



Great Chart Primary School Newsletter for Parents and Pupils May 2021



Message From Mrs Pang, Headteacher

It seems such a long time since I wrote my last message for the newsletter. I actually wrote something for the January newsletter which in the end never went out due to the events which then followed. I don't think any of us could have predicted the strange year we have had since March 2020 but hopefully we can all look forward to the long Summer months ahead of us and be able to spend much more time outside. It's always great to be able to use all our fantastic outdoor space and bring the classroom outside.

Although we are still living under many restrictions we can begin to plan for some events at the end of the year. It would be great to be able to have some form of Sports' Day and even possibly our annual Picnic in The Park. These events may be organised differently but we will certainly try to do something, even if it's just for the children.

Our value for this term will focus on Independence. Independence allows a child to feel that they have some control over their life and gives them a sense of self-esteem; both of which are important for developing a positive attitude towards school life and leading into their adult lives.

We have a busy two terms now with assessments, preparing for transition for all children and events for the end of term. Although very busy, the Summer Term is always a positive one for all pupils and staff as we focus on looking forward to the future.



We would like to give a warm welcome to Miss Bissett who has joined Foundation year and Mr Bagshaw who has joined the Y1 team. I'm sure they will settle into Great Chart School life really well.

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Rainbow of Hope Day

We would like to thank the school community for their support for our Rainbow of Hope Day on the last day of term. The children seemed to have great fun with their classes baking cakes, holding a danceathon, taking part in quizzes and dressing up in bright coloured clothes among other things. So far we have raised over £2000 thanks to matched funding from Barclays for the quiz that staff took part in on the Friday evening. Well done to Mrs Page and her family that won an amazing chocolate hamper from the talented Betsy Page.



Well-being Day

On 12th March the whole school had a Well-Being Day. This was a wonderful end to our first week back; it couldn't have been better timing. All the children and teachers had great fun doing various activities from orienteering, making Mother's Day cards, producing stop motion movies, sketching daffodils to creating bug hotels and many more things. It was lovely to feel the buzz and excitement in the air and the children really deserved this day as they have all settled in and worked so hard during their first week back after homeschooling.





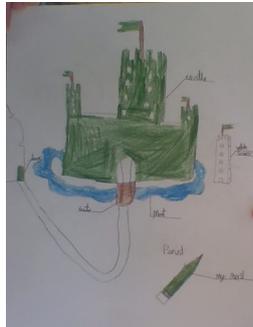
WORLD BOOK DAY



World Book Day this year was on Thursday 4th March - in lockdown! However, that did not stop us from celebrating it. Many of the teachers and teaching assistants recorded themselves reading books which all the children had access to listening to. Stories ranged from scary ghost stories for upper KS2 to The Tiger Who Came To Tea. A lot of the older children said they enjoyed listening to some of their favourite picture books from when they were in KS1!

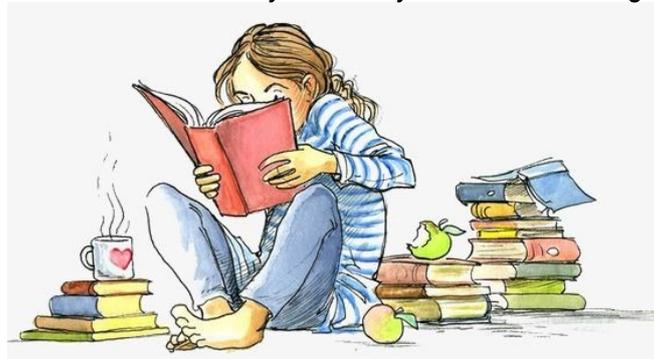
Every class also had some of their English lessons that week based around the book "Journey" by Aaron Becker. It is a beautiful wordless book that shows a child with a magical crayon creating her own adventures in different worlds. The children all enjoyed thinking about where they would go if they had their own magic crayon and what worlds they would create.

All the children came up with lots of good ideas and had fun creating their own magical worlds.



Writing by Daisy in Year 6:

As the door that was drawn from a half pink- half blue magic crayon swung open, the scent of cotton candy drifted within the air; a large minty candy-cane stood on the right side of the magical candy-filled land. Like a child's dream, the mega- size rainbow strips, that hung down like a vibrant sugared vine, welcome you in closer, beckoning you to take a look at the jelly beans, falling gracefully like rain. As you look up you see the soft cotton candy clouds, pigmented a light pink and blue. Beside you on your left, stood a shining lollipop, that could probably feed a family for a month. The delightful, sticky surface of the hard candy stood, glistening in the daylight. Flavourful sprinkles, in a colour scheme of red, blue and yellow drifted onto the candy land's clean surface, falling into your mouth. You could hear the sound of the gentle jelly beans, falling majestically on the floor. The land of candy was every child's dream merged into a land.





