

GREAT CHESTERFORD C. OF E. PRIMARY ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 12th 2018

Dear Parents,

PSHEE Week

The children have enjoyed and participated in a wide range of activities both in and out of lessons to support their knowledge, skills and awareness of this important area of the curriculum. **Thank you to the many volunteers and special visitors who have given their time to facilitate these activities. Special thanks must go to Mrs Davies for coordinating our PSHEE theme week.**



Highlights of our PSHEE Week:

On Monday, the whole school were treated to an exciting assembly and display from BMX Champion, Mike Mullen. In addition to daring tricks and jumps over teachers, Mike helped the children learn even more about growth mindset and being brave enough to step out of our comfort zones. Years 5 and 6 then enjoyed BMX workshops in the playground; it was an absolute pleasure to see each and every one of our participants having a go and taking risks.

On Tuesday, Sky Yarlett visited Key Stage 2 from the Houses of Parliament. Sky explained the differences between the two houses, the roles and responsibilities of the MPs and how they voted. The children in Years 3 and 4 were given a chance to vote on some contentious issues and this resulted in some lively debate!

Susie Diggins, Community Champion from Tesco, Saffron Walden paid two visits to school this week to work with pupils in Years 1 and 2 making tasty fruit kebabs. Key Stage 1 also benefited from a super session on mindfulness from Nicky Philips and they have been keen to share these simple techniques with others in the school. For the first time, our Bikeability instructors worked with Year 4 and the pupils involved learnt lots developing their cycling skills in order to achieve level 1.

On Thursday, our new Year 5 Playleaders were introduced in assembly and I am confident that they will be a great asset to the whole school community at lunchtime.

School Council

Our whole school community would like to say a huge thank you to our out-going School Council. They have been super role models for our school and worked hard to improve the school for everyone.

Key projects they have been involved in this year include:

- charity work
- supporting community events
- planning for improvements in the Infant Playground

A fantastic achievement - well done to you all:

Good luck to our new School Council 2017-18.

School Football

Great Chesterford 4 St Mary's 2

The football season continues and the school team played at home against St Mary's. Our mixed team played an excellent game of football developing their technical skills and a positive team spirit. It was super to see such determination and commitment from both the girls and boys. Thanks must go to Mrs White for organising the match and Mrs Sargeant for managing the team on the day. Thank you to St Mary's for providing a referee and to all the parents for their great support. Well done to everyone involved!

Parent Consultations

Please note the venues for next week's parent consultations:

Class	Venue	Waiting area
Reception Class	Art Room	Reception Class
Year 1	Class 1	Class 2
Year 2	Class 2	Class 2
Year 3	Class 4	Study Room
Year 4	Class 4	Study Room
Year 5	Class 6	Study Room
Year 6	Class 6	Study Room

Open Afternoon

Our next Open Afternoon of the academic year will take place on Thursday 1st November. The aim of these sessions is to provide parents with an insight into school life on a typical day. The sessions are optional and parents should not feel obliged to attend or rearrange working commitments. On Thursday, 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. The focus of this Open Morning is Reception Class 2019.

Start of the school day

Please note that the school is open to pupils from 8.45am - we cannot admit pupils before this time unless they are attending Breakfast Club - thank you.

Cauliflower Christmas Cards

You will soon be receiving the information regarding your child designing a Christmas card which can be printed, and packs purchased to raise money for the school. The children love creating their designs and are so proud to see them printed professionally. Please make sure that your designs are back by the published deadline, **Friday 2nd November**, so that they can be processed and be back in time for the first week in December. Many thanks for your support - Friends of Great Chesterford C. of E. Primary Academy.

Birthdays and certificates

Today was the last celebration assembly of this half term. Birthdays from 13th October to 2nd November inclusive, will be celebrated at our next Friday assembly on November 2nd.

Secondary School Admissions for entry 2019

As you may be aware, the new secondary school admission round is now open for parents of current Year 6 children to apply for a secondary school (Year 7) place for September 2019. The statutory national closing date for applications is **31st October 2018**.

Applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions. 98% of parents in Essex applied online last year.

The website also has a copy of the Secondary Education in Essex 2019-20 booklet which contains details of all secondary school admission policies. A link to the booklet is provided below:

http://www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Schools/Admissions/Documents/Secondary_Admissions_Booklet.pdf

Essex County Council

Letters and reply slips

Please can we remind parents that letters and reply slips should be returned to class teachers and not directly to the school office. Class teachers collect all notes and letters during registration and there are systems in place to take them to the office where appropriate. If you need to change your pick-up arrangements for playdates, etc. wherever possible, please can this information be sent directly to the class teacher as a note in the book bag rather than via the school office - thank you.

Long Hair

Please can I remind all parents that the school expectation is for long hair to be tied back for school - thank you.

Midday Assistants

We currently have vacancies for the role of Midday Assistant. This role provides an opportunity to earn whilst contributing to the life of the school enabling more activities to take place for the children during the lunch break. Please contact the school office for further information or pass on to anyone who may be interested in this school role.

Mrs Sarah Mitchell Headteacher

Additional letters:

School Photographs

Year 5 and 6 Choir

Parcel for Tommy competition

Chesterfords Festival of Remembrance

Dates for your diary

Date	Event
16th October	Parents' Consultation 3:45-6:15pm
17th October	Parents' Consultation 5:30-8:00pm
18th October	Year 4 Trip to Audley End
19th October	Non-pupil day
22nd-26th October	Half term
1st November	Open Morning - Focus 'Reception Class 2019'
2nd November	Year 6 Trip to Bletchley Park
5th - 9th November	Computing and Maths Theme Week
6th November	Year 2 Trip to Gunpowder Mills

Date	Event
14th November	Luna Performance at Saffron Hall for EYFS
15th November	School Photographs
19th November	Open morning - focusing on our values
8th December	Spirit of Christmas for Years 5 and 6
11th December	Christmas Plays for KS1 and Lower KS2 - afternoon performance
12th December	Christmas Plays for KS1 and Lower KS2 - afternoon and evening performances
18th December	Christmas Lunch Christmas parties
19th December	Christmas Church Service 9.30am Last day of term
4th January	Non-pupil day
7th January	Pupils return to school