

# GREAT CHESTERFORD C. OF E. PRIMARY ACADEMY

## NEWSLETTER WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 1st 2019

Dear Parents,

### World Religion Week

The children have enjoyed and participated in a wide range of activities both in and out of lessons to support their knowledge and awareness of RE. **Thank you to the many volunteers and special visitors who have given their time to facilitate these activities. Special thanks must go to Mrs Starbuck for coordinating this RE Theme Week.**



### Highlights of our RE Week:

Along with other schools in the area, Year 6 attended the Holocaust Memorial Service on Monday. This was an opportunity for further reflection on the experiences of George Szirtes who had visited the class last week. His moving story includes being the son of a Holocaust survivor who then, as an eight year old boy, had to flee Hungary as his family were once again subjected to persecution for their faith. There was an opportunity for the children to ask further questions and join in some prayers and singing with other local schools to remember all those who have suffered in this way. The children's behaviour was exemplary and we were very grateful to Mrs Balchin, Mrs Cullen, Mrs Trigg and Mrs Fernall for helping with transport.

Year 3 and Year 6 spent time reflecting in our special Prayer Space on Tuesday. Mrs Campbell converted the library into a tranquil, inspiring place where the children could spend time focusing on thoughts and prayers. Feedback from the children is really positive about the opportunity to take time-out for their thoughts and prayers. Thank you to Mrs Campbell for the time and considerable enthusiasm that she spends creating such a calming environment.

Year 6 took on the role of museum guides on Wednesday when they showed the other children in school religious artefacts from the six main world religions. This was an opportunity for everyone to find out how objects hold special meaning and are used in different faiths while also comparing their similarities and differences. Reception Class particularly enjoyed visiting the Year 6 pop-up museum, exploring the different resources and listening to their buddies talk about the different artefacts.

Reception class welcomed students from SWCHS who talked about Ramadan and Eid al fitr. They shared their personal experience of being a Muslim and Reception class asked lots of questions. The children then designed their own Mehndi patterns.

Reverend John Goddard led our collective worship on Thursday and told us the story of John the Baptist. The children joined in with an upbeat song typical of those used in a Baptist Service and asked some thoughtful questions. He then spent time in Year 4 to talk about how Baptism differs to that of other Anglican faiths and spent time in Year 1 talking about prayer.

Reverend Alex has provided lots of support this week to a wide range of activities. Year 4 benefitted from his knowledge and guidance on their topic of parables. Year 5 were able to explore Jesus' miracles with a focus on what they tell us about Jesus and why they are important to Christians today. This afternoon, Reverend Alex hosted Class 2 at All Saints' Church where he demonstrated a baptism service which all of the children found really interesting and engaging. Reverend Tim has also worked in school this week with Class 3 with one of our Big Questions to help them prepare for their forthcoming class-led collective worship.

Thank you to Mrs Frost and Mrs Van Weede who supported our theme week with the following tasty treats: biryani, Mandel bread, samosas and hot cross buns.

### **Congratulations to Mrs Lincoln!**

We are delighted to announce the arrival of India Betty, Mrs Lincoln's new baby daughter. Our congratulations and best wishes are sent to Mr and Mrs Lincoln and big sister Gabriella. We are looking forward to meeting India very soon.

### **Year 2 Sportshall Athletics**

The children tested their jumping, dribbling, running, and team building skills on Wednesday afternoon at an indoor athletics festival. Class 2 had great fun and their behaviour was excellent, they were a credit to the school.

### **Class 1 Trip - rescheduled**

Due to high levels of illness in Class One, we have taken the decision to rearrange our class trip to Danbury Country Park. The trip will now take place on Wednesday 13th February. We will assume that all lunch arrangements remain the same unless you inform us of any changes. By delaying the trip I hope that the whole class will be able to participate.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support, Mrs White.

### **Open Afternoon - The Arts**

On Tuesday 5th February, we will be holding an Open Afternoon for any family members who would like to visit our school and have a tour during a typical day. Tours will take place at 1.30pm and 2.15pm - please contact the school office if you would like to book a place at either of these times.

### **Scarlet Fever**

Please be aware that we have had a reported case of scarlet fever in Key Stage 2. The first signs of scarlet fever can be flu-like symptoms, including a high temperature, swollen glands and sore throat. A rash usually appears a few days later. Please contact your GP if you have any concerns regarding your own child.

### **Parent Consultations**

Thank you to all parents who attended this week's parent consultation evenings. We encourage and appreciate parents' involvement in our pupils' education and the high percentage of attendance across all year groups demonstrates this partnership in action.

### **Attendance**

At Great Chesterford, we want all children to have the best possible attendance at school to enable each and every child to reach their full potential. There is a strong link between good school attendance and achieving good results for children.

Parental support is critical in ensuring that children achieve in education, and support and guidance is always available from our school. We know that we need to work together with parents/carers to support our children to attend school and to be successful. For children whose attendance gives cause for concern this will have been raised at our recent parents consultations. If any individual's attendance continues to give cause for concern, this will be followed up in line with school policy and DfE guidelines.

### Winter Clothing

If we have further 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. 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 - thank you.

**Mrs Sarah Mitchell**  
**Headteacher**

### Dates for your diary

Date	Event
5th February	Open Afternoon - The Arts
13th February	Class 1 Trip to Danbury Park
14th February	Class 2 Trip to Pizza Express and Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge
<b>18th-22nd February</b>	<b>Half Term</b>
4th - 8th March	Book Week - When I Grow Up
12th March	KS2 Eucharist Service at 10:15am
19th March	Class 5 Egyptian Day
21st March	Open Afternoon - focus on sports
28th March	Class 6 Trip to The Botanic Gardens, Cambridge
29th March	Class 3 African Drumming Workshop
<b>5th April</b>	<b>Easter Service at All Saints' Church</b> <b>Last day of term</b>
<b>23rd April</b>	<b>Non pupil day</b>
<b>24th April</b>	<b>Pupils return to school</b>