

# GREAT CHESTERFORD C. OF E. PRIMARY ACADEMY

## NEWSLETTER WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 15th 2019

**Dear Parents,**

### **Class 6 Assembly**

Well done Class 6 for leading today's collective worship about multicultural Great Britain. There was lots of information about our links with other countries; the benefits we gain from having a multicultural society and our favourite parts of sharing our lives with people from other countries. Favourite aspects included: food, dance and festivals. You had clearly worked really hard researching lots of different countries and cultures and coped really well with re-allocating parts on the day due to illness - thank you!

### **Year 1 Trip to Danbury Park**

'We went on the coach to Danbury Country Park. We met Sue. Then we went on a big log. Next we got a big tree branch to make a bridge. Ranger Sue said she would squirt people if she heard them cross the bridge. Next we had break. I had a banana. Then we made a boat we needed to see if it would float or not. My boat floated down the river. We had some lunch. I had ham wraps. We got to play. We then made some troll faces to scare away wolves. We also made troll skin. We went back on the coach and back to school.' Trip report by Samuel.

Thank you to Mrs Clark, Mr Garland, Mrs Thackray and Mrs Vandevelde - Hall for their enthusiasm and support throughout the day, I know they were as exhausted as the children on the coach journey home!

### **Tag Rugby Tournament**



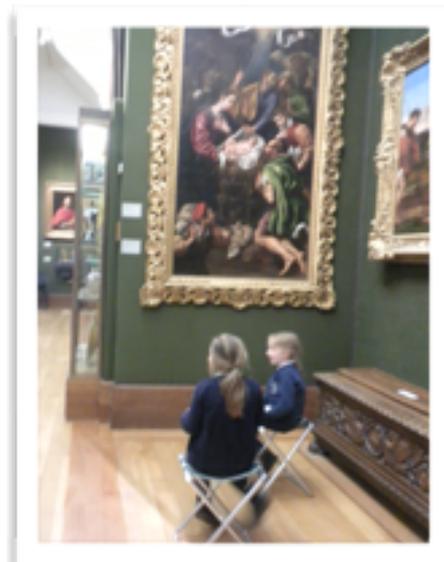
An outstanding result for our Year 6 rugby players this week when they won the SSP Newport Family Tag Tournament at Joyce Frankland Academy. There were 8 local teams competing in two pools. Our team won all three of their initial matches and continued undefeated in both the semi- final and final match against Clavering. All wins were comprehensive to the point where they stopped counting the tries in the semi-final! The whole team played exceptionally well with fantastic teamwork and sportsmanship; individuals gave up opportunities for points if they thought their team-mate had a better chance of scoring and gave the ball away for others to score a try. Their behaviour was excellent too - one referee made a point of commenting on just how polite the children were.

Thank you to Mrs Balchin and Mrs Trigg for accompanying the players and a special thank you to Mr Duers, whose training sessions prepared the children so well - all members of the team commented on how it had helped them really focus for the matches. We will keep you updated with their performance in the next round.

## Year 2 Trip to Cambridge

Class 2 enjoyed an action-packed day during their class visit to Cambridge this week. The morning was spent at Pizza Express where Class 2 learnt how to stretch the dough to fit the pizza tray after learning what ingredients are used to prepare the dough. They then put on the tomato sauce and cheese - this makes a Margherita Pizza which is the Queen of the pizzas. This pizza has protein, carbohydrates and vegetable food groups. The pizzas were then cooked and transported with the children to their next venue of the day - The Fitzwilliam Museum. After enjoying their pizza lunch, the class were taken to look at a very large clay owl, looking at his eyes, ears, claws and beak. They thought of adjectives to describe each part and then worked together to create a class poem. The children then looked at a few paintings of ships and boats at sea, again composing a class poem. In contrast the class were then shown a painting with a mother, child and skeleton. The children noticed so much in this poem and thought of some lovely words to describe some of the objects. Finally, the children explored the gallery and chose a painting to study before composing their own individual poem.

Everyone had an absolutely fantastic day! The children were so well behaved and were a wonderful credit to the school. Many thanks to Mrs McCullough and Mrs Vandevelde - Hall for supporting our visit.



## Parent Consultations

Following the recent parent consultations, we would like to invite feedback from parents on the new Parents Evening Booking System which we trialled. Your comments would be gratefully received via [admin@greatchesterford.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@greatchesterford.essex.sch.uk)

## Outdoor Nature Area

We are planning an outdoor nature area for use by the whole school and are looking for your support. Our mission is to provide further opportunities to take learning outside, whether it is using team work and imagination to build a den; looking closely at nature during art or science; providing an inspirational space for writing or an outdoor space for learning and exploring for our younger children.

At the moment, we are in the planning stages of Phase 1 and are busy applying for funding to support the project. Our aim is to be in a position to open the area at the start of the summer term.

If you think that you would be able to support this project, or know of family members, employers or local businesses who may be interested, please do speak to Mrs Davies or Mrs White.

We will also be holding a volunteer day to help put up the fencing, shed, etc. and we will publicise this date nearer the time.

Thank you for your support in helping us to enhance the outdoor learning for all the children in our school and we hope that you enjoy seeing this exciting transformation very soon!

## **Friends Events**

The Friends Committee has been very busy organising many events to help fundraise for the new library and for the development of a new outdoor nature area. Please support their events wherever possible as all funds raised benefit the whole school in providing a broad and engaging education both in and out of the classroom.

