

**Great Chesterford C of E Primary Academy**  
**Reception Class Newsletter - Autumn Term 2018**

Dear Children and Parents,

Firstly, I would like to thank you so much for welcoming Mrs Mitchell and I into your homes at the end of the summer term. It was lovely to meet you all and we hope that we were able to answer some of your questions about starting school.

At the beginning of each term, I will send out a topic web with examples of the type of activities that we may do in class. Our topic for this term will be **'Superheroes'**. This is a wide ranging topic which will include thinking about ourselves, learning about our bodies and also real-life superheroes, for example, the police, the fire service and doctors. If you have resources that you think might enhance our learning or if there is any information that you would like me to be aware of, please do contact me. We will also spend a lot of time during the first few weeks settling into school, building friendships and familiarising ourselves with new routines.

### **Staffing**

I will be teaching the children every day except Thursday mornings when Mrs Cole will be teaching the class. We are also very fortunate to have Mrs Green and Mrs Gascoyne as our Teaching Assistants. Mrs Green will be in class all day on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday and also Tuesday and Friday mornings. Mrs Gascoyne will be in class on Tuesday and Friday afternoons.

### **Communication**

Please do come and speak to a member of the Reception team if you have any questions and we will do our best to answer them. We are always happy to speak to you at the end of the school day, we would, however, ask that you wait until we have seen all the children safely to their parents/carers.

If your child is going home with someone else or is not going home on the school bus, please could you send a note into school. If this is a regular arrangement, then one note confirming this will be sufficient. It would be really helpful if you could remind your child to give the note to me too!

### **P.E.**

P.E. will usually take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Children should have a school white PE t-shirt, navy shorts and plimsolls which should be kept in school in a named P.E. bag. Please make sure that all uniform, including shoes, are clearly named. If your child wears tights, you may also wish to include a pair of socks. The PE kit will be sent home at half term for washing. Children are unable to wear earrings during PE and these must be removed on PE days.

### **Outdoor Activities**

We use the outdoor area throughout the year, whatever the weather! Therefore, when the weather is wet or forecast to be wet, please send your child to school with a named waterproof coat. If the weather looks to be extremely wet or snowy the children will also need Wellington boots, as well as their school shoes. On hot days, please ensure that your child has a sun hat and that you apply a long-lasting sun-lotion before school.

### **Drinks**

During the day we encourage the children to drink water to keep themselves hydrated. Please could you send your child into school each day with a **named** drinks bottle. We ask that only water is in the bottle, however, if your child is having a packed lunch they may bring an alternative drink to have with it.

### **Parent Information Evening – Reading**

A parent's information session on phonics and how we teach reading will take place on **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September at 7:30pm**. We will not be sending reading books or letter/word tickets home until after the meeting

### **Reading**

Children are expected to spend approximately 10 minutes each night learning their letter sounds or sight words and reading. Once children progress to reading books, they should bring home their reading record book each day. Please could you record the title of the reading book once the book has been read and comment on your child's progress. Reading books are normally changed on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Please note the reading record book should not be used for other messages, as it is not checked daily.

### **Optional Challenges**

Homework tasks are not formally set in Reception Class. The emphasis at this stage should be on enjoying an activity together which gives the children an opportunity to practise and consolidate what they are learning in school. Attached are some suggested activities covering a range of skills the children need to develop. Additionally, I will include an optional challenge in future newsletters which you may wish to complete with your child.

**Assembly**

Parents are welcome to join our whole school Friday assembly where we celebrate birthdays and achievements. If your child has a certificate that they would like to celebrate then please send it in and we will pass it on to the office. We will also be leading the assembly on **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November** and it would be lovely if you could join us.

**Harvest Festival**

On Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September, we will be walking to the church and taking part in our harvest festival. The children will be singing a song with Year 1 and Year 2 and you are welcome to attend the harvest service should you wish. More details will follow.

**Luna at the Saffron Hall**

Reception Class will be attending a performance of Luna by Theatre Hullabaloo at the Saffron Hall on the 14<sup>th</sup> November and I will send out further details nearer the time.

**Junk Modelling**

We love model making in Reception and always gratefully receive any materials that you may have to spare. Boxes, plastic bottles that might usually go straight into your recycling bin can be turned into fantastic models! Please note, however, we cannot accept anything where the original contents may be harmful to children or that may have contained nuts or sesame due to allergies within school. Please could you also ensure plastic bottles have been rinsed.

I look forward to working with you and your child during this busy but enjoyable term. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss any aspect of this newsletter.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Amanda Davies