

**Great Chesterford C of E Primary Academy**  
**Reception Class Newsletter and Topic Web- Spring Term – January 2019**

Dear Parents and Children

Welcome back and a 'Happy New Year' to everyone! I hope you all had a happy and relaxing break. On behalf of the Reception team, I would like to thank you all so much for the lovely Christmas cards, presents and vouchers that you gave to us. It was most kind of you all.

**Topic**

Our topic this term is "Explorers and Adventurers" which will enable us to use our imagination to venture forth to different environments including Antarctica and into space! We will continue this topic into the start of the summer term when we will also sail away on the high seas and go on a safari too. We will also be thinking about the different seasons with a focus on winter and spring.

**Staffing**

Staffing for this term remains the same.

**P.E./Games**

PE takes place on **Tuesday afternoons and Thursday mornings**. Children should have a white PE T-shirt, navy shorts and plimsolls, which should be in a named P.E. bag. Please ensure that all items in their P.E. bags are clearly named. PE lessons will continue to be taught in the school hall. Please note earrings must be removed on PE days and long hair must be tied back. This is essential for safety in P.E.

**Outdoor work**

We use the courtyard as our outdoor classroom throughout the year, whatever the weather! If the weather is wet or forecast to be wet, please send your child to school with a named waterproof coat. If the weather looks to be snowy or extremely wet the children will also need wellington boots, as well as their school shoes.

**Drinks**

During the day, we encourage the children to drink to keep themselves hydrated. Please could you send your child into school with a **full bottle of water everyday**.

**Homework**

Homework is not formally set in Reception Class. However, the children are expected to spend between five to ten minutes reading and learning sight words each day. We will continue to change reading book on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Word tickets will be checked on Tuesdays for green and blue group and Thursdays for yellow and red group.

I have also included some ideas below should you wish to do other activities with your child and will continue to include an optional challenge in our newsletter.

**Suggested activities:**

Practise scissor skills  
Practising fastening buttons, zips or shoe laces.  
Play counting games and identifying numbers and shapes in the environment  
Encouraging independent writing and mark making.  
Reading together traditional stories and rhymes.  
Identifying 2D shapes in the environment.

Please note that the Home School Link book should not be used for other messages, as it is not checked daily. Should you have any concerns or matters of an urgent nature please inform me separately. Also, please notify me in writing if your child is being collected by someone different or attending a club. If this is a

regular arrangement, then one letter to confirm will be sufficient. As the book bags are not checked on a daily basis, please could you remind your child to give the letter to me when they get to school.

### **Show and Tell**

Show and tell dates for each group are as follows. Please could your child bring **one** item into school which is not fragile or too precious! I would also ask that children do not bring in any toys from home on other days as we do not want them to get lost or broken in school.

10 <sup>th</sup> Jan	17 <sup>th</sup> Jan	24 <sup>th</sup> Jan	31 <sup>st</sup> Jan	7 <sup>th</sup> Feb	14 <sup>th</sup> Feb	28 <sup>th</sup> Feb	7 <sup>th</sup> Mar	14 <sup>th</sup> Mar	21 <sup>st</sup> Mar	28 <sup>th</sup> Mar	4 <sup>th</sup> April
Green	Yellow	Red	Blue	Green	Yellow	Red	Blue	Green	Yellow	Red	Blue

### **Date for your diary**

Our class assembly will be taking place on **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March** and we hope that you may be able to join us.

### **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 children safely to their parents/carers. I will also hold “drop in” sessions between 3:25-3:45pm on the following dates and these are an additional opportunity for you to ask any questions or speak to a member of staff.

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January    Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March

### **Tapestry**

If you haven't had a chance to comment on your child's progress and achievements over the last term, it would be great if you could do so. If you are unsure how to do this I would be happy to help you.

I look forward to a very busy but enjoyable term ahead. Thank you for your continued support and please do come and speak to me if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

Amanda Davies