

GREAT CHESTERFORD C. OF E. PRIMARY ACADEMY



September 3rd , 2021

Dear Parents,

Autumn Term Newsletter 2021

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

Thank you so much for the thoughtful cards and kind gifts that we and all the staff 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; we are always pleased to receive suggestions or feedback from any parent. If you need to meet with either of us in person, appointments can be made via the school office.

Procedures for the new term were shared with all parents last week. The purpose of the guide is to outline the measures that school leaders and staff will be taking to support your child's health and well-being upon their return to school this academic year. The Governors and Leadership Team have carried out a detailed risk assessment and followed the DfE guidance in planning our provision.

Governors play a key role in supporting the leadership of the school, and as volunteers, we are grateful for the time, commitments and many skills they bring to Great Chesterford. Two of our long-standing governors, Mr Nick Rowe and Mrs Jan Menell stepped down from the board last year and on behalf of the whole school community, we would like to thank them for all that they have contributed to our village school with many years of valuable support. Full details of the Governing Body can be found on the school website. We extend a warm welcome to two new governors: Mrs Joanna Hancock and Mr Joe Edwards, who recently joined the board.

We would also like to extend a warm welcome to several new members of staff who will be joining us this year. Mrs Laura Stevens will be joining the admin team; Miss Libby Walker and Mrs Gemma Robson will both be joining the learning support staff team and will be supporting pupils in Years 5 and 4 respectively. We hope that they all enjoy working in our friendly and supportive school and wider community.

We 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 Angela Oakman and Mrs Laura Stevens 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

At the start and end of the day, we encourage only one parent/ carer to accompany their child/ children to school. To reduce overcrowding, **pupils have been allocated specific drop-off and collection points.** Please check the September 2021 Parent Guide for further detail.

After school arrangements

Please ensure that your child's class teacher is kept updated regarding after school arrangements whether this is travelling by the bus, attending after school provision or if they are being collected by a different person. Please may we also remind parents to leave the playground promptly once they have collected their child and that the play equipment in the playground should not be used by any child, including pre-school children, at drop-off or collection times.

School newsletter

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

Meet the teacher information presentations

These presentations have been scheduled to support parents and will provide an overview of class specific routines and expectations. These virtual presentations are for parents and will be available from Friday 10th September.

Collective Worship

The whole school will still unite in collective worship both virtually and in-person. We will be holding whole school outdoor collective worship and indoor key stage collective worship. Class collective worship will still take place and we are delighted to be able to invite parents into school to share these assemblies this term. Parents of the relevant class will have the choice of joining the assembly in the school hall to watch their collective worship or joining virtually via Zoom. **The dates for each year group's class worship will be shared on each class' termly newsletter.**

Break time snacks

Children are encouraged to have a snack at break time. Snacks at break time can be fruit, vegetable, savoury cracker biscuits or cheese. Popular items are: raisins, bananas and carrots. Some children bring these in chopped or whole and either is fine. To limit adult handling of children's snacks, it would be helpful if fruit is ready peeled where children cannot do this independently. Key Stage One are provided with a snack each day but some children prefer to bring in their own. Please chop items such as grapes and olives to reduce potential choking hazards for younger pupils. **Please can I remind parents that we are a nut and sesame free school and these food items, including houmous, should not be brought into school for break or in packed lunch boxes.**

School lunches

If your child has school dinners, please refer to the school website for menu details. This term all children will be eating lunch in the school hall in two sittings.

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. These meetings will take place virtually and the dates are included 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-school music tuition takes place for strings, woodwind, brass and piano. These lessons are for pupils in Year 2 and above.

Illness and medicines

Children should not attend school if they are ill or displaying Covid-19 symptoms. Any child with Covid-19 symptoms should also have a PCR test and inform school of the result. Please can we also 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 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 using the form previously mentioned.

