

Great Chesterford C E Primary Academy
Class 1 Newsletter
Autumn Term 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to Class One, I am delighted to be teaching your children this year and I look forward to building relationships with them. I appreciate that you and your children may be experiencing a range of emotions regarding the return to school. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any support for you or your child during the transition to Year One. As you will no doubt be aware, we have had to make some changes to the organisation of the school day and the layout of the classroom. Please be assured that despite these changes children will have access to a wide range of engaging activities and there will still be opportunities for group work, learning through play and child led activities. Our topic this term is 'Toys' which I am sure will be popular amongst the children, especially when they are introduced to Mini Grey's Traction Man! Some curriculum subjects will be taught through this theme and we hope to have lots of creative fun whilst the children continue their academic journey. The subjects covered in the theme are in line with the Primary National Curriculum and can be seen in the topic web which will be found on our page of the school website. If any parents, carers, or grandparents can help to enrich our topic in any way e.g. Participating in a Zoom call to show us some childhood toys, or providing photographs and information about toys from the past we would be most grateful.

Staffing and support in Class One

I will be teaching Class One with the support of Mrs Brown every day, except on Tuesday afternoon when Mrs Middleton will teach the class. The midday staff working with our class bubble are Mrs Hoskins and Ms Camp.

P.E/Active learning/Learning outside

PE will usually take place on a **Monday** and **Thursday**. On these days children should come to school in their PE kit consisting of a white T-shirt, navy shorts and plimsolls or trainers. On colder days children may wish to wear navy skins or jogging bottoms and a navy sweatshirt, particularly as they will be wearing their kit all day. In addition to our timetabled PE lessons, Class One will take regular breaks for physical activity and enjoy active lessons in the classroom. We endeavour to complete a 'Daily Mile' or 'Daily Skip' as a class every day on the playground, more information about the benefits of this can be found by visiting <http://thedailymile.co.uk/> We also hope to regularly use the school nature space in all weathers so please ensure that your child has appropriate outdoor clothing to protect them from the elements when learning outside. I cannot yet confirm whether this will be a regular weekly slot or a block of time – more information will follow regarding safe use of the nature space as well as clothing requirements.

Homework

In Class 1, children are expected to do approximately 10 minutes of homework per night. Reading regularly to an adult is vital for children and we are delighted that we will be able to resume sending home reading books home from the 14th September. I would be grateful if you could practise good hand hygiene before reading with your child; washing or sanitising yours and your child's hands before handling books and reading records and storing books in a plastic wallet when they are not being read. This mirrors our classroom practise. Reading books will normally be changed on a **Monday** and **Thursday**. You may notice that we have reduced the frequency of our book changes, this is in order to safely quarantine the books before sending them home to another family. Comprehension and phonics activities may be sent home in addition to the reading books, I would appreciate your patience while we adjust to new routines and ways of working. As before, when your child has finished reading their book, please could you write the title and the date in their reading record book. Please feel free to comment on your child's enjoyment and engagement with their reading books. On Fridays, the children will be given their Maths Log which will need to be handed in on Thursday every week. Maths Logs are designed to offer your child a creative and flexible approach to their learning at home. I hope that you and your child will enjoy completing the tasks each week. Please note; whilst reading records and Maths Logs will be looked at on a regular basis, homework may not always be formally marked by a teacher or teaching assistant. 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.

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
Reading (New book)	Reading	Reading	Reading (New book)	Maths Log

Class Collective Worship and Key Dates:

Meet the Teacher: An interactive presentation from me will be available from Tuesday 8th Sept

Whole School Harvest Service: Thursday 24th September

Our class collective worship this term will be on Friday 16th October, this will be available virtually. More information to follow.

Further dates will be published on the school website and weekly newsletters.

Kind regards, Mrs L White