Get your child's voice heard and make a difference

The Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, is launching a once-in-a-generation review of children's lives.

It's called 'The Childhood Commission' and it will identify the barriers preventing children reaching their full potential and propose policy solutions to address them.

At its heart is 'The Big Ask' – the largest ever consultation held with children.

In this survey the Children's Commissioner is asking children and young people what they think is important for their future and what is holding young people back. The Children's Commissioner will use what children and young people tell her to show the Government what they think and what they need to live happier lives.

It's an exciting opportunity to help us think big and it's a chance for every child in England to have their voice heard.

Lights, Camera, Action



On Friday 30th April it was National Daily Mile Day and we had the pleasure of welcoming Meridian News to the school to film our teachers and pupils taking part in the Daily Mile. We started with a whole school warm-up where everybody took part. This was our first whole school meet up outside since returning to school after the national lockdown and what better way to celebrate this than featuring on the local news.

Hopefully most of the children will have seen the report on the Daily Mile on Friday but here is the link if you missed it:

<https://www.itv.com/news/meridian/2021-04-30/daily-mile-schools-across-the-south-join-thousands-taking-part-on-first-national-day>



We raised a massive £463.69 for Comic Relief by holding a non-school uniform day on Friday 19th March. Thank you to everyone that contributed.

Y3 Underwater World

Year 3 have transformed their shared area into David Attenborough's Blue Planet. The children and staff have created their very own underwater world, learning how damaging plastic is to this amazing habitat.

They will also send letters and pictures to David Attenborough telling him about what they have been learning.

Throughout, they have been focusing on our value for the term which is Responsibility. We all have a responsibility to protect our world.

Well done Y3



Woodland Workout with Mrs Willemse



Dear Parents,

Some of you may be aware that I am also a qualified Personal Trainer and at the weekends I have the pleasure of working at a beautiful local spa retreat. I run a *Woodland Workout* exercise class on a Saturday morning and these are just relaunching after lockdown. I am also available for private group bookings at Green Farm.

It is safe to say that over the last year, we have all learnt to appreciate the importance and joy of getting outside, and studies have shown that exercising outdoors and 'in nature' has even more incredible physical and mental health benefits. From reducing your blood pressure and resting heart rate, there is even evidence to suggest that exercise may feel easier when performed outdoors due to the changing surroundings and sensory stimuli.

When training outdoors, you can also enjoy the benefits of our glorious British sunshine, even if it isn't the brightest day. Fresh air and natural light invigorate the mind and provide the body lots of lovely and important vitamin D that we need to support healthy immune function, bones, nervous system and many other things. To take advantage of all these wonderful benefits that nature provides, *Woodland Workouts* have been created to provide a series of unique, nature-inspired training sessions to those looking for an all-over body workout, set in the magical, private woodlands at Green Farm. Combining bodyweight exercises and cardio, whilst utilising the natural terrain and nature's own props, *Woodland Workouts* are perfect for all fitness levels. *Woodland Workouts* will run for 60 minutes, followed by a cup of refreshing Ginger or Garden Herb Tea afterwards in the Green Farm Community Garden. Booking is available on the Green Farm website. <https://www.greenfarmkent.co.uk/>





Diary Dates

Tuesday 4th May—Friends' Meeting

Thursday 6th May—EYFS Forest school

Thursday 13th May—Year 5 Forest School

Thursday 20th May—Year 6 Forest School

Friday 21st May—Class Photos

Thursday 27th May—Year 1 Forest School

Friday 28th May Last Day of Term

Monday 31st May—Friday 4th June—Half Term

Monday 7th June First Day of Term

Thursday 10th June—Year 2 Forest School

Friday 11th—13th June Year 6 Residential

Thursday 17th June—Year 3 Forest School

Wednesday 23rd June—New Parents Information Session

Thursday 24th June—Year 4 Forest School

Friday 25th June—Friends Association Non Uniform Day

Saturday 26th & Sunday 27th June—Scavenger Hunt organized by The Friends' Association

Thursday 1st July—EYFS Forest School

Friday 2nd July—Staff Development Day—School Closed to Children

Saturday 10th July—Year 6 Leavers' Party organised by the Friends' Association

Friday 16th July—Last Day of Term

Monday 19th July –Wednesday 21st July—Staff Development Day—School Closed to Children

Thursday 22nd July—Tuesday 31st August—Summer Holidays

Wednesday 1st Sept—Staff Development Day—School Closed to Children

Thursday 2nd September—First Day of Term

Up Coming Exciting Dates

13 May

Year 3 Roman Day

14th May

Wizard of Oz Production for
Key Stage 2 pupils

Week Commencing 21st June

Science Week

28th June

Year 6 Transition Week

TBC

- Sports Day
- Open Evening
- Picnic in the Park
- Year 6 Leavers' Service