Parent Roadshow for On-line Safety

On Tuesday 21st September, 'The Two Johns' will be working with our whole school community: children, staff and parents. John and John, from EST, are ex-policemen, who now specialise in educating children and

families on how to keep themselves safe in the modern world. They have extensive, up-to-date knowledge and experience of delivering both pupil and parent workshops.

As our children grow up, we all have a role in safeguarding them against the potential risks they might encounter and educating them in how to keep themselves safe on-line. In order to achieve this, the school has chosen to invest in this valuable resource to support all year groups, staff and parents at our school. I hope that many of you will be able to attend the virtual Parents' Roadshow which aims to support you in helping to keep your child safe on-line. We are sure that you have seen in the press, that on-line safeguarding continues to be an area of great concern for children as young as 5 and 6 years old. The presentation identifies the potential but very real dangers and threats facing children using common apps.

The virtual parents' roadshow will take place from 8-9:30pm on Tuesday 21st June – please save the date. Joining details will be sent out nearer the date.

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.

Clubs

We place great importance on the extra-curricular opportunities available to the children and will provide further details about potential opportunities this term. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all adults who have been 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 a club, please contact the school.

Calendar 2021 - 2022

The calendar attached includes all known dates for the forthcoming academic year. Please refer to the calendar on the school website and weekly Headteacher newsletter's during the year for any additional information. The dates are subject to change as we continue to navigate these unprecedented times but we will endeavor to give you as much notice as possible for any necessary changes.

Thank you for your continued support.
Yours sincerely,



Mrs Sarah Mitchell
Executive Headteacher



Mrs Amy Sargeant
Acting Head of School



GREAT CHESTERFORD C. OF E. PRIMARY ACADEMY CALENDAR 2021-2022

Date	Event
10 th September	Meet the teacher information sessions for Classes 1 to 6
16 th September	Reception Parent Meeting 7:00pm
20 th -24 th September	PSHEE Theme Week
21 st September	2 Johns On-line Safety Workshops Parent Workshop 8:00-9:30pm
24 th September	Harvest Festival Service - virtual
5 th October	School photographs
12 th October	Parents' Consultation 3:45-6:15pm (virtual) For: Reception, Years 1, 2, 3 4, 5 and 6
13 th October	Parents' Consultation 5:00-7:30pm (virtual) For: Reception, Years 1, 2 and 3
14 th October	Parents' Consultation 5:00-7:30pm For: Years 4, 5 and 6
14 th October	Flu immunisations
25 th October – 29 th October	Half term
1 st November	Non-pupil Day
15 th - 19 th November	History and Geography Theme Week
4 th December	Spirit of Christmas 5:30pm (Years 5 and 6)
15 th December	Christmas Lunch Christmas Parties
17 th December	Christmas service 9:30am Last day of term
4 th January	Non- Pupil Day
5 th January	Pupils return to school
10 th January - 14 th January	Fitness Theme Week
25 th January	Parents' Consultation 3:45-6:15pm (virtual) For: Years 1 and 3
26 th January	Parents' Consultation 3:45-6:15pm (virtual) For: Reception, Years 2, 4, 5 and 6 Parents' Consultation 5:00-7:30pm (virtual) For: Years 1 and 3

Date	Event
27 th January	Parents' Consultation 5:00-7:30pm (virtual) For: Reception, Years 2, 4, 5 and 6
14 th -19 th February	Half term
28 th February - 4 th March	Book Week
1 st April	Easter Service 9:30am Last day of term
19 th April	Non-Pupil Day
20 th April	Pupils return to school
9 th - 13 th May	Year 6 SATs Week
30 th May – 3 rd June	Half term
6 th June	Non-Pupil Day
13 th – 17 th June	STEM Theme Week
21 st June	Music Event
28 th June	Sports Day
30 th June	Reserve Sports Day
15 th July	Open Afternoon – current parents only (looking at pupil's work and collecting reports) 2:15-3:15pm for Rec to Year 6 tbc
21 st July	End of Year Service 9:30am
21 st July	Last day of term