

GREAT CHESTERFORD C. OF E. PRIMARY ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 20th 2019

Dear Parents,

Thank You Assembly

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our 'thank you assembly' this morning. It was a pleasure to host this event for all of our wonderful volunteers.

PSHEE Theme Week

PSHEE is a wide ranging subject and our theme week really demonstrated that with classes exploring topics such as healthy teeth, railway safety and smoothie tasting. During the week, we have welcomed so many visitors into our school. Children in Years 2 and 3 welcomed Susie, from Tesco, who talked about healthy eating and had a fruit smoothie tasting session. The smoothies were very popular!

Reception Class and Year 5 also had a visit from Sarah, a member of the Essex County Council Road Safety Team, who spoke to them all about how to keep safe when crossing the road. We were very pleased to welcome so many parent and family members of children in our Reception Class to this talk too.

Year 1 had a visit from Mrs Smith who spoke to the children about looking after their teeth. Years 5 and 6 had a visit from Rebecca of Network Rail who talked about the importance of safety near railway lines and level crossings.

Year 4 and 6 have also been thinking about our local community. Some of our Year 6 popped along to "Clangers" this week and thoroughly enjoyed supporting younger members of our local community at this music group, currently run by the Friends.

In addition, all of our classes have been undertaking other in-class activities to support their learning whether it be about friendships or emotional well-being. Thank you to Mrs Davies, our PSHEE Lead, for coordinating this theme week.

Girls Football Festival

A fantastic afternoon of footballing fun was thoroughly enjoyed by all the girls in Year 6. On Wednesday morning, we joined other local Primary Schools to take part in football workshops led by Joyce Frankland Academy. The session combined football, fitness and fun with the added bonus of sunshine. Thank you to Mrs Brown for accompanying the girls to this event.

European Languages Day, Thursday 26th September

As part of our focused work on European Languages Day, the kitchen are preparing a special lunch for Thursday 26th September. There will be a choice of: Italian meatballs with tomato sauce and linguine or Swedish meatballs with gravy and mashed potato or vegetarian quorn balls. Followed by Belgian waffles with fruit and a chocolate drizzle or fruit and yogurt.

Harvest Festival

We hope that many of our parents and friends will be able to join us for our Harvest Festival on Friday 27th September at All Saints' Church. This year, we will be supporting both Jimmy's Night Shelter and Uttlesford Food Bank with our Harvest offerings - thank you for your continued support. Birthday celebrations will not take place on Friday 27th September because of our church service. Children with birthdays from 21st September to 4th October inclusive will all be celebrated on Friday 4th October in our whole school assembly. Please see the attached letter for further details about Harvest Festival donations.

Biggest Coffee Morning 2018 for MacMillan Cancer Support: Friday 27th September

Once again we are pleased to hold this joint event to raise money for a cause we know is valued by so many of us. This community charity event will be held at our local school, Great Chesterford Primary Academy. The coffee morning will be held in the school hall straight after the school Harvest Festival Service for everyone to enjoy a cuppa, a chat and a lovely cake! It will also be an opportunity to come and visit our fantastic village school. We will have a range of table games as well as a tombola. The Coffee Morning will be held in the School Hall – all visitors should come to the school reception to enter – the event will finish at midday. Please do join us.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP please contact Elfreda Tealby-Watson 530175. Mainly we need offers of cakes, and tombola gifts (big or small or even promises) but if you would like to help set up and serve then please say.

Thank you very much and let's hope we can raise even more cash this year, a tall order as your generosity took our total to £520 including gift aid in 2018! Cake donations can be dropped off at school from 8:45am on Friday 27th September.

Midday Assistants

We currently have vacancies for the role of Midday Assistant. This role provides an opportunity to earn whilst contributing to the life of the school enabling more activities to take place for the children during the lunch break. Please contact the school office for further information or pass on to anyone who may be interested in this school role.

Open Morning

Our first Open Morning of the academic year will take place on Tuesday 24th September. The aim of these sessions is to provide parents with an insight into school life on a typical day. The sessions are optional and parents should not feel obliged to attend or rearrange working commitments. Six sessions will take place during the year and we have timetabled them on different days of the week. Please refer to the calendar for details of future sessions. On Tuesday, parents may attend between 9.30 to 10.30 or 11:00 to 12.00. You will be able to visit your child's classroom and those of other year groups; I will also be available for informal discussions about general school life. The focus of this Open Morning will be 'Welcome to our school'. Please let the school office know if you plan to attend so that we can plan for these tours.

Message from the Friends Committee

It's not just the children and staff that make our school great, we also have a fantastic parental support network. 'The Friends Committee' are a small group of parents who coordinate fundraising and events, helped by parent and staff volunteers from throughout the school. Parental fundraising contributes a significant share towards school trips for every child and important school facilities. During 2019, we have been funding the playground improvements, nature space and library.

The Friends are always looking for new committee members however even if that isn't for you we need to continue to have lots of volunteers at the events we organise. Together we can continue to support the school in upgrading facilities and running the amazing programme of trips and extracurricular activities which make our school Great!

Please follow the Friends on www.facebook.com/groups/FoGCA

Mrs Sarah Mitchell
Headteacher

Dates for your diary

Date	Event
23rd September	Meet the teacher / reading meeting for Reception Class, 7pm
24th September	Open morning - Welcome to our school
27th September	Harvest Festival Service at All Saints' Church, 9.30am Macmillan Coffee Morning
3rd October	Year 3 Trip to Weald Park
8th October	KS2 Eucharist Service - 10:15am
15th October	Parents' Consultation 3:45-6:15pm
16th October	Parents' Consultation 5:30-8:00pm
17th October	Year 4 Trip to Audley End
28th October - 1st November	Half term

Date	Event
5th November	Year 2 Trip to Gunpowder Mills
7th November	Open Morning - focus 'Reception Class 2019'
8th November	Year 6 Trip to Bletchley Park
11th-15th November	STEM Theme Week
12th November	Individual school photographs
25th November	Open morning - focus 'our values'
7th December	Spirit of Christmas for Years 5 and 6
10th December	Christmas Plays for KS1 and Lower KS2 - afternoon performance
11th December	Christmas Plays for KS1 and Lower KS2 - afternoon and evening performances
17th December	Christmas lunch Christmas parties
19th December	Christmas Church Service at All Saints' Church, 9.30am Last day of term
6th January	Non-pupil day
7th January	Pupils return to school