

Great Chesterford C.of E. Primary Academy

Class 6 Newsletter
Spring Term 2020

Dear Children and Parents

Welcome back and a happy new year to you all! Firstly, I would like to thank all the children for their hard work and enthusiasm last term – a great way to start Year 6.

This term our class topic is entitled '**O Grão De Cacau**'. Through our topic, we will be looking at a range of work, including rainforests, biomes and the Aztecs. If parents can help in any way by providing information or resources, I would be pleased to hear from you.

Children in Class 6 are expected to come in from 8:45am to complete any morning jobs and to prepare for the school day. However, they should not be on the school premises before this time. Developing good habits of punctuality and attendance have been proven to result in better attainment so this is particularly important during this academic year.

Mrs McCullough will continue to teach the class every Thursday and Mrs Chambers will continue to teach French on a Tuesday afternoon. Booster lessons in English and Maths will continue with me on Thursday mornings. Until half term, Miss Alexander and Mrs Hodson, from the Faculty of Education in Cambridge, will continue their work with us in Class 6.

P.E/Games

P.E. will usually take place on **Tuesday** mornings and **Friday** afternoons. This is a change from last term. Children should have in school both indoor and outdoor PE kits. For indoor use, a white T. shirt, navy shorts/skort and plimsolls will be needed, which they should keep in their boxes in a named P.E bag. As we shall be continuing to go outside for games lessons through the winter, children should also have available trainers and a navy school tracksuit or skins. It is also important for them to have a spare pair of socks so that they can change as the field can be quite wet and muddy at this time of year, even if it is not raining. The focus of our games' lessons will initially be hockey and football therefore, children may bring studded boots. Please also provide a plastic or boot bag so that boots or trainers can be kept separate from the children's P.E. kit. To participate fully in hockey lessons, the children will also need a gum-shield and shin pads this term. Please ensure all items of clothing are clearly labelled.

Homework

Children in Class 6 are expected to do approximately 30 minutes of homework per night. Reading is an important part of homework and children in this class should normally spend at least 15 minutes reading each day. We are encouraging the children to read one book, at home and school, and to bring this text into school every day. This facilitates progress through a book and enables them to complete their 'Reading Missions.' Daily reading should be recorded in their homework planner.

Homework will usually be set as timetabled below:

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
English	French	Maths	Science	

In addition to the homework set, children might like to spend time each week revising. This may involve using the revision guides or appropriate websites, such as the BBC 'Revisewise'; website. Mental maths skills (such as knowing tables and using mental strategies for addition and subtraction) and spellings could be focused on during car journeys or walks. The school website includes details on the Year 6 page 'How to Help Your Child at Home' which details the spellings that will be a focus. A little regular revision will be more beneficial than a panic in May!

Homework Diaries need to be signed weekly by parents. They should be used to record the amount of time spent on homework and reading each day. Children are responsible for writing down their homework and ensuring that they understand what they need to do before they leave school. They also need to make sure they have the correct books and equipment in school each day. A timetable has been provided for them. Parents are invited to comment in these books on their child's progress in any aspect of homework, including reading. Please note that homework will be looked at on a regular basis but may not always be marked in the same way. It will sometimes be more appropriate to check children's understanding through discussion or use work started at home as a basis for continued work in the classroom.

Dates for your diary

The class Collective Worship will be on **Friday 27th March** - everyone is welcome to attend. We hope to be involved in the Holocaust Memorial Service at St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden on **Monday 27th January**, the details of which will follow shortly. Also, we have an opportunity to attend 'Evelyn and the Yellow Birds' at Saffron Hall on **Wednesday 12th February** and have planned a trip to Cambridge Botanic Gardens on **Thursday 19th March**.

I also ask that you note the date of SATs week for next term. The statutory tests will be sat in week commencing **11th May**. It would therefore be beneficial when booking advance appointments such as dentist /orthodontist etc. if this week could be avoided. Thank you for your cooperation.

I am looking forward to another busy and enjoyable term ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Starbuck