

GREAT CHESTERFORD C. OF E. PRIMARY ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER WEEK ENDING APRIL 5th 2019

Dear Parents, Easter Service

Thank you to the children and staff for leading such a thoughtful service this morning. I am sure that the whole congregation enjoyed each of our performances. In our busy lives, it is important to stop and reflect upon the key messages of Easter.

Bunny Hunt

Thank you to all those families who came along on Saturday to the Easter Bunny Hunt. It was a real success with many families taking part in the hunt around the village and then back to the school for tea and cake, water balloon throwing, face painting, ice creams and other fun games. Thank you to everyone who helped set up on the day, baked cakes, donated raffle prizes, ran the stalls and cleared up afterwards - an event like this cannot happen without lots of people willing to help. Thank you to the Saffron Walden Farm Club who were a popular attraction.

We are also grateful to the following companies who supported the event with raffle prizes: Hart's Books, Game On, Cook, Abracadabra Teddies, Toy Box, Saffron Screen, Crown and Thistle, The Plough, Waitrose, Audley End Miniature Railway, Mud & Water, Neil O'Sullivan, Cambridge Cuisine, Vinyl, and local hairdresser Keri. Not forgetting Mrs Davies, Mrs Sargeant and Mrs Witney for giving up their Saturday to help. We raised £1600 which will go towards the new library furniture. Happy Easter everyone!

Thank you from the children and staff to our fantastic Friends who provide a range of events for the whole school community in addition to raising funds that will benefit all pupils in the school. Well done to our pupils who ran stalls at the Bunny Hunt; they demonstrated a super level of responsibility and carried out their role with great enthusiasm. Not forgetting, their supportive parents.

Volunteer appeal: our next venture, is our 'Nature for Nurture' area and we are appealing for volunteers to support this development on Saturday 27th April - please refer to the attached flyer.

End of Season Football

The school football season has officially ended and we would like to take this opportunity to thank all the children for their enthusiasm and teamwork throughout the season. Yesterday, we celebrated the end of the season with a fun session of games and mini matches; everyone played well and had lots of fun. Thank you to Mr Duers for refereeing the matches and for the parents who supported the event by: cheering, providing snacks and carrying tables and benches. A special thank you to Mrs White for organising fixtures, coordinating kits and promoting football in school.



Together in Sound Project

Today, Class 5 enjoyed a trip to Saffron Hall where they performed two songs as part of the Dementia Together in Sound Project. In addition to their singing contributions, the children were also involved in improvisation activities with musicians and members of the wider community who are coping with dementia as part of their daily lives. At the end of the musical activities, the children shared lunch with the guests. The feedback from this event has been overwhelmingly positive with Class 5 pupils touching the hearts of many with their compassion, care and lovely manners. The compliments we have received regarding Year 5's contributions, behaviour and care towards adults suffering from dementia at Saffron Hall today has been overwhelming. They proved to be outstanding ambassadors for both the school and their families and we are very proud of them! Thank you to Mrs Middleton for supporting the school with our musical opportunities.

Mrs Sadler

Mrs Jo Sadler, kitchen assistant, is leaving our catering team today. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her hard work and commitment during her time at Great Chesterford Primary Academy in our very busy school kitchen and also for her cookery contributions in classes which the children have always really enjoyed. Thank you Mrs Sadler and please stay in touch.

Year 2 Trip to Saffron Hall

On Wednesday afternoon, Year 2 went to Saffron Hall to take part in a Britten Sinfonia performance of Alice Through the Looking Glass. They learnt a song to sing at the end and participated in the story by responding to the various instruments. The class really enjoyed the story and also took their own interpretations of the Jabberwock to share with the orchestra.

Email Communication

Please note that school emails are only checked between the working hours of 8.30am and 4.30pm. Any parental enquiries sent in the evenings or weekends will not be dealt with until the next working day.

Key Stage Two Homework

Following consultation with all stakeholders, our homework policies and procedures were reviewed. In light of this, the amount of written homework tasks was reduced to allow children in Key Stage Two to have the time to read to an adult every week. The pupil planners were also introduced, in part, to allow this homework to be recorded. Regular reading to an adult is one of the most beneficial activities a child can do to facilitate their progress across the curriculum. For children persistently not completing or recording their reading at home, alternative homework will be set - thank you for your support.

Summer Term

In the hope that we are blessed with glorious sunshine on our return to school for the summer term, please can I remind parents of our hot weather requirements. Please ensure that your child has a named water bottle in school everyday. On sunny days, children will be expected to wear a sun hat; sunscreen should be applied before children come to school - there is a wide selection of long-lasting sun protection on the market. Children should always wear socks to school. Please inform the school if your child suffers from hay fever and complete the administration of medicine forms if required - thank you.

Value Points

At the end of the day, we will be totalling all the Value Points to see which Friendship Group will be rewarded on the first day of next term.

Birthdays and Certificates

Our next Friday celebration worship at which we share birthdays and certificates will take place on Friday 26th April. Birthdays from March 30th will be celebrated on the 26th April.

Thank you to the children and staff for all of their hard work this term - it has been a very busy and successful term. Thank you also to our governors, Friends, local clergy, volunteers and families who all play an important role in working with us to provide the best possible education we can for the children in our care.

May I take this opportunity to wish the children, parents and staff a lovely, peaceful Easter break - I hope that you all enjoy spending time with your friends and families.

**Mrs Sarah Mitchell
Headteacher**

Dates for your diary

Date	Event
23rd April	Non pupil day
24th April	Pupils return to school
13th-17th May	Year 6 SATs Week
20th May	Open Afternoon
21st May	KS2 Eucharist Service 10:15am
27th-31st May	Half term
4th June	Music Evening 6.30pm
10th -14th June	Community Past and Present Theme Week
20th June	E-Safety Day
20th June	E-Safety Parent Workshop 7.00pm
25th June	KS2 Eucharist Service 10:15am
2nd July	Sports Day
4th July	Reserve Sports Day
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
19th July	Open Afternoon and report collection for all year groups 2.15-3.15pm
23rd July	KS2 Eucharist Service 10:15am
24th July	Leavers' Service at All Saints' Church 9.30am
24th July	Year 6 Entertainment 1:45pm
24th July	Last day of term
25th July	Non-pupil day