

# GREAT CHESTERFORD C. OF E. PRIMARY ACADEMY

## NEWSLETTER WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 21st 2018

**Dear Parents,**

### **Class 4 Assembly**

This morning's assembly led by Class 4 on the topic of our school values was excellent. Everyone spoke so clearly and it was lovely to hear your own ideas and interpretations. We particularly enjoyed how well you involved the whole school with your carefully planned questions - well done Class 4!

### **The Empty Chair**

Along with other local primary pupils, the children in Years 3 and 4 enjoyed watching The Empty Chair by TROUPE at Saffron Hall last Friday. The playful musical performance explored the themes of loss, change and friendship. The session started with a vocal warm up for the pupils before they sat back and enjoyed the show. As the story unfolded with music for voice, cello and piano, the children were drawn in to knowing how a mysterious empty chair caused problems for the inhabitants of the house. The highlight of the performance was the arrival of a black hole, which caused an animated response from the audience!!

### **The Empty Chair workshop**

To follow on from the The Empty Chair performance at Saffron Hall last Friday the performing arts company, TROUPE, visited Year 4 this week. They delivered a fun and interactive workshop which allowed the children to take part in a variety of games, ask the performers questions and compose and perform their own song. Year 4 were very enthusiastic participants!

### **Values Week**

This week the whole school has been focusing on our values:

**G** – God's Guidance

**R** – Respect one another

**E** – Excellent behaviour

**A** – Aiming high

**T** – Tremendous teamwork

all of which were derived by the pupils through class council activities last term. We have been exploring each value in turn each day of this week in class, Friendship groups and whole school assemblies.

The whole school has been involved in producing a beautiful tree to remind everyone of our values and once it is complete, it will be displayed in the entrance area. This morning, everyone displayed tremendous teamwork whilst working in their Friendship groups to create beautiful painted pebbles. Thank you to Ms Benson for supporting our art work and a special thank you to Mrs Lincoln for coordinating our Values Week.



Year 6 children discussed and created some rules for talk in the classroom as part of 'Respect' with a focus on using the best type of talk to develop learning. Their ideas were collated using a forum designed by a research project at Cambridge University. This gave us the opportunity to explore issues about online 'chatting' too.



### **Girls Football Festival**

A fantastic afternoon of footballing fun was thoroughly enjoyed by all the girls in Years 5 and 6. On Wednesday afternoon, we joined other local Primary Schools to take part in football workshops led by Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport students and staff. The session combined football, fitness and fun with the added bonus of sunshine.

### **Open Morning**

Our first Open Morning of the academic year will take place on Tuesday 25th September. 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. Six sessions will take place during the year and we have timetabled them on different days of the week. Please refer to the calendar for details of future sessions. On Tuesday, parents may attend between 9.30 to 10.30 or 11:00 to 12.00. You will be able to visit your child's classroom and those of other year groups; I will also be available for informal discussions about general school life. The focus of this Open Morning will be 'Welcome to our school'. Please let the school office know if you plan to attend so that we can plan for these tours.

### **Harvest Festival**

We hope that many of our parents and friends will be able to join us for our Harvest Festival on Friday 28th September at All Saints' Church. Once again, we will be supporting Jimmy's Night Shelter with our Harvest offerings - thank you for your continued support. Birthday celebrations will not take place on Friday 28th September because of our church service. Children with birthdays from 22nd September to 5th October inclusive will all be celebrated on Friday 5th October in our whole school assembly.

### **Letters and reply slips**

Please can we remind parents that letters and reply slips should be returned to class teachers and not directly to the school office. Class teachers collect all notes and letters during registration and there are systems in place to take them to the office where appropriate. If you need to change your pick-up arrangements for playdates, etc. wherever possible, please can this information be sent directly to the class teacher as a note in the book bag rather than via the school office - thank you.

### **Biggest Coffee Morning 2018 for MacMillan Cancer Support: Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September**

Once again we are pleased to hold this event to raise money for a cause we know is valued by so many of us. However, this year we are delighted to join forces with our local school, Great Chesterford Primary Academy. The coffee morning will be held at the school straight after the school Harvest Festival Service for everyone to enjoy a cuppa, a chat and a lovely cake! It will also be an opportunity to come and visit our fantastic village school. We will have our usual table games (Guess the Weight or Length of the Bake), and this year an-every-ticket-wins-tombola instead of a raffle.

