



September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Dear Parents,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome both existing and new families to our school community as we start this new academic year. I hope that you have all enjoyed a lovely family break and are feeling refreshed for the new year ahead. The latest building works are now complete and we are delighted with our new entrance and office layout; the new library location will provide a lovely environment for reading activities and group work. I would like to give special thanks to our Business Manager, Mrs Barbara Benn, and Mr Bob Rust, a school governor, for their hard work and support during the summer holidays to ensure that we were ready to open at the start of term.

Thank you so much for the thoughtful cards and kind gifts that I received at the end of last term - they were truly appreciated. The school mission statement of 'Together we are great' epitomises the strong partnerships that we try to encourage between all our stakeholders; I am always pleased to receive suggestions or feedback from any parent. If you need to meet with me in person, appointments can be made via the school office and I will also be present on the playground at the end of the school day whenever possible.

I am sure that many of you have met Reverend Alex Jeewan but I would like to take this opportunity to formally welcome our new vicar to the school community; we are all looking forward to working with him and the whole church community this forthcoming year. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to a new member of the MDA team, Miss Lucy Channing – one of our former pupils. We still have MDA vacancies and if anyone is interested in this position or knows of a local resident or au pair who may be, please contact the school office for further information.

I would now like to draw people's attention to key events and school communication systems. This list is not exhaustive and the school website provides a more comprehensive overview of school procedures and practice. Our office staff: Mrs Barbara Benn, Mrs Alisa Cole, Ms Kate Stacey and Mrs Sharon Dyster are also available to provide further information and administrative support. If you have any concerns or questions with regards to your child's education, please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance.

### **Access to the school**

Children will continue to enter school from their respective playgrounds from 8.45am when a member of staff will be on duty in each playground to facilitate their entry. During the school day, 9.00am to 3.15pm, the school will only be accessible to parents and visitors via the main entrance which is now located directly off School Street via the staff car park. This new arrangement will ensure that the playground areas during break, lunch or lesson times do not need to be accessed by external visitors to the school. At the rear hall door, we now have access controls to prevent any unauthorised entry into / out of school to maintain a secure site for the children – please note that this access point is alarmed and can only be released by a member of staff.

### **School newsletter**

On most weeks, I will produce a school newsletter each Friday to update our school community of events, school visits, exciting news and general reminders. Please ensure that this is referred to each week as we try to put all school information in this publication to minimise the number of letters that you need to refer to.

### Meet the teacher meetings

These meetings have been scheduled to support parents and will provide an overview of class specific routines and expectations. These meetings are for parents only; current school children can be left with Mrs Mitchell in the School Hall if child care is required. The meetings will take place on Tuesday September 11th as follows:

Class	Time
1	4.00pm
2	3.30pm
3	5.00pm
4	3.30pm
5	4.30pm
6	4.00pm

### Assemblies

On Friday mornings, parents are invited to join us for our whole school assemblies. Each class leads an assembly every term and in addition we celebrate birthdays and achievements. We encourage children to bring in certificates and awards so that we can recognise and celebrate their achievements outside of school. These take place at 9.10am. **The dates for each year group's class assembly will be shared on each termly class newsletter.**

### After school arrangements

Please ensure that your child's class teacher is kept updated of after school arrangements whether this is travelling by the bus, attending after school provision or if they are being collected by a different person.

### Break time snacks

Please can I remind all parents that snacks at break time should be fruit or vegetable. Popular items are: raisins, bananas and carrot. Some children bring these in chopped or whole and either is fine. Key Stage One are provided with a snack each day but some children prefer to bring in their own. **Please can I remind parents that we are a nut free school and items such as seeds, pine nuts, sesame and houmous should not be brought into school for break or in packed lunch boxes.**

### Open morning / afternoons

During this academic year, we will be holding six open mornings / afternoons for parents and members of the community to gain an insight into school life on a regular day. We have set them at different times and on different days of the week to maximise the opportunities for attendance for those parents with work commitments.

