

Great Chesterford C of E Primary Academy
Reception Class Newsletter and Topic Web- Spring Term – January 2020

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, kind words, presents and vouchers that you gave to us. It was most kind of you.

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

I will be teaching the class all day on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday and on Thursday afternoons. Ms Benson, who many of you will already know, will be teaching the class on Thursday mornings. She has taught the class before and is very excited to be working as part of the Reception team again. Mrs Green and Mrs Gascoyne will continue to support the class as last term.

P.E./Games

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

Outdoor work

Please make sure your child has appropriate outer wear suitable for the weather conditions as we use the courtyard and playground every day. Children also need their all in one waterproof suit and wellingtons in school so that we can regularly use the nature space.

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 every day.

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.

During the next few weeks, we will be changing the colour banding codes for our reading books so please do not be concerned if the colour sticker on your child's book changes unexpectedly. Books will continue to be selected to match your child's phonics and sight word knowledge.

Below are some ideas for activities that you may wish to do with your child and I will also 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

Encourage independent writing and mark making eg lists

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 will now be on a **Thursday morning** and 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.

9 th Jan	16 th Jan	23 rd Jan	30 th Jan	6 th Feb	13 th Feb	27 th Feb	5 th March	12 th March	19 th March	26 th March	2 nd April
Green	Yellow	Red	Blue	Green	Yellow	Red	Blue	Green	Yellow	Red	Blue

Nature Table

We have introduced a nature table this term where children may bring in objects from the natural world. Please could you ensure that the objects are not precious and are safe to be handled in school.

Date for your diary

Our class collective worship will be taking place on Friday 20th March and we hope that you may be able to join us. We will also be hosting a "Bring an Adult to School" session directly after our Collective Worship which will finish at approximately 10:45am.

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.

Thursday 13th February Thursday 12th March

Parent Consultation Meetings will take place on 28th and 29th January and more information about booking an appointment slot will be sent to you nearer the time.

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