



Great Chart Primary School

Newsletter for Parents and Pupils



December 2020



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. Although Christmas may seem different this year we will certainly try to bring a little Christmas joy to school. Christmas parties, Christmas dinner, a panto and our eagerly awaited school Christmas carol compilation will hopefully ensure the children can celebrate Christmas at school. All of these activities will continue to follow our measures to ensure we all remain safe. Thank you to the Friends' Association for providing the panto for the children at an additional cost so that we can organise performances to keep year groups in their bubbles.

Thank you for supporting our various charities this term: the school through our non-uniform day, crowdfunding page and Christmas raffle. Thank you also for supporting Children in Need and for any donations made to The Poppy Appeal. I can appreciate that things are very difficult at the moment so any donation you have made has been gratefully received.

During November we took time to commemorate Remembrance Day with a special class assembly. The theme centred around Then and Now: Service and Sacrifice. Children heard about the service and sacrifice of different groups during the second world war and compared this to what is happening in their lives today. Year 6 worked with Paul Puttick and Rob Illingworth from Kent Libraries and also laid poppies at the Great Chart Memorial.

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 continue to access our 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. 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/>

For now, we have contacted quite a few ex pupils and asked them to put together a short presentation relating to their memories at school, the goals they had and ultimately what they are doing now. During each Friday Assembly the children will be finding out about our ex pupils. So far we've had: a graphic designer, officers in the army, a doctor, a vet, a solicitor, a nurse, a police officer and many more. We will share these with the children throughout this term and next. It's such a great way to share the experiences of many of our ex pupils and for the staff, who have known some of these people, to find out what they are all doing now.

Thank you once again for the support you have given to the school during this term. It's been extremely challenging and a worrying time for everyone but our aim has been to try to keep things as normal as possible for the children.

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

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Well done to...

Charlie had some great news this term! He sent in his COVID-19 poem, that he created in Lockdown 1 during his home schooling, to Blue Peter. He won a Blue Peter badge which is incredible. Well done Charlie!



My Corona Poem



It's been so strange this time we
live in,



Nothing is the same as it was
before.



Our lives have been taken away
by a new, deadly virus, Covid-19



It's been so strange, this time at
home,



Our classrooms are forgotten
and our friends are not with us.
Teachers teach us on devices not in
person,
it is sad.



It's been so strange, this staying
indoors.



We can't go out to play.
The days seem long and boring.



We walk with our families around
the block,



and have to stay 2 meters apart.
We can't visit the swings in the
park.



Happy Diwali

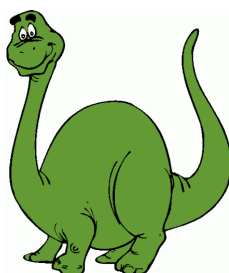
Thank you to Lakshana and Ronan for sharing their family Diwali celebrations with us in Assembly. Happy Diwali



Dinosaur Day



On the 21st October, our Year Ones took on their biggest challenge yet and became palaeontologists! They used great care to uncover a wide range of fossils and even found an Ichthyosaur just like Mary Anning! Whilst uncovering these dinosaurs the children were all able to share their knowledge of the difference between carnivores and herbivores. In the afternoon, our brave young adventurers got up close and personal with Jack the Allosaurus, Mia the Triceratops, Bella the Velociraptor and finally Millie the Tyrannosaurus Rex. It was a day full of fun and the children all enjoyed sharing what they had learnt in this topic. Thank you to the Friends Association.



Remember, Remember the 5th of November



Remembrance Day



On Wednesday 11th November we invited children, that are part of a uniformed organisation, such as Scouting, Guiding, Boys/Girls Brigade and Cadets to take part in an alternative Remembrance Day Parade at school. Children were invited to wear their full, smart uniforms along with their poppies to school for the day. With no formal parades happening, this was a chance to show a respectful united front, remembering those that have fallen during the wars.

Year 4 Viking Day

On Thursday 12th November, Year 4 held our Viking Day. The children were invited to dress as Vikings and they took part in a round of activities to experience various aspects of Viking life. This is what some of the children had to say about their day:

Firstly, when we got into school, we were split into two groups. I was in Group 2 so I played Kubbs first with Mrs Shevlin and our team won. Then we went to Mrs Barker's class where we were doing Viking keep fit. We were testing our arm and leg strength and our brains. After break, we made Viking oat cakes with Mrs Burton. They were made of oats, honey and dried fruits. After lunch we designed shields with Mrs Mburu. Mine looked very, very cool. When it was time to go home I was very upset that the day was over.

By Eve

On Viking day we made Viking oat cakes. They contained oats, honey and dried fruit. It was very fun because I had never done it before. After that, we designed Viking shields. Mine has big cats on it to represent being fierce, red to represent blood and circles to represent the holes of arrows. Then we played Kubbs - this is a Viking game. You have a defence and a wooden stick to knock it down with. Once you've done this, you can knock down the 'king' and get a point for your team.

By Seren

On Viking Day, I got to cheat in one of the Viking games, because my team was losing! We made Viking oat cakes and we got to take them home. We designed a Viking shield and I put green and blue on mine to represent the sea and grass. We also did activities to see who was the strongest, who could jump the furthest and, finally, who was the fastest.

