

Great Chesterford C.of E. Primary Academy

Class 6 Newsletter
Spring Term 2022

Dear Children and Parents

Welcome back and a very Happy New Year to you all! Firstly, I would like to thank all the children for their capacity to stay positive and upbeat last term even when there were changes to activities at the last moment – a great way to start Year 6 and a credit to the school.

This term our class topic is entitled '**Endangered!**'. Through our topic, we will be looking at a range of work, including tropical 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 and should not be on the school premises before this time. Good habits of punctuality and attendance are proven to impact attainment and it remains just as important this year so that we continue to maximise time in school.

This term, Mrs Sargeant will continue to teach maths on Monday, Thursday and Friday mornings while I teach English; the children remain in mixed attainment groups for this. Mrs McCullough will teach science to the whole class on a Thursday afternoon, Mrs Chambers will lead French on a Monday afternoon and this term, Mr Duers will teach P.E. on a Tuesday morning. Until half term, we also have Miss Light and Miss Cave joining us from Homerton College in Cambridge.

P.E./Games

P.E. will usually take place on a **Tuesday** morning and **Wednesday** afternoon. This is a change from last term as Year 6 have the opportunity to benefit from Mr Duers' coaching. Children should continue to wear P.E kit to school on these days. As we shall be continuing to go outside for games lessons through the winter, children should wear a navy school tracksuit or skins. The focus of our games' lessons will be hockey and football therefore, studded boots may be worn. Children will need alternative footwear and a spare pair of socks to change into on their return as the field, particularly on a Tuesday as it can be very wet and muddy at this time of year even if it is not raining. For this reason, tights are not suitable for P.E days. Please also provide a plastic bag or boot bag for wet items. In order to participate fully in both sports, **children will also need a gum-shield and shin pads**, which can be left in their boxes at school. Please ensure all items are clearly labelled. It is also a requirement that hair should be tied up and earrings are removed before any P.E. lessons in line with Essex regulations. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

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 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, comprehension and enables them to complete their 'Reading Missions.' Daily reading should continue to be recorded in the homework planner.

Homework will usually be set as timetabled below:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
English French	Spelling	Maths	Science	

Homework planners 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 will be 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.

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!

Self-Isolation

Should children be required to self-isolate but remain well, the Year 6 Learning Letter will continue to be updated each half term and is posted on the class page of the school website. The latest version will be available by **Monday 10th January**. This provides a two-week programme of lessons across a range of curricular subjects and reflects topics being taught in class.

Dates for your diary

The planned date for our class Collective Worship is **Friday 25th February**.

A provisional date for a trip to support our topic to Cambridge University Botanic Gardens is **Friday 18th March** more details will follow in due course.

I also ask that you note the date of SATs week for next term. The statutory tests will take place in week commencing **10th May**. It would therefore be beneficial when booking advance appointments such as dentist /orthodontist etc. if this week could be avoided. It is also important to note that work carried out during May and June in English writing and science will make an important contribution to children's overall assessments for the year so attendance at this time should remain a priority. Thank you for your cooperation and support with this.

I am looking forward to another busy, enjoyable term ahead and hope that we all continue to stay safe and well.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Starbuck