The Coffee Morning will be held in the School Hall – all visitors should come to school reception to enter – the event will finish at midday. Please do join us.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP please contact either Elfreda Tealby-Watson 530175 or Debbie Marshall 530738. Mainly we need offers of cakes, and tombola gifts (big or small or even promises) but if you would like to help set up and serve then please say.

Thank you very much and let's hope we can raise even more cash this year, a tall order as your generosity took our total to £520 including gift aid in 2018!

### **Message from the Friends Committee**

It's not just the children and staff that make our school great, we also have a fantastic parental support network. 'The Friends Committee' are a small group of parents who coordinate fundraising and events, helped by parent and staff volunteers from throughout the school. Parental fundraising contributes a significant share towards school trips for every child and important school facilities. During 2018, we have been funding the playground improvements and in the run up to Christmas we are planning school discos, film nights, social events and Friday cake stalls starting next week.

The Friends are always looking for new committee members however even if that isn't for you we need to continue to have lots of volunteers at the events we organise. Together we can continue to support the school in upgrading facilities and running the amazing programme of trips and extracurricular activities which make our school Great!

Please follow us [www.facebook.com/groups/FoGCA](http://www.facebook.com/groups/FoGCA)

To join The Friends Committee email [alisondiggins@gmail.com](mailto:alisondiggins@gmail.com)

### **Friends Weekly Cake Sales**

This term each class will be holding a Friday cake stall in the playground after school (or in the School Hall if the weather is bad). Cakes will be priced at 50p each and are a perfect after school treat for the end of the week.

Any cake donations will be very gratefully received and can be dropped into the school office from the morning of the sale. We are also looking for parents to set up the stall at 3:00pm and to sell the cakes.

The money raised will be put towards the playground improvements. Our Summer cake sales last year were very popular and raised over £1,000 for the playground and we are hoping to better that this term!

Year 1 September 28th

Year 2 October 5th

Year 3 October 12th

Year 4 November 2nd

Year 5 November 9th

Year 6 November 16th

Reception November 23rd

### **Long Hair**

Please can I remind all parents that the school expectation is for long hair to be tied back for school - thank you.

### **Midday Assistants**

We currently 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. Please contact the school office for further information or pass on to anyone who may be interested in this school role.

### **Thank you**

Thank you to everyone for supporting the Year 6 Enterprise Sale at the end of the summer term. We hope that you have enjoyed using your creative garden products. We have received a thank you letter from the WWF for the donation of £180.30 from the sale - great team work everyone!

**Mrs Sarah Mitchell**  
**Headteacher**

### **Dates for your diary**

Date	Event
24th September	Year 5 Trip to West Stow
25th September	Open morning - Welcome to our school
28th September	Harvest Festival Service at All Saints' Church, 9.30am Macmillan Coffee Morning in school
8th - 12th October	PSHEE Theme Week
16th October	Parents' Consultation 3:45-6:15pm
17th October	Parents' Consultation 5:30-8:00pm
18th October	Year 4 Trip to Audley End
19th October	Non-pupil day
22nd-26th October	Half term
1st November	Open Morning - Focus 'Reception Class 2019'

Date	Event
2nd November	Year 6 Trip to Bletchley Park
5th - 9th November	Computing and Maths Theme Week
6th November	Year 2 Trip to Gunpowder Mills
14th November	Luna Performance at Saffron Hall for EYFS
19th November	Open morning - focusing on our values
8th December	Spirit of Christmas for Years 5 and 6
11th December	Christmas Plays for KS1 and Lower KS2 - afternoon performance
12th December	Christmas Plays for KS1 and Lower KS2 - afternoon and evening performances
18th December	Christmas Lunch Christmas parties
19th December	Christmas Church Service 9.30am Last day of term
4th January	Non-pupil day
7th January	Pupils return to school

**The full list of dates for the whole academic year can be found on the calendar on our school website.**