By Francesca

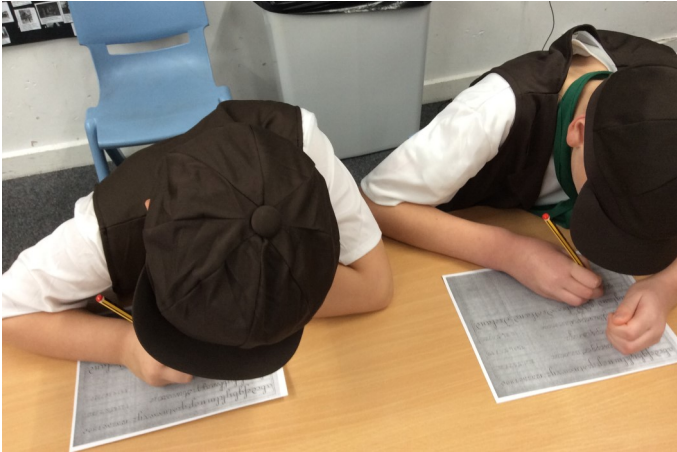
First, we made Viking oat cakes and we put honey, oats, raisins and melted butter in them, then put them in the oven. Next, we designed a Viking shield and we had some ideas given to us. I created one with a spear and a red, blue and orange pattern. Thirdly, we played a Viking game which was called Kubbs. The other team got to cheat because we are Vikings! Sadly, we didn't get to cheat. Lastly, we played games of strength - I came second in one of them. We tested our brains, legs, arms, stamina and strength.

By Charlie M



Year 5 Victorian Day

Year 5 travelled back in time to the Victorian Era and experienced a day in the life of a Victorian school child. Miss Drab, Miss Blunt and Miss Pickles were in attendance, plus a school inspector to ensure standards and pupil behaviour. Unfortunately, despite the strict school rules some pupils found themselves spending time in the corner or having to wear the dunce hat!



Victorian day

For Victorian day, everyone came in wearing their Victorian costumes with a potato in their left hand and a coin in their right. When we got in the playground, the boys had to line up in a different line than the girls. When we got to the classroom, the girls sat on the right side of the room as the boys sat on the left. During the day, we did the following activities: Alphabet, Handwriting, Times Tables, Old Fashioned Handwriting, Potato Sketching, Technical Drawing For The Boys, Sewing For The Girls, Drill. People who were left handed had to write with their right hand. I felt like I was in the Victorian times and I feel bad about how the children were treated during this era.

BY IMOGEN & OLIVER



Friday 13th November saw us fundraising for another great cause—Children in Need. Whilst things were a little different this year we still managed to raise a whopping £471.65. Thank you.



A huge thank you to Andrew Barker from Hunters for kindly sponsoring our Christmas tree by the front entrance, this year.



Christmas Post Box

With all the restrictions we have in place at the moment we will not have our central post box for children to post their Christmas cards. However, if children still want to write and send Christmas cards, I feel this is an important tradition and certainly helps them with their handwriting skills!

For this year each class will do the following:

- Each class to have a posting area in their room
- Children can send cards to friends and staff in their class only. (For those classes who are split 3 ways this is also the rule.)
- Children won't be able to send cards to other members of staff or children not in their class bubble.

Please ensure envelopes are clearly named. Children may bring their cards in from Tuesday 1st December until Friday 11th December. They will then be handed out on Wednesday 16th December, this is to ensure they are safely quarantined prior to being handed out.

Many thanks for your support.



September 2021 Admissions

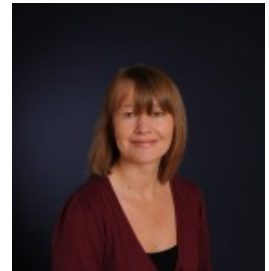
Due to the current situation we are unable to hold school tours for parents of children starting school in September 2021, we have however recorded a virtual tour and a presentation from Mrs Pang which can be found on our website

<https://www.great-chart.kent.sch.uk/parents/admissions/september-2020-admissions/>

Family Liason Officer

My name is Nicky Ostridge and I am the Family Liaison Officer here at Great Chart Primary School. I have worked at Great Chart for many years and am very familiar with our school. I have 4 adult children of my own so understand what you are facing.

I wanted to update you about my role. I work with our children within school for many different reasons - these include friendship issues and worries to them personally about school or their families. Similarly, I am here for you as parents too - a listening ear, family support, concerns you may have and I can signpost to other agencies for support too. There is an answer to every problem, we can find it together.



You can contact me by calling the school office on 01233 620040 or email me directly to flo@great-chart.kent.sch.uk

Kind regards

Christmas Dinner

Nourish
contract catering

CHRISTMAS MENU

Wednesday 16th December

Merry Christmas!

Roast Turkey with Festive Trimmings (4,6)
Vegetable Parcel (1)
Peas
Carrots
Roast Potatoes

Mr Nourish Festive Chocolate Cookie (1)

Please order your child's dinner by
Friday 27th November

Please remember that on Wednesday 16th December we will be having our school Christmas dinner. If you have not ordered your child a meal please ensure you send in a packed lunch as there will be no alternative options on the day.

Christmas Jumper Day

Save the Children are holding a Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 11th December 2020. 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 apart from EYFS as they will be in non-uniform for their Christmas Party.

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



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

Thursday 3rd December—Year 3 Forest School

Thursday 10th December—Year 4 Forest School

Friday 11th December—Christmas Jumper Day

Wednesday 16th December—Christmas Lunch

Thursday 17th December—EYFS Forest School

Friday 18th December— Last Day of Term

Monday 21st December—Friday 1st January—Christmas Holidays

Monday 4th January—First Day of Term

Up Coming Exciting Dates

17th & 18th December
Panto

Last Day for Clubs

Gymnastics Yr 1— 11 December

Gymnastics Yr 2—10 December

Football— Yr 1 & 2—7 December

Football—Yr 3—Yr 6— 9 December

Natalies Stars — 16th December



CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Thursday 10th Dec Year 4

Friday 11th December EYFS

Monday 14th December Year 3 and 6T

Tuesday 15th December Year 2 and 6G

Wednesday 16th December Year 1

Thursday 17th December Year 5

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.