

GREAT CHESTERFORD C. OF E. PRIMARY ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 18th 2019

Dear Parents,

School Council

Our whole school community would like to say a huge thank you to our out-going School Council. They have been super role models and worked hard to improve the school for everyone. Key projects they have been involved in this year include: our new nature space; school policies; class council work and our recent SIAMS inspection. A fantastic achievement - well done to you all! Good luck to our new School Council! This year, we will be looking at our school ethos and emotional well-being.

Cross Country success for Years 3, 4, 5 and 6!

Boys and girls from every Key Stage 2 class competed in the Newport Family Cross Country on Wednesday. Mrs Mannix, Mrs Balchin, Mrs Dunlop and a group of supportive parents accompanied the pupils on this damp, grey morning to Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport. All the children enjoyed this event and were wonderful ambassadors for Great Chesterford demonstrating excellent behaviour, positive competitive spirit and superb running skills. Everyone who took part deserves a special well done for trying their best and aiming high! There were many notable individual performances who will progress to the Partnership stage: Rosa 1st place, Henry 2nd place, Niah 1st place, Alexander P 3rd place, Hannah C 2nd place, Rosanna 3rd place, Ezra 2nd place, Raphael 1st place and Paul 3rd place. We also have many teams progressing to the Partnership event: Year 3 girls, Year 4 girls, Year 4 boys, Year 5 girls, Year 5 boys, Year 6 girls and Year 6 boys. The Year 6 boys were particularly impressive with their team members finishing 1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th! Thank you to Mrs Balchin, Mrs Mannix, Mrs Buchallet, Mr Cole, Mrs Carter, Mrs Kovacs, Mrs Maguire, Mrs Neylon and Mrs Dunlop for their support at the event. These excellent results are a reflection of the superb coaching we receive from Mrs Dunlop and we would also like to thank Mrs Van Weede and Mrs Mackswith Coe for their support at this very popular club. Good luck at the next stage everyone!



Scootfit

On Thursday, Reception and Class One had an exciting morning using their scooters on the junior playground. They were joined by Nick Wilderspin from the Uttlesford School Sports Partnership for a 'Scootfit' session. Here are some of the things that the children learnt: "Look straight ahead when you're scooting," Conor; "Don't scrape your foot to slow down, put your whole foot straight down and you'll stop," Gatsby; "If you need to cross the road, get off your scooter and walk with it," Aron; "If you see a dog coming the other way stop immediately," James and "Don't wear earphones when you're scooting so that you can hear the cars," Theodora.

We hope that this session has given pupils the knowledge and confidence to scoot to school regularly and we look forward to seeing even more scooters and helmets parked in our scooter pods!

Year 4 Trip to Audley End

Year 4 have been busy this week with a walk around the village and a visit to Audley End House:

On the walk, we looked at different physical and human features around the village and the land use whilst following a route on a map.

On the trip, the children dressed up to experience Victorian life. As handmaids or house boys, the children had to do some of the jobs that they would have done if they had worked at Audley End in the 1800s. We also walked around the grounds visiting the landscaped garden, stables and organic kitchen garden. Inside the house, we looked around the rooms for Victorian artefacts and played with Victorian toys in the nursery. It was a lovely way to bring our current history topic to life. Thank you to Mrs Lincoln for organising and Mrs Mannix, Mr Gardiner, Mrs Clark and Mrs Schmidt for supporting our visit.

Football Season 2019-20

Newport: 0 GCPA: 4

Match Report by: Etienne, Ben, Charlie and Laurence

We played Newport Primary on 17th October and won 4-0. Some of our players were more experienced than others but we all worked great as a team. The team had a great defence so that when they attacked, we could get the ball back and create a counter-attack. Good passing and positive team work led to 4 good goals! Thank you to Mrs White for organising the match, Mr Duers for accompanying us, and Mrs Porter and Mrs Law for transporting us at short notice. Great teamwork everyone!

Farewell Mrs Abbiss

All staff and Class 2 pupils bid farewell to Mrs Abbiss this week as she leaves for new ventures. We would like to say a huge thank you for all of her hard work and support over the last few years.

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.

Reverend Tim visits Years 5 and 6

Children in both Years 5 and 6 impressed us all with the perceptive and enquiring questions that they prepared in advance of a visit from Reverend Tim Hardingham last Friday. Reverend Tim, who is a regular visitor to school for Collective Worship, is also a physics teacher at Saffron Walden County High School. He was therefore extremely well placed to support the children's learning about 'Creation' and compare the Bible story with science's theories as to how the world began. He spent time in both classes discussing how it is possible to be a Christian and a scientist. While Reverend Hardingham was able to answer all of our questions, his talk generated even more so we may need to ask him to come back again to address the very biggest of Big Questions!

Cauliflower Cards Christmas Design Project - look out for your child's order form today!

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.

Mrs Sarah Mitchell
Headteacher

Dates for your diary

Date	Event
20th October	iChurch at All Saints' Church, 9:30am
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
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