### Reporting to parents

Individual parent consultations will take place in the Autumn and Spring terms for parents to meet with their child's class teacher(s) to discuss pastoral and academic progress. Dates of these will be on the school calendar. In the summer term, you will also receive a written report for your child covering pastoral and academic progress for the whole curriculum. Following feedback from recent summer term open evenings, we are trialing an open afternoon in the summer term. At the open afternoon, parents will be invited into school to look at their child's work. Many parents were keen to look at the work with their child this so we have changed the timing to facilitate this.

## Music

Music is a key aspect of school life at Great Chesterford and in addition to the music clubs listed on the timetable, instrumental tuition is also available, namely:

strings

woodwind

brass

piano

Please contact the school office if you would like further details.

## Parking

If you transport your child to school by car, please be considerate to our local residents when parking. Unfortunately, we have had a number of occasions in the past where public buses were unable to access roads due to problematic parking and neighbouring properties had their driveways blocked. Many children do walk to school and it is essential that parked cars do not provide additional hazards – particularly if parking takes place too close to junctions. We are now being supported by a civil enforcement officer, who has and will issue tickets to offending drivers. Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

## Clubs

We place great importance on the extra-curricular opportunities available to the children and offer a variety of clubs at lunchtime and after school. The Autumn Term club timetable has been included on this newsletter and is also posted on the school website. Please note that many of our clubs do have a number limit and, unless stated otherwise, we operate on a first come first served basis. Those clubs underlined do incur a charge which will be detailed in the club specific letters which will follow shortly.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all adults involved in helping the school offer such a varied selection of opportunities for the children. Teachers and many of the volunteers do not get paid for leading these activities and we are fortunate that they are prepared to give up their time to prepare, support and lead clubs. We do have parents involved and if anyone is interested in running or supporting a lunchtime or after school club, please contact the school.

## Calendar

The calendar is currently being finalised and will include all known dates for the forthcoming academic year. The calendar of key dates will be circulated to everyone and posted on the school website tomorrow. Please refer to the calendar on the school website and weekly Headteacher newsletter's during the year for any additional information.

## Autumn Term Clubs 2018

### Lunchtime

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b><u>Football Club</u></b> <b><u>Years 3 and 4</u></b> <b><u>Mr Snelling</u></b>	Music Club KS2 Mrs Middleton	Recorder Club Years 4-6 Mrs Witney Mrs Butler	Top Trumps Club Year 2 -4 Mrs Barden	Ukulele Club Years 2 and 3 (existing members only)
	<b><u>French Club</u></b> <b><u>KS1</u></b> <b><u>Mrs Kovacs</u></b>	Board Games Club Years 1 and 2 Mrs Davies		

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	<b><u>French Club</u></b> <b><u>KS2</u></b> <b><u>Mrs Kovacs</u></b>			
	Lego Club Year 2 and 3 Mrs Raper / Mrs Langton	Knitting Club KS2 Miss Norris		
		Leading Worship Year 6 Mrs Lincoln		

After school

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Running Club KS2 Mrs Dunlop	<b><u>Orchestra</u></b> <b><u>Mrs Wheeler</u></b>	Netball Club Years 4-6 Mrs Sargeant First half term only.	Tag Rugby Club Years 5 and 6 Mr Duers	
<b><u>Inspiration Station</u></b> <b><u>KS2</u></b> <b><u>Mrs Fernell</u></b>		<b><u>Football Club</u></b> <b><u>Yrs 5&amp;6</u></b> <b><u>Mr Snelling</u></b>		
		Drama Club Years 1-2 Mrs Starbuck	<b><u>Spanish Club</u></b> <b><u>Years 1-4</u></b>	
		STEM Club Years 4 and 5 Mrs Mitchell and Mrs Sargeant After half term		

Thank you for your continued support.  
Yours sincerely,

Mrs Sarah Mitchell  
Headteacher