

GREAT CHESTERFORD C. OF E. PRIMARY ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 25th 2019

Dear Parents,

Class 4 Collective Worship

Thank you Class 4 for leading our collective worship today. You used your own views and excellent freeze frames to clearly articulate how tolerance and inclusion benefits all. It was lovely to see how your worship linked to your DIALLS Project work. Well done!

Granta Chorale Choir performance

On Sunday 13th October, I had the absolute pleasure of attending the Granta Chorale 'One Earth, One Sea, One Sky' concert at All Saints' Church. The whole event was inspiring as music and poetry highlighted our wonderful world and the threats it now faces. Twelve representatives from our Year 5 and 6 choir performed at the concert; they proved to be outstanding musical ambassadors for the school and were praised by all for their excellent contributions - well done! Thank you to Mrs Middleton for leading our choir and Mrs Janet Wheeler for inviting us to take part.



Archbishop of York Young Leaders Scheme

Following the successful Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) at Great Chesterford Primary Academy earlier in the year, we have been looking at ways that we might continue to develop children's 'Courageous Advocacy,' which is an understanding of how they can be a positive influence for change in their own communities.

We have identified The Archbishop of York's Young Leaders scheme as a possible route to support this. This would run as an after-school club for KS2 pupils in Years 3-6. The aim of the scheme is for children to develop their leadership skills and to recognise the benefits of helping others achieved through topics that would include: Personal challenges to complete at home; school challenges that are completed in a group and the course would culminate in a 'Community Action Project' where a need in our locality would be identified and addressed collaboratively.

It is important to highlight that given the scheme's link with the Church of England, there is an inherent Christian element throughout and the activities involve links with the Bible and Christian texts.

There would be a £10 charge per child for the year, which would cover the cost of resources including a scrapbook for children to record their work and a certificate that would be presented on completion of the course.

At this stage, we would be interested to hear from parents if they think this is something their child would enjoy and if so, it would also be beneficial to have feedback regarding which afternoon would be most convenient to run the club. If there is interest, we would look to start 'Young Leaders' early in 2020.

Please contact Mrs Starbuck via the Admin e-mail at school to register an interest or for further information.

Details about the award are also available here: <https://www.archbishopofyorkyouthtrust.co.uk/young-leaders-award>

Homework Club

I will be running a Homework Club every Tuesday lunchtime after half term. This club will be run as a drop in session where regular attendance will not be required. Children of all ages will be most welcome to come and complete homework; have help with specific tasks or simply to chat about any aspect of homework that they would like support or guidance with.

Building Works

Everyone should have received a letter from Mrs Adele Peters about our forthcoming building improvements. We are really excited about this new facility which will benefit all pupils. The site will be prepared over the half term break. There will be no changes required at present for drop off or collection arrangements but I will keep you updated as the works progress. - thank you.

Nature Detectives

This week the nature detectives were on the hunt for spiders' webs in the nature area as well as the playground. We used magnifying glasses to take a closer look at the webs' patterns and to find out where the spiders were hiding. We discovered a few different types of spiders and a lot of cobwebs!

Congratulations letter from Essex

We were delighted to receive a letter from Essex County Council congratulating the school on both the 2019 KS1 and KS2 assessments. For further information, please refer to the SATs results and performance tables section of our school website.

Open Morning

Our next Open Morning of the academic year will take place on Thursday 7th November. 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. On November 7th, parents may attend at 9.30am or 11.00am. You will be able to visit your child's classroom and those of other year groups; I will also be available during these sessions for informal discussions about general school life. Please inform the school office if you plan to attend so that tours can be organised. The focus for this particular Open Morning will be Reception Class 2020.