## **Friday Night Cake Sales**

Our Friday night cake stalls will resume on Friday 1st March. The schedule of dates for each class is provided below. Thank you for continuing to support this very popular fundraising event. Which class will be our champion fundraisers?

1st March	Year 6
8th March	Year 5
15th March	Year 4
22nd March	Year 3
5th April	Year 2
26th April	Year 1
3rd May	Reception Class

## **PJ and Film Night - Friday 22nd March**

We will be holding a PJ Film Night on Friday 22nd March at 5:45pm. You are invited to come along to school in your PJs and bring a cushion or a soft toy to help you chill out whilst watching a movie with your friends. Adults may stay if they wish but this is optional. The movie choice is yet to be confirmed. (Please note that this will be our last movie night of the academic year.)

## **Non Uniform Day - Friday 29th March**

In exchange for a chocolate donation, your child may come to school in non-school uniform to help support our Easter Bunny Hunt fundraising event. Your donations will be used to support activities such as the Chocolate Tombola stall.

## **Easter Bunny Hunt - Saturday 30th March**

Our annual Easter Bunny Hunt will take place on the afternoon of 30th March. More information will follow but please make a note of the date and please spread the word.

## **Easyfundraising**

If you are booking a holiday or doing some online shopping, please remember to sign up to The Friends' Easyfundraising page to see if your purchase is eligible for a donation. So far, we have raised over £550 with only 47 supporters! This is a really easy way to raise much needed funds for projects in school. Please share the link below with family and friends and encourage them to sign up and support our school:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/greatchesterfordprimacad/>

## **Music at Great Chesterford C. of E. Primary Academy**

### **How can you get involved?**

**Wanted posters** have gone up around school as we are looking for children to play music in school. We have various opportunities for children to extend their musical abilities.

### **Performing in Friday's Collective Worship**

Children preparing for music exams are invited to play whilst classes are walking into collective worship. Pupils are invited to play their exam pieces whether they have individual lessons in or out of school and Mrs Middleton will be available to accompany them on the piano.

### **Recorder playing in Collective Worship**

Years 4, 5 and 6 are invited to play hymns on recorders for collective worship. Mrs Witney or Mrs Middleton will provide the music and support the learning of the pieces.

## **Orchestra**

Pupils from Year 2 and above are invited to join our exceptional school orchestra. We have an excellent team of helpers at orchestra who are available to support children in the earliest stages of their musical learning. We would love to have more children join to play percussion parts and are in need of recorder players. Percussion and recorder are ideal instruments for children starting their musical journeys.

### **Music Club**

Music Club is on Tuesday lunchtimes and is for Key Stage Two pupils of all abilities to explore various ways of making music. This year they made a backing track for Key Stage One's Harvest Festival performance; they learnt to use the drum kit and played as a "band" taking turns on percussion, ukuleles and tuned percussion.

### **Ukulele Club**

Ukulele Club is a popular Key Stage One club. There will be another opportunity for a new cohort to learn to play in the summer term.

If you have any questions or queries regarding music in school, please speak to Mrs Witney or Mrs Middleton.

**Thank you to all staff, children and families for your continued support; I do hope that you all have a lovely half term break.**

**Mrs Sarah Mitchell  
Headteacher**

### **Dates for your diary**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
<b>18th-22nd February</b>	<b>Half Term</b>
4th - 8th March	Book Week - When I Grow Up
8th March	Book Week Dressing Up Day Theme: any book character with a particular occupation
12th March	KS2 Eucharist Service at 10:15am
14th March	Class 4 Trip - Viking life and lore
19th March	Class 5 Egyptian Day
21st March	Open Afternoon - focus on sports
22nd March	Friends' PJ and Film Night
28th March	Class 6 Trip to The Botanic Gardens, Cambridge
29th March	Class 3 African Drumming Workshop
29th March	Non-uniform day - chocolate donation
30th March	Friends' Easter Bunny Hunt
<b>5th April</b>	<b>Easter Service at All Saints' Church Last day of term</b>
<b>23rd April</b>	<b>Non pupil day</b>
<b>24th April</b>	<b>Pupils return to school</b>

13th-17th May	Year 6 SATs Week
20th May	Open Afternoon
<b>27th -31st May</b>	<b>Half term</b>
<b>4th June</b>	<b>Music Evening 6.30pm</b>
10th -14th June	Community Past and Present Theme Week
20th June	E-Safety Day
<b>20th June</b>	<b>E-Safety Parent Workshop 7.00pm</b>
<b>2nd July</b>	<b>Sports Day</b>
<b>4th July</b>	<b>Reserve Sports Day</b>
5th July	Transition afternoon tbc
8th July	Transition afternoon tbc
10th July	Years 5 and 6 Summer Play
11th July	Years 5 and 6 Summer Play
14th-17th July	Year 6 Residential
16th July	Prayer Space for Years 1 and 2
19th July	Year 6 Memories Assembly 1.30pm
<b>19th July</b>	<b>Open Afternoon and report collection for all year groups 2.15-3.15pm</b>
23rd July	KS2 Eucharist Service 10:15am
24th July	Leavers' Service at All Saints' Church 9.30am Last day of term
24th July	Year 6 Entertainment 1:45pm
<b>24th July</b>	<b>Last day of term</b>
<b>25th July</b>	<b>Non-pupil day</b>