

GREAT CHESTERFORD C. OF E. PRIMARY ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 8th 2019

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school, we have lots to look forward to this half term, including: our STEM theme week, class trips and the many Christmas events. It was lovely to see both prospective and current families at this week's Open Morning.

Reception Class Collective Worship

Well done Reception Class for a wonderful assembly on our big question of "How are we connected to others?" We thought you did so well - your art work was beautiful and we loved your caring video and action song. A super start to your assembly careers at Great Chesterford Primary Academy!

Visit from Essex County Fire and Rescue Service

Reception Class welcomed Andrea Adams, from Essex County Fire and Rescue Service, on Monday morning. The children listened carefully and asked brilliant questions. Andrea also reminded us of the importance of having a working smoke alarm and how to contact the emergency services. The children also got to try on a fire fighter's helmet!

Year 2 visit the Royal Gunpowder Mills

On Tuesday, Class 2 had a wonderful trip to the Royal Gunpowder Mills. They learnt about life in 1605, which included the games played, food eaten, how they wrote and of course the Gunpowder plot. The children made their own lantern similar to the one used by Guy Fawkes and they practised writing with a quill - it was much more difficult than writing with a pencil! They were a credit to the school. Thank you very much to Mrs Maskell, Mrs Thackray and Mrs Vandeveld-Hall for supporting Mrs Butler and Mrs Gascoyne with this visit.



Year 4 Dodgeball Tournament

Year 4 went to a dodgeball tournament on Wednesday afternoon. Each team played a series of mini games, took responsibility for organising themselves before each game and supported one another. They played really well; one team came back as group winners, and all were a credit to the school. Well done Class 4! Thank you to Mrs Lincoln, Mrs Mannix and Mr Gardiner for supporting this event.

Year 5 Trip

Class 5 enjoyed their trip to West Stow Anglo Saxon Village where they handled artefacts, explored Anglo Saxon houses and learnt more about life during the period. The historian at West Stow was particularly impressed with the children's thoughtful and intelligent questions. Super feedback Class 5! Thank you to Mrs Kearton for supporting the Class 5 staff team with this school visit.

School Photographs

Individual and family group photographs will be taking place on 12th November - don't forget your smiley faces and smart school uniform on Tuesday morning! Photographs including pre-school aged children will take place in the school hall at 8:30am.

Children in Need Day - Friday 15th November

On Friday 15th November, we will be supporting the charity Children in Need. It will be a non-school uniform day and everyone is invited to wear their pyjamas. In return, we ask the children to bring in a minimum donation of £1. Participation is, of course, completely optional. Thank you for your support!

Nature Space News

Reception Class have had lots of fun at the nature space last half term. "We've made mud cakes and bird feeders and have also been hunting for snails, worms and other creatures who have made the space their home. Our thanks go to Mrs Blythe, Mrs Vandrau and Mrs Sheils who give up their time to support our activities."



Class 5 have been in the nature space to support their maths work this week. They have been investigating and creating symmetrical patterns with two or more lines of symmetry.



More news from our popular nature space will follow next week.

Remembrance Sunday

Chesterford Scouts would like to extend a warm welcome to all pupils, parents and families to join the parade in Great Chesterford for Remembrance Sunday. Please arrive at Horse River Green by 10.40am at the latest to start the parade at 10.45am. We will parade to the war memorial at All Saints' Church to take part in the silence outside and then carry on into the Church for the service and activities for the children which are expected to finish by about 12 noon.

Homework Club

Homework Club is now running every Tuesday lunchtime. This club runs as a drop in session and regular attendance is not required. Children of all ages are most welcome to come and complete homework; have help with specific tasks or simply to chat about any aspect of homework that they would like support or guidance with.

School Library

Our school library is up and running - thanks to our keen and able Year 6 librarians. We must give special thanks to Mr and Mrs Witney for setting most of the books up onto our new library loan system during the half term break so that pupils can now start taking books home. Pupils may borrow one book at a time and the loan will be for two weeks. We really want the children to enjoy our new selection of fiction and non-

fiction but please can we ask that good care is taken of our books for the benefit of all. If anyone is able to volunteer some time to help put further books onto the system, please contact Mrs Witney via the school office - thank you.

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.

Midday Assistants

We still 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. Even if you are only interested in working one lunchtime per week, please contact the school office for further information.

Archbishop of York Young Leaders Scheme

Following the successful Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) at Great Chesterford Primary Academy earlier in the year, we have been looking at ways that we might continue to develop children's 'Courageous Advocacy,' which is an understanding of how they can be a positive influence for change in their own communities.

We have identified The Archbishop of York's Young Leaders scheme as a possible route to support this. This would run as an after-school club for KS2 pupils in Years 3-6. The aim of the scheme is for children to develop their leadership skills and to recognise the benefits of helping others achieved through topics that would include: Personal challenges to complete at home; school challenges that are completed in a group and the course would culminate in a 'Community Action Project' where a need in our locality would be identified and addressed collaboratively.

It is important to highlight that given the scheme's link with the Church of England, there is an inherent Christian element throughout and the activities involve links with the Bible and Christian texts.

There would be a £10 charge per child for the year, which would cover the cost of resources including a scrapbook for children to record their work and a certificate that would be presented on completion of the course.

At this stage, we would be interested to hear from parents if they think this is something their child would enjoy and if so, it would also be beneficial to have feedback regarding which afternoon would be most convenient to run the club. If there is interest, we would look to start 'Young Leaders' early in 2020.

Please contact Mrs Starbuck via the Admin e-mail at school to register an interest or for further information.

Details about the award are also available here: <https://www.archbishopofyorkyouthtrust.co.uk/young-leaders-award>.

Mrs Sarah Mitchell
Headteacher

Dates for your diary

Date	Event
11th-15th November	STEM Theme Week
12th November	Individual school photographs
13th November	Year 6 Dodgeball tournament
14th November	Year 5 Archery event
14th November	Year 4 Bikeability
15th November	Friends' Film Night - Toy Story 4

Date	Event
22nd November	Friends' Winter Party
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 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