

GREAT CHESTERFORD C of E PRIMARY ACADEMY
Reception Newsletter - Summer Term 2019

Dear Children and Parents

I'd like to welcome the children back to school and I hope that you have all had a super Easter break. I would also like to warmly welcome two new members of our class and their families – Leo and Madeline.

This term we will be continuing our topic of Explorers and then moving on to Food and Farming. Within the topics, we will continue our globe-trotting by finding out about animals that are native to Africa and then we shall head off to sea on a pirate adventure. We will also be thinking about our local community, healthy lifestyles and life on a dairy farm. If parents have any books (information or fiction) or any unusual items to support the children's learning, I would be delighted to hear from you.

We have lots of things to look forward to this term and below are some dates for your diary.

Meerkat Experience – Monday 29th April – We will be welcoming a meerkat and his friends into school. This will provide a great opportunity for the children to learn more about these fascinating animals.

Reception Class Cake Sale – Friday 3rd May Please hand your cake donations into the school office on the morning of the sale.

Collective Worship – Friday 10th May We will be leading Collective Worship and you are, of course, welcome to join us.

Bring an Adult to School Morning – Friday 10th May This will take place shortly after the end of the Collective Worship. It is an opportunity for the children to invite an adult into school to take part in an activity. If you are unable to attend due to work commitments, you are welcome to invite a grandparent, another member of the family or a family friend to take part in the activity. Unfortunately, we have to limit the numbers to one adult per child but you may, of course, bring younger siblings if you need too. The session will finish by 10:45am.

Pirate Day – Monday 3rd June

As part of our topic, we will be having a pirate dressing up day. The whole day will have a pirate theme and there will be opportunities to play pirate games, make pirate accessories (eg maps, telescopes) and sing pirate songs! Children may come in "pirate" costume or simply wear sailor type clothes (eg jeans and a t-shirt). We ask that the children do not bring swords into school! We will be playing games outside so children must be able to move freely in their costume and be prepared to wear their plimsolls.

School Trip to Boydells Farm – Thursday 27th June

We will be visiting Boydells Farm as part of our topic on farming. More details to follow.

Show and Tell

Show and tell dates for this term will be as follows:

Green Group	Yellow Group	Red Group	Blue Group
2 nd May	9 th May	16 th May	23 rd May
6 th June	13 th June	20 th June	Friday 28 th June
4 th July	11 th July	18 th July	23 rd July

Please could you ensure that your child only brings in one object and that it is not fragile or too precious! We also ask that children do not bring toys to school on other days as they often get lost amongst our classroom toys which can cause considerable distress at home time!!

Reading and Homework

Reading remains a key part of the children's homework and **all** children in Reception class should spend at least 5 minutes reading and learning to read or spell their sight words **each day**. We change reading books on Mondays,

Wednesdays and Fridays and it is important at this stage that the children are reading regularly and changing their reading books rather than retaining the same book until they are word perfect. We would expect them to change their books at least once or twice each week dependent on the length. Parents are asked to comment in the home school link book on their child's progress in any aspect of their development but particularly reading.

Word tickets will continue to be changed on a Tuesday and Thursday. Those children who have progressed from the word tickets onto the spellings/sentence work, will have their work checked on these days as well.

Please note the reading record book should not be used for other messages as it is not checked daily.

I will continue to add optional challenges to our newsletters and below are some other suggested activities that you might like to do with your child.

Suggested activities:

Counting in ones, twos and tens

Role playing shops, using the coins: 1p, 2p, 5p, 10p.

Handwriting/letter formation practise, including writing numbers

Reading including using information books to find out answers to simple questions.

Shared writing of short stories or rhymes

Identifying 2d and 3d shapes in the environment

P.E./Games

This term, PE will take place on **Wednesday and Thursday mornings**. Mr Duers, our Sports Coach, will be leading the PE session on Wednesdays and Mrs Cole on Thursdays. Children should have a white PE T-shirt, navy shorts and black plimsolls, all in a named bag. **Please ensure that all clothing is clearly marked with your child's name.** PE lessons will continue to be taught mainly in the school hall but we will also take the children outside for some elements of athletics and also over to the school field to practise for sports day nearer the time. For safety reasons, long hair must be tied back every day and earrings and watches must be removed for PE. If your child is unable to take out their own earrings, please could you take them out before they come to school on PE days.

Outdoor work

As part of our work in Reception class, we will be continuing to use the courtyard as our outdoor classroom each day. Therefore, when the weather is hot or forecast to be hot, please ensure your child has a **named sun-hat** and that **long-lasting sun lotion has been applied before they come to school**. Please send your child to school with a **named water bottle every day** (even if they are having a school dinner), as we take regular water breaks throughout the day and encourage the children to keep hydrated.

We will also be using our new outdoor learning and nature area on a regular basis so you may want to supply a pair of wellington boots that your child can leave in school.

Please could children also bring in a jumper or cardigan as the air conditioning will be put on when the weather is hot.

Communication

Please do come and speak to a member of the Reception team if you have any questions and we will do our best to answer them. As you know, I am in the playground after school every afternoon should you wish to have a quick chat once I have seen all the all the children safely to their parents/carers.

I look forward to a very busy and enjoyable term ahead. If you have any queries, then please do not hesitate to speak to me or another member of the Reception team. Thank you once again for all your support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Davies and the Reception team