



Great Chart Primary School Newsletter for Parents and Pupils December 2024



MESSAGE FROM MRS PANG, HEADTEACHER

Christmas is nearly 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 performing their Christmas show and it was great to see parents supporting them. Please could I thank everyone who has helped to put on these wonderful performances. Putting on a Nativity type performance is incredibly time consuming which many of our children find hard to cope with so we have tried to keep it much more manageable for everyone.

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. The Christmas fair was also very well supported.

Thank you to the Friends' Association for all their hard work over the last few months including the events running up to Christmas. 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 "Aladdin."

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 'Ambition'. It's really important that our children have goals for the future and so we have continued 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/>

Our priorities this year can be found on the school website -

<https://www.great-chart.kent.sch.uk/about/strategic-plan/>

In terms of our curriculum we will be focusing on writing, questioning in maths and assessment for learning within the wider curriculum. We are also introducing The Empowerment Approach to ensure children are at their brain best for learning and play. We will be providing more information to parents in Term 3 and will hopefully hold a parents' information session in Term 5.

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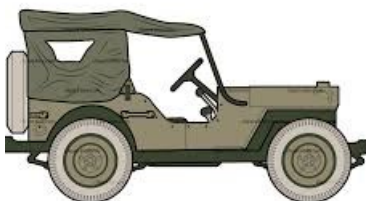
We said goodbye to a member of staff during term 2: Mrs Elliott who is now working at Ashford Oaks. We wish her all the best in her new role. Could I also take the time to welcome Mrs Creed to our team who joined us in Term 1.

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

Remembrance Day



As a year group, Year 6 partook in lots of activities for Remembrance Day. Some experts came in from Ashford Library to talk to us about war time in Great Chart. They told us about Elizabeth Quinton Strouts who organised the Great Chart Sailors And Soldiers War Fund. In this group, they sent letters and parcels to men from Great Chart who were at the Front. In total, they sent 5,921 parcels and 989 letters. The experts had brought in some of the letters in reply for us to examine. Some were in gratitude for the parcels they had received and others just wanted to get home to their families. After this, we walked up to Great Chart Memorial. There, we laid a poppy wreath and paid our respects. We also did our two minute silence, remembering those who lived and died through the war.



The children were also visited by Mr Burton who brought in his renovated WWII Willys jeep and various other artefacts for them to explore. They all found this very exciting and informative.

Year 5 Victorian Day

How does school in Victorian times compare to school in 2024?

Schools in the Victorian times were much stricter and you wouldn't actually learn anything. The teachers don't teach you anything, they just put something on the board and expect you to know it. If you get a single thing wrong they would stand you in a corner and put a hat called the Dunce hat on you. If you were really bad like if you talked or even looked back you would get caned. The teacher wouldn't actually care about you. Your PE would be some drills. In the Victorian era the boys and girls weren't allowed to fraternise. They endured a lot.

Nowadays school is much easier. The teachers aren't strict, they actually teach you things. Mistakes are a thing to celebrate now we learn from them and they aren't forbidden. Boys and girls can play together and they can talk to each other. We have continuous lessons about the same thing for about 5 lessons. It's forbidden to cane or put a dunce hat on someone now. You would probably lose your job. Children now actually get warmed up in PE and get taught some sports. Our handwriting now is much easier to read and write. In our playtime there are many more things to do such as football, basketball and so on.

Conclusion: In conclusion I prefer school in 2024 because the teachers are not as strict as the Victorian teachers and we don't get boring subjects. They didn't have any school holidays and their only breaks from school were the weekends. They didn't have any sports to do and didn't have much to do at break times. Inside the school it would've been pretty cold. The children would probably have been freezing or shivering in their disgraceful clothes. They only sang prayers about God is good, God is love and so on.

Written by Ollie H



Year 6 Visit to Kent Life



During the day we took part in a range of activities. One activity involved training to become soldiers in World War 2. We were taught formations. We then became evacuees escaping tragedy in London. We had to ride a train to Devon; when we arrived we were picked by the public (teachers). We also wrote letters back home.



During the afternoon we trudged through the slushy mud, making our way to a woman farmer and learnt about the war effort and rationing. She educated us on what it is like to be in the women's land army.

Afterwards we went to a room to help locate the German luftwaffe. We found out that they were taking off from Paris and coming to London.

We also trained to be ARP wardens. We were taught how to guard the streets and protect citizens from fires or bombs.