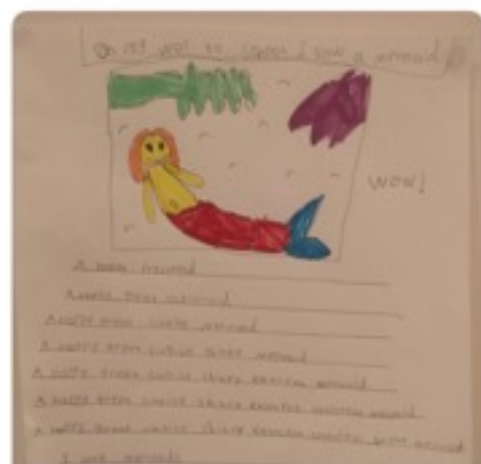
Twitter

As you may be aware, our school regularly tweets about the diverse learning that takes place in our school. Pupils are enthusiastic about sharing their experiences with a wider audience and we hope that you enjoy the updates. If you do not already follow the school, please add us: @chesterfordsch.

In order to extend this, we would like to encourage children to share their own experiences and holiday news with us. **As always, children are reminded not to share personal information on the internet. If you choose to post photographs of your child, we advise not using your child's name in any comments/usernames etc. As with all social media platforms, children should only be using Twitter with the permission and supervision of an adult.** We look forward to finding out about the learning and interaction with the world that children experience beyond the classroom.

We loved seeing Alice's poem on Twitter this week!

@chesterfordsch Alice's mermaid poem! 🐬



Children in Need Day - Friday 15th November

The School Council will be coordinating our support for Children in Need in November. Following discussions with their peers, they have decided to hold a pyjama day in order to raise funds for this worthwhile charity. Further details will follow after the half term break.

The Royal British Legion

We will be selling poppies in school after the half term break to support the Royal British Legion and its charitable work. The poppies will be taken to each class daily so that pupils can buy their own poppy. In addition to the poppies, we also have a variety of 'poppy themed' items that can be purchased from the school office. The following items are available at the suggested donation:

Zip pull – 50p

Reflector – 50p
Silicon wristband - £1
Snap band - £1
Poppy pin/metal badge - £3 - £5

Cauliflower Cards Christmas Design Project

The Friends are excited to be launching the Cauliflower Cards Christmas design project today. You should find an A4 sheet of paper on which to create a Christmas design along with an order form in your child's book bag this afternoon. When your child comes to create their Christmas cards, please read the artwork guidelines printed on your child's order form so that you can help them create the most effective design; perhaps a project for a rainy day during the half-term break? Please note that orders and payment will now be made online, with no option for cash or cheques to school. All artwork where orders have been placed must be returned to school by Tuesday 5 November.

Thank you for supporting this initiative - your orders will help to raise money to enhance the children's school experience.

Midday Assistants

We still 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. Even if you are only interested in working one lunchtime per week, please contact the school office for further information.

Secondary School Admissions for entry 2020

As you may be aware, the new secondary school admission round is now open for parents of current Year 6 children to apply for a secondary school (Year 7) place for September 2020. The statutory national closing date for applications is **31st October 2019**.

Applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions.

I would like to say a huge well done to all of our pupils for all of their enthusiasm and hard work this half term - they have made an excellent start to this academic year and we are very proud of them. Thank you to everyone within our school community who works with us to provide the best possible education for the children in our care: staff, governors, parents and members of our local community. I hope that everyone is able to enjoy quality time with friends and family and we look forward to sharing the children's half term news on their return!

Mrs Sarah Mitchell
Headteacher

Little Chesterford Bonfire Night

Bonfire Night this year is on Tuesday 5th November. You can look forward to delicious traditional bonfire night food served from 6:00pm. The bonfire will be lit at about 6:15pm, depending on the weather and the highlight of the evening will be the fantastic firework display which will start at 6:45pm prompt. Entry is free but we ask for donations on the gate, please. Parking is always difficult so if you can walk over to the Meadow behind the village hall with your torches, it all adds to the fun.

Dates for your diary

Date	Event
28th October - 1st November	Half term
5th November	Year 2 Trip to Gunpowder Mills
7th November	Open Morning - focus 'Reception Class 2020'
7th November	Year 5 Trip to West Stow
8th November	Year 6 Trip to Bletchley Park
11th-15th November	STEM Theme Week

Date	Event
12th November	Individual school photographs
15th November	Friends' Film Night
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
13th December	Friends' KS1 Christmas Disco Friends' KS2 Christmas Disco
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