



Great Chart Primary School Newsletter for Parents and Pupils December 2021



MESSAGE FROM MRS PANG, HEADTEACHER

December is here and it's probably the busiest time for so many of us and also the most enjoyable. The younger members of our community have been working hard rehearsing for their Christmas shows and it will be great to see parents supporting them. Please could I thank everyone who has helped to put on these wonderful performances.

The fireworks display at the beginning of November was amazing and as always I'm incredibly grateful to the dedication and commitment from the Friends' Association. Thank you to the Friends' Association for all their hard work over the last few months. Their help is extremely appreciated and allows the school to buy 'extras' for the children. We will be hosting a theatre group on the last day of term and they will be performing King Arthur as a Panto.

During November we took time to commemorate Remembrance Day with special Assemblies. Year 6 worked with Paul Puttick from Kent Libraries and also laid poppies at the Great Chart Memorial. Classes throughout the school made a vast array of poppy related artwork and we had some beautiful poems created and performed.

As you will be aware the children have been focusing on the value of 'Aspiration'. It's really important that our children have goals for the future and so we have started an Alumni for ex pupils, in the hope that we can develop a directory of people who would be willing to come and talk to the children about their careers. We've already had a talk from an ex pupil who is now a doctor. If you are an ex pupil or know of an ex pupil please use the link below to complete our Alumni form:

<https://www.great-chart.kent.sch.uk/alumni/>

From term 3 we will be sending out a termly newsletter, rather than a monthly edition. With the creation of our weekly e-bulletin hopefully parents feel this is a much more efficient way to keep you informed. I hope you are also enjoying the school dojo and class dojo pages. It is such an effective way to celebrate achievements and keep you informed about what is happening in school.

Finally, please could I take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



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Year 4 Viking Day

This term the children in Year 4 have been learning about Vikings. During the first week we began this exciting topic with a bang and held our annual Viking day, however this year it was a little different. The children were all invited to wear their own costumes, which were incredible. We were really impressed with all the effort that went into their costumes, some having home made helmets and even some weaponry.

During the day we looked at who the Vikings were, where they came from and why they invaded. We spent time looking at historical sources before reading maps and looking at how they travelled. We all really enjoyed the drama that came within the day, learning how Vikings would prepare for battle and the importance of teamwork. We carried out strength and agility tasks, together with formation and Viking calls. Later in the day we learnt more about Viking children and held a debate into whether or not we would like to have been a Viking child. Some were keen (as it meant no school) but most were not happy about housework, cooking, cleaning and tending to the animals all day. Finally, we spent the afternoon looking at Viking longships and even measured one out in the playground. The children were shocked at how large they actually were. Art was favoured to end the day, as we all learnt how to draw a dragon boat accurately.

We had a fantastic day and thank all the parents for their enthusiasm and support in providing the costumes. It was a brilliant event!



Remember, Remember the 5th of November



Please could we say a massive thank you to the Friends' Association and all those who helped at the Fireworks event. It was extremely well supported and hopefully everyone had a lovely time. It was really nice to be able to hold a community event once more at our school.

Year 5 Victorian Day



On Tuesday 9th November, our class had a Victorian day. In order to attend school all children had to bring in a penny. Walking through the school gates, we noticed all our other classmates had been separated into boys and girls. Our teachers, Mrs Warman, Mrs Thompson, Mrs Bilham and Mrs Shevlin, were a lot more strict than they were the day before (Mrs Bilham actually changed her name to Miss Stern). As we walked into our classroom, we found the tables in rows of two, also separating the boys from the girls. When we did something wrong, we would have had to sit in a corner (looking at a map) and wear something called the Dunces hat. The first thing we did was a little geography lesson about the British Empire. After that, we did our Maths lesson which was really boring as we just had a full sheet of column addition but we were forbidden to use our fingers to count. So that meant we had to do it all mentally which was pretty hard when you need to exchange. Thankfully, when that was all over, we had a mini Victorian playtime. The girls played with hula hoops and skipping ropes. While the girls did that, the boys happily played a game of football. When entering the classroom again, we had to copy the entire alphabet on a chalkboard. It was really hard as the chalk was really small in our hands. After our lunch break we had the greatest time of having the privilege of making our own play dolls and taking them home. All of our dolls were different as we have our own ideas. We were given a few scrap bits of fabric, wool and string to make them. It was such a super day!

