our school values and created a collaborative piece of art using our hands to remember that Together We Are Great.



STEM in Class 6

Year 6 were getting to grips with the mechanics of cogs and gears on Thursday. They made LEGO models to help them understand the mechanisms. Judging by their enthusiasm, we may well see some budding engineers in the future.

Birthdays

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

Charlie in Reception

Bea in Year 3

Momo in Year 6

Mrs. Brown in Year 1

Staff Goodbyes

We have two member of staff who are moving on to new challenges and we would like to thank them for their hard work and dedication to the school. Mrs. Heath (Year 6) and Miss Gregory (Year 1) have both been working as Learning Support Assistants this year and they have both been valued members of our school team and will be greatly missed. We wish them well in the future and are sure that they will stay in touch.

Great Chesterford Flag Competition

The Parish Council in Great Chesterford are holding a competition to design a flag for the village flagpole. This is a fun local activity to take part in this period of home learning and we hope that lots of you will have a go. Please see the attached letter for more details on how to enter.

Home Learning will begin on Monday 23rd March

How will my child continue to learn?

Teachers will publish daily maths and English activities on their class page of the school website. Pupils should have brought home an exercise book in which to record their learning when the school is closed.

As part of the task, teachers will make it clear how the work will be responded to e.g. answers to be given the following day, a screenshot expected to be emailed to the teachers.

Daily reading should continue.

Daily practice of maths skills (e.g. counting, number bonds, times tables) should continue.

If it is looking likely that the school will be closed beyond the Easter holiday, a selection of topic related activities will be uploaded onto the class page for the children to choose from.

What if we need help with the learning/teaching?

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You will be able to contact teachers via the class email address (listed below) and these will be responded to during normal working hours (9:00am – 5:00pm).

Please note that these emails will only be used during the period of closure.

Reception@greatchesterford.essex.sch.uk

Year1@greatchesterford.essex.sch.uk

Year2@greatchesterford.essex.sch.uk

Year3@greatchesterford.essex.sch.uk

Year4@greatchesterford.essex.sch.uk

Year5@greatchesterford.essex.sch.uk

Year6@greatchesterford.essex.sch.uk

For all other queries, please follow the normal practice of emailing the office via

admin@greatchesterford.essex.sch.uk

The work set will be to support your child's education, but our key priority is the health and well-being of our whole school community - we would urge everyone to be kind to themselves and others at this challenging time. Happy Home Learning!

Claire Witney
KS2 Lead