During the last activity of the day we explored 'dig for victory' and looked at an Anderson shelter. Next we looked at a shop and some preserved items from WW2 which included coffee and powdered eggs. It was a truly amazing experience.



By Kiana and Annelise (6 Toke)



Children in Need

On Friday 15th 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



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. Children can also bring a small snack and a drink. No glass bottles or fizzy drinks, thank you.

Monday 9th December—5G, 6G & 6 GO

Tuesday 10th December—5T & 6T

Wednesday 11th December— Year 4

Thursday 12th December—Year 3

Monday 16th December—Year 1

Tuesday 17th December—Year 2

Wednesday 18th December—EYFS

From **Monday 9th December to Thursday 19th December** the Christmas Post Box will be in the foyer in reception for children to post their cards to their friends who are in different classes. If your child wants to send Christmas cards to their friends could you please check whether they have written clearly on the envelope

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 the children to receive their cards.

A huge thank you to Collins Bespoke for kindly sponsoring our Christmas tree this year.



Christmas Jumper Day



Save the Children
**CHRISTMAS
JUMPER DAY**

Save the Children are holding a Christmas Jumper Day again this year and we would like to invite the children and staff to wear a festive jumper/t-shirt to school on **Friday 13th December**.

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.

We are not asking for a donation for this event this year, instead the Friends' Association will be donating 50p from every gift purchased in the Elfridges Sale.

Christmas Dinner

Please remember that on **Wednesday 18th 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 there will be a notice on the main Homepage with more details under News
- Email and/or text message
- 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

Please also refer to the e-bulletin

Tuesday 10th –Friday 13th Dec 9:15am —EYFS & KSI Christmas Concerts to Parents only

Tuesday 10th Dec 7pm —Friends' Association Meeting

Thursday 12th Dec—4G Last swimming session

Friday 13th Dec—Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 13th Dec —Year 6 World War II day

Friday 13th Dec —Friends' Elfridges Sale

Monday 16th Dec —KS2 Christmas Carol Service

Tuesday 17th Dec —4 Griffin Bikeability

Wednesday 18th Dec —4 Toke Bikeability

Friday 20th Dec —Last Day of Term

Tuesday 7th Jan —First Day of Term

Thursday 9th Jan 3:15-5:15pm —KAE Elmer Family Event EYFS & Yr 1

Tuesday 14th Jan 7pm —Friends' Association AGM

Friday 31st Jan —Open Session for Year 1 and Year 6

Friday 7th Feb—Open Session for Year 4

Tuesday 11th Feb 7pm—Friends' Association Meeting

Friday 14th Feb —Last Day of Term

Monday 24th Feb—First Day of Term

Wednesday 5th Mar—KS2 Consultations (except Yr 5)

Thursday 6th Mar—EYFS & KSI Consultations

Tuesday 11th Mar 7pm — Friends' Association Meeting

Wednesday 12th Mar—EYFS & KSI Consultations

Thursday 13th Mar—KS2 Consultations (except Yr 5)

Friday 21st Mar 3-3:30pm—EYFS Open Session

Friday 28th Mar—Friends' Association Someone Special Sale

Friday 4th April—Last Day of Term

Tuesday 22nd April—First Day of Term—Great Chart

Wednesday 23rd April—First Day of Term—Goldwell

Up Coming Exciting Dates

18th December

Christmas Dinner

19th December

Panto

20th December

Headteacher's Tea Party

Last Day for Clubs

Great Chart Singers— 9th Dec

TSS Football (KSI) — 9th Dec

Baking Club (Tuesdays) - 10th Dec

Irish Dancing—10th Dec

TSS Football (KS2) — 11th Dec

Natalie's Stars—11th Dec

Mindful Moments—12th Dec

Baking Club (Thursdays) —12th Dec

Kestrel Gymnastics (Thurs) - 12th Dec

Kestrel Gymnastics (Fri) - 13th Dec

Forest School

Thursday 12th Dec— **Year 4**

Thursday 9th Jan —**EYFS**

Thursday 16th Jan —**Year 6**

Thursday 23rd Jan—**Year 5**

Thursday 30th Jan—**Year 4**

Thursday 6th Feb—**Year 3**

Thursday 27th Feb—**Year 2**

Thursday 6th Mar—**Year 1**

Thursday 13th March—**EYFS**

Thursday 20th March—**Year 6**

Thursday 27th March—**Year 5**

Thursday 3rd April—**Year 4**