By Amelie and Eliza

Remembrance Day

On Remembrance Day, the whole school took part in an assembly to reflect on the brave and to pay respect during the two minute silence. Year 3 shared a lovely class poem too, well done. Many children wore their poppies with pride, thank you.

Many classes marked this special day by creating Remembrance Day poems, poppy artwork or letters. The school looks beautiful and there is a sense of pride all around us.



On Thursday the 11th of November, Year Six had an interesting day commemorating Remembrance Day. First of all, we walked to the Great Chart memorial and we learnt all about Elizabeth Quinton Strouts (she sent soldiers presents and letters during the war while she was living in Singleton Manor). At the memorial, the head boys and girls also placed down a poppy wreath to pay their respect to the soldiers of Great Chart. We looked at all their names and saw how many of the fallen soldiers were families from the village. After we had returned from our walk, we had our Remembrance Service and we learnt about the importance of remembering those who passed during the war. Afterwards, a two minute silence took place. Later, after the assembly, Paul Puttick from the Ashford Library came to talk to us about what Elizabeth Quinton Strouts did and we read some of the letters that the soldiers sent to her. It gave a real picture of what life must have been like for those soldiers.

Written By Lily-Mae T and Amelia O



Remembrance Day Cont/d

On Thursday 11th November we invited children, that are part of a uniformed organisation, such as Scouting or Guiding to take part in Remembrance Day at school. Children were invited to wear their full, smart uniforms along with their poppies to school for the day.



Exciting News from Mrs Cullen...

On Sunday 14th November, I travelled to London with 34 other members of Girlguiding Kent East, to take part in the annual Remembrance day parade at the Cenotaph in London.

We got a chance to speak to some of the Veterans and listening to their stories was a very humbling experience. The whole day was so memorable and the sense of pride and honour I felt at being part of this was huge.



Children in Need



On Friday 19th November the children had a non school uniform day in exchange for a small donation to Children in Need.

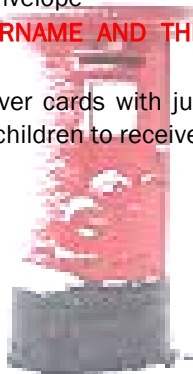
We would like to thank you for your support.

Christmas Preparations

From Monday 6th December until Wednesday 15th December the Christmas Post Box will be in the foyer in reception for children to post their cards to their friends. If your child wants to send Christmas Cards to their friends could you please check whether they have written clearly on the envelope

THE FIRST NAME, SURNAME AND THE CLASS THEIR FRIEND IS IN.

It is impossible to deliver cards with just a child's first name and we do want children to receive their cards.



A huge thank you to Andrew Barker from Hunters and Mr Soper and Miss Brown from SAS Brickwork & Construction Ltd for kindly sponsoring our Christmas trees this year.



Christmas Jumper Day

Save the Children are holding a Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 10th December 2021. We thought this would be a worthwhile cause and would like to invite the children and staff to wear a festive jumper/t-shirt to school on this day. We are asking for a donation in return for participation.

The money raised will help Save the Children give the world's forgotten children a brighter future. It could help bring essentials like healthcare, education, protection and food to the millions of children around the world who are missing out on the most basic support.

If your child does not have a Christmas Jumper they may wear a red or green t-shirt instead or add some tinsel to a t-shirt they already have so they can still feel involved. Many children have a jumper/t-shirt from last year.

Pupils are to wear school uniform bottoms with their festive outfits.

