

GREAT CHESTERFORD C. OF E. PRIMARY ACADEMY



September 5th, 2019

Dear Parents,

Headteacher Autumn Term Newsletter

It is with great pleasure that I welcome both existing and new families to our school community as we start this academic year. I hope that you have all enjoyed a lovely family break and are feeling refreshed for the new year ahead.

In addition to maintenance and decoration works in school, the nature area has also been further developed over the summer; we look forward to using this lovely resource this term. The new tiered seating will enhance this outdoor learning area for all year groups. Thank you to everyone who has supported this venture.

Thank you so much for the thoughtful cards and kind gifts that I received at the end of last term - they were truly appreciated. The school mission statement of 'Together we are great' epitomises the strong partnerships that we try to encourage between all of our stakeholders; I am always pleased to receive suggestions or feedback from any parent. If you need to meet with me in person, appointments can be made via the school office and I will also be present on the playground at the end of the school day whenever possible.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to a new member of support staff, Mrs Katie Boyce – who will be supporting pupils in Year 5. We still have MDA vacancies and if anyone is interested in this position or knows of a local resident or au pair who may be, please contact the school office for further information.

I would now like to draw people's attention to key events and school communication systems. This list is not exhaustive and the school website provides a more comprehensive overview of school procedures and practice. Our office staff: Mrs Alisa Cole, Mrs Angela Oakman and Mrs Alice Balchin are also available to provide further information and administrative support. If you have any concerns or questions with regards to your child's education, please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance.

Access to the school

Children should enter school from their respective playgrounds from 8.45am when a member of staff will be on duty in each playground to facilitate their entry. During the school day, 9.00am to 3.15pm, the school will only be accessible to parents and visitors via the main entrance which is located directly off School Street via the staff car park.

After school arrangements

Please ensure that your child's class teacher is kept updated of after school arrangements whether this is travelling by the bus, attending after school provision or if they are being collected by a different person.

School newsletter

On most weeks, I will produce a school newsletter each Friday to update our school community of events, school visits, exciting news and general reminders. Please ensure that this is referred to each week as I try to include all school information in this publication to minimise the number of letters that you need to read.

Meet the teacher meetings

These meetings have been scheduled to support parents and will provide an overview of class specific routines and expectations. These meetings are for parents only; current school children can be left with myself in the school hall if child care is required. The meetings will take place on Tuesday September 10th as follows:

| Class | Time |
|-------|--------|
| 1 | 3:30pm |
| 3 | 4:00pm |
| 4 | 4:30pm |
| 5 | 5:00pm |
| 6 | 5:30pm |

The meeting for Class 2 will take place on Wednesday September 18th at 3:30pm.

Collective Worship

On Friday mornings, parents are invited to join us for our whole school worship. Each class leads collective worship once per term and in addition we celebrate birthdays and achievements. We encourage children to bring in certificates and awards so that we can recognise and celebrate their achievements outside of school. These take place at 9.10am. **The dates for each year group's class worship will be shared on each termly class newsletter.**

Break time snacks

Please can I remind all parents that snacks at break time should be fruit or vegetable. Popular items are: raisins, bananas and carrot. Some children bring these in chopped or whole and either is fine. Key Stage One are provided with a snack each day but some children prefer to bring in their own. **Please can I remind parents that we are a nut free school and items such as seeds, pine nuts, sesame and houmous should not be brought into school for break or in packed lunch boxes.**

Open morning / afternoons

During this academic year, we will be holding six open mornings / afternoons for parents and members of the community to gain an insight into school life on a regular day. We have set them at different times and on different days of the week to maximise the opportunities for attendance for those parents with work commitments.

Reporting to parents

Individual parent consultations will take place in the Autumn and Spring terms for parents to meet with their child's class teacher(s) to discuss pastoral and academic progress. Dates of these will be on the school calendar. In the summer term, you will also receive a written report for your child covering pastoral and academic progress for the whole curriculum. Reports will be available for collection at the summer term open afternoon where parents will be invited into school to look at their child's work.

Music

Music is a key aspect of school life at Great Chesterford and in addition to the music clubs listed on the timetable, instrumental tuition is also available, namely: strings, woodwind, brass and piano. Please contact the school office if you would like further details.

Illness and Medicines

Please can we remind parents that if your child has been ill with a sickness and or diarrhoea virus, they need to stay at home for 48 hours after the final episode to prevent any further spread of the infection. Should children require medicines to be administered at school, you must complete the:

'Administration of medicines consent form' - copies are available in the school office or it can be downloaded from the school website. Please ensure that emergency medication such as asthma inhalers and Epipens are in date and that we are provided with clear written instructions for their use.

Parking

If you transport your child to school by car, please be considerate to our local residents when parking. Unfortunately, we have had a number of occasions where public buses were unable to access roads due to problematic parking and neighbouring properties had their driveways blocked. Many children do walk to school and it is essential that parked cars do not provide additional hazards – particularly near junctions. Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

School Lunches

If your child has school dinners, please refer to the school website for menu details.