We hope this will be a fun and worthwhile event and look forward to your support.



September 2022 Admissions

We will be holding school tours on Wednesday 15th December for parents of Sept 2022 Admissions. Please contact the office to book your place.

Christmas Dinner



Please remember that on Wednesday 15th December we will be having our school Christmas dinner. If your child is not having a school meal please can you ensure you send in a packed lunch as there will be no alternative options on the day.



Severe Weather Planning



In the case of severe weather the school will always try to remain open, but on rare occasions may need to close or open slightly later. If this is the case information will be given as follows:

- School website- www.great-chart.kent.sch.uk under 'latest news' on the home page
- Email
- School App
- www.kentclosures.co.uk (you can also register for text alerts or email on using this website)
- When a member of staff arrives at school they will answer the phone

Or via local radio stations:

Radio Station	Frequency	Website
KMFM	Ashford 107.6fm	www.kentschoolclosures.co.uk
BBC Radio Kent	96.7/104.2fm	www.bbc.co.uk/kent
Heart FM	103.1/102.8fm	www.heart.co.uk/kent

For full details please refer to the letter sent out regarding Severe Weather.



Diary Dates

Wednesday 1st December 9.15am—EYFS Show to Parents
Thursday 2nd December—Year 2 Forest School
Friday 3rd December—Non-School Uniform Day (in exchange for Elfridges donation)
Friday 3rd December KSI at 2pm—Christmas Show to Parents with preschool children
Monday 6th December KSI 9.15am—Christmas Show to Parents
Monday 6th December 2pm—Family Liaison Officer Anxiety Parent Session
Tuesday 7th December—Year 6 WW2 Day
Tuesday 7th December KSI 9.15am— Christmas Show to Parents
Wednesday 8th December KSI 9.15am— Christmas Show to Parents
Thursday 9th December—Year 5 Educational Visit to Leeds Castle
Thursday 9th December—Year 4 Forest School
Friday 10th December—Christmas Jumper Day
Monday 13th December—KS2 Carol Concert at Great Chart Church (no parents)
Wednesday 15th December 3.30-5.30pm—New Parents Open Session
Friday 17th December - Headteacher's Tea Party
Friday 17th December - Last Day of Term
Monday 20th December - Monday 3rd January Christmas Holidays
Tuesday 4th January - First Day of Term
Friday 14th January 2pm—5 Toke Sharing Assembly followed by Open Classroom Session
Friday 21st January 2pm—6 Toke Sharing Assembly followed by Open Classroom Session
Friday 28th January 2pm—6 Griffin Sharing Assembly followed by Open Classroom Session
Monday 31st January 2pm—Family Liaison Officer Home Routines Parent Session

Up Coming Exciting Dates

29th Nov—3rd Dec
Pre-Loved Christmas Clothing Sale

15th December

Christmas Dinner

17th December

Panto—King Arthur

Last Day for Clubs

Kestrel Gymnastics Y1&2— 2nd Dec
Kestrel Gymnastics Y3-6—3rd December
Gymnastics Y4&5— 6th December
Cookery Club Y6—6th December
TSS Football Y1&2—6th December
Tag Rugby Y3 & 4— 23rd Nov (Finished)
Creative Writing Y2&3—8th December
TSS Football Y3-Y6— 8th December
Dance/Fitness Y4—25th Nov (Finished)
Book Club Y1&2—2nd December
Debating Club Y5&6—9th December
Tennis Club Y2&3—13th December
Irish Dancing Y1-6—14th December
Natalie's Stars — 15th December



CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Wednesday 8th December Year 5

Thursday 9th December Year 4

Monday 13th December Year 2 and Goldwell

Tuesday 14th December Year 3 and 6G

Wednesday 15th December EYFS

Thursday 16th December Year 1 and 6T

Children can come to school in their party clothes on the day of their party but please remember that they will be going outside to play during break and lunchtimes so they need to be dressed warmly and will need their coats.