Clubs

We place great importance on the extra-curricular opportunities available to the children and offer a variety clubs at lunchtime and after school. The autumn term club timetable and relevant details are posted on the school website.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all adults involved in helping the school offer such a varied selection of opportunities for the children. Teachers and many of the volunteers do not get paid for leading these activities and we are fortunate that they are prepared to give up their time to prepare, support and lead clubs. We do have parents involved and if anyone is interested in running or supporting either a lunchtime or after school club, please contact the school.

Volunteer Invitation

All of our volunteers are warmly invited to join us for a 'Thank you Coffee Morning' for all the help and support provided at our school during the 2018-2019 academic year.

Please join us for an assembly at 9.15am on Friday the 20th September followed by refreshments as a token of our appreciation. So if you have: transported, read, knitted, run, chaperoned, conducted, tuned, baked, listened, served, painted, dug, decorated, planted, washed up or provided us with help in any way, please do join us. Please RSVP at: admin@greatchesterford.essex.sch.uk

Library Opening

You are warmly invited to attend the opening of our new school library on Friday September 13th at 9:30am in the Junior playground. Thanks to Mrs Witney, The Friends, the Readathon contributions and generous sponsorship, our new library is now fully furnished and stocked with a superb range of new fiction. If you have sponsored a book, you will be invited to place your book plate in a book of your choice from our new library stock, and stay for refreshments, immediately after the opening. If you plan to attend, please rsvp to admin@greatchesterford.essex.sch.uk

Calendar 2019 - 2020

The calendar attached includes all known dates for the forthcoming academic year. It has also been posted on the school website. Please refer to the calendar on the school website and weekly Headteacher newsletter's during the year for any additional information.

Thank you for your continued support.
Yours sincerely,

Mrs Sarah Mitchell
Headteacher



**GREAT CHESTERFORD C. OF E. PRIMARY ACADEMY
CALENDAR
2019-2020**

| Date | Event |
|---|---|
| 10 th September | Meet the teacher meetings for Classes 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 |
| 13 th September | Library Opening 9:30am |
| 16 th -20 th September | PSHEE Theme Week |
| 18 th September | Meet the teacher meeting for Class 2 |
| 20 th September | Volunteers Thank You Assembly 9:15am |
| 23 rd September | Reception Parent Meeting 7:00pm |
| 24 th September | Open Morning - Welcome to our school |
| 27 th September | Harvest Festival Service at All Saints' Church 9:30am Macmillan Coffee Morning at school |
| 3 rd October | Year 3 Trip to Weald Park |
| 8 th October | KS2 Eucharist Service |
| 15 th October | Parents' Consultation 3:45-6:15pm |
| 16 th October | Parents' Consultation 5:30-8:00pm |
| 17 th October | Year 4 Trip to Audley End |
| 28 th October – 1 st November | Half term |
| 5 th November | Year 2 Trip to Gunpowder Mills |
| 7 th November | Open Morning – Focus Reception Class 2019 |
| 7 th November | Year 5 Trip to West Stow |
| 8 th November | Year 6 Trip to Bletchley Park |
| 11 th - 15 th November | STEM Theme Week |
| 12 th November | School photographs (Individual and family groups) |
| 25 th November | Open morning – focusing on our values |
| 7 th December | Spirit of Christmas for Years 5 and 6 |
| 10 th December | Christmas Plays for KS1 and Lower KS2 - afternoon performance |
| 11 th December | Christmas Plays for KS1 and Lower KS2 - afternoon and evening performances |

| Date | Event |
|---|---|
| 17 th December | Christmas Lunch Christmas parties |
| 19 th December | Christmas Church Service 9:30am Last day of term |
| 6 th January | Non- Pupil Day |
| 7 th January | Pupils return to school |
| 27 th January – 1 st February | Global Community Theme Week |
| 28 th January | Parents' Consultation 3:45-6:15pm |
| 29 th January | Parents' Consultation 5:30-8:00pm |
| 4 th February | Open Afternoon – The Arts |
| 4 th February | KS2 Eucharist Service |
| 17 th -21 st February | Half term |
| 2 nd -6 th March | Book Week |
| 19 th March | Open Afternoon |
| 3 rd April | Easter Service at All Saints' Church 9:30am Last day of term |
| 20 th April | Pupils return to school |
| 11 th - 15 th May | Year 6 SATs Week |
| 18 th May | Open Afternoon |
| 19 th May | KS2 Eucharist Service |
| 25 th May - 1 st June | Half term |
| 2 nd June | NPD |
| 16 th June | Music Evening 6:30pm |
| 15 th -19 th June | MADD Theme Week |
| 30 th June | Sports Day |
| 2 nd July | Reserve Sports Day |
| 3 rd July | Transition Afternoon tbc |
| 6 th July | Transition Afternoon tbc |
| 8 th July | Years 5 and 6 Summer Play |
| 9 th July | Years 5 and 6 Summer Play |
| 12 th – 15 th July | Year 6 Residential |
| 17 th July | Year 6 memories assembly 1:30pm |

| Date | Event |
|-----------------------|--|
| 17 th July | Open Afternoon – current parents only (looking at pupil’s work and collecting reports) 2:15-3:15pm for Rec to Year 6 |
| 22 nd July | Leavers’ Service at All Saints’ Church 9:30am |
| 22 nd July | Year 6 Entertainment 1:45pm Last day of term |
| 23 rd July | Non- Pupil Day |