



# Great Chart Primary School Newsletter for Parents and Pupils December 2022



## MESSAGE FROM MRS PANG, HEADTEACHER

### In this issue

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.

Please could I wish the Friends' Association all the best for the fireworks event. Fingers crossed the weather is on our side!

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 "The Great Christmas Robbery" 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 'Ambition'. 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. 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/>

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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# Welcome to EYFS



# Welcome to Year 6



# Harvest Festival

Celebrating Harvest Time made us reflect on why we need to be thankful and why we need to share. Thank you to Emma White from Ashford Family Food Bank and Rev Purle for joining us.



Dear Mrs Pang

It was a pleasure to come to the school today.

Wow, what a wonderful selection of food the children donated. Please can you let the children know that this is going to go towards filling 50 food parcels that we will send out into the local community. They will make a real difference to the current need.

Kind regards

FareShare Kent & Family Food Bank



# Year 5 Victorian Day

## What happened on Victorian Day

We came into school and our teachers were very strict. They barked orders at us, telling us to get into height order. We had to call our teachers "Ma'am".

We had to pay 1p admission for entry to school. We put it into a tin bucket. When we entered the classroom, we had to have a sanitary inspection to see if we were clean enough to go to this school.



Our teachers did not accept any mistakes and if we made any, we had to wear the dunce hat which was a hat that brings shame to the wearer. We couldn't resist laughing but our teacher was so strict that if we did, she made us stand up for a few minutes! So unfair!

## Our lessons

Our first lesson was arithmetic. The teachers did not care if you were not learning anything. If you made a mistake you could not rub it out! Our second lesson was reciting a poem called "Daffodils" by William Wordsworth. Our third lesson was to write the alphabet perfectly on a slate board. If you made a mistake you would have to start again!



## Victorian Playtime

At all times, boys and girls were separated and were under the watchful eye of the teachers who glided around the playground. The boys played football while the girls skipped gracefully.

In Victorian times, the boys would have had to use a pig's organ as a football! We didn't have much of a break time but the Victorians didn't have much time either.

## Our afternoon

We completed an exercise drill to keep fit and healthy. After this, the boys went to Mrs Burton and did some technical drawing. The girls went to Mrs Warman and made some peg dolls. Boys would learn things to go to work and girls learnt things for home as they were forbidden to work.

As you probably know, Victorians were very cruel but it was an era of change.

**Written by Nicholas and Ronan – Year 5**

# Creating a Great Chart Sensory Garden



Over the last six months we have been planning and creating our Sensory Garden which we plan to use as a calm, quiet place for children, staff and invited members of our local community to enjoy from the Spring Term onwards. The Sensory Garden is likely to continue to develop over the year ahead as we, with the hard work of the site managers, shape it into our vision of an area for reflection in an environment designed to stimulate the senses.

A huge thank you to Wickes and The Friends' Association for supporting the project. Wickes have kindly donated a huge quantity of gravel and top soil and the Friends' Association donated some of the money they raised and also have applied and secured a grant to help too. Without this much needed support, the project would not be able to go ahead!

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## Headteacher's Tea Party



Congratulations to the following children who were invited to the Headteacher's Party for good work and following the school rules.

- EYFS—Maggie and Sophie
- Year 1—Thomas and Freddie
- Year 2—Zoe and April
- Year 3—Prosper and Frank
- Year 4—Lewis and Florence
- Year 5—Tyan and Aslan
- Year 6—Chloe and Bella
- Goldwell—David

# Remembrance Day

**Our Year 6 Remembrance day, a Day to Remember.**

After our assembly, two people from Kent Libraries came to talk to us about Great Chart Village history during the Second World War. They gave us each a letter and in groups of four we discussed what qualities the letter held. Each letter had been sent to the Friends of Great Chart, which was founded by Elizabeth Strout. As well as this, they showed us pictures of the soldiers that wrote the letters who lived in the village. As a class, we discussed how their lives had changed since the war had started. We found out that before the war, all the men were desperate for adventure and when news came out that England needed soldiers, they took up the chance, a once in a lifetime opportunity. She often received letters but sometimes, as a treat, Elizabeth sent them small gifts that included: musical instruments, cake and other surprises. Although Elizabeth sent the soldiers gifts, the soldiers from Great Chart sent her gifts such as jumpers and mud sculptures. Altogether, we really enjoyed this part of the day, and before they left, we said a great big thank you to them.

After our lesson break, we got the chance to venture up to the war memorial, nearby the church, in the village. In pairs, we took a moment to admire all the cottages the old soldiers of Great Chart lived in. On our walk up to the memorial, we managed to get a good view of the old school, it was where the old Great Chart School was. Once we had reached the memorial, we gathered round it and looked at the names carved onto the stone. We looked at the boards at the side of the memorial because they had information on the soldiers and when they died. We found out that soldiers sadly died on Christmas Eve, they apparently died of wounds. When we went round the memorial, Mrs Carter asked us to find brothers; after a while we found a couple of pairs of brothers but never in the same force. We laid a poppy wreath and said a poem for the soldiers. After all of this, we participated in the 2 minute silence.

The whole day was a great experience and we will remember it even once we have left Great Chart Primary School. It was so interesting, learning about all the soldiers who left their village to go and fight for their country.

By Rachel and Eliza



# Children in Need



On Friday 18th November the children had a non school uniform day in exchange for a small donation to Children in Need. The children watched the Homewood Dance Dash.

We would like to thank you for your support.

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## Christmas Preparations

From **Monday 5th December** until **Wednesday 14th 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 Andrew Barker from Hunters Estate Agents for kindly sponsoring our Christmas tree this year.



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## Christmas Jumper Day

Save the Children are holding a Christmas Jumper Day on **Thursday 8th December 2022**. 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 4G who have their Christmas party that day.**

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



**Save the Children**  
**CHRISTMAS**  
**JUMPER DAY**

# Christmas Dinner



Please remember that on **Wednesday 14th 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.

The meal had to be pre-ordered by the end of November.

## EYFS Nativity



The Foundation children started our school Christmas festivities with their nativity. The party sheep are in Bethlehem and get very excited when they see Bethlehem filling up with people. They think it's a big party and they don't want to miss out. They escape from their flock and head into Bethlehem looking for the party. As they search for the celebration they come across the main characters of the traditional nativity story. They find a quiet stable and find an enormous reason to celebrate. After 5 performances we couldn't have been prouder of our little ones. Well done everybody.

## 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](http://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](http://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	<a href="http://www.kentschoolclosures.co.uk">www.kentschoolclosures.co.uk</a>
BBC Radio Kent	96.7/104.2fm	<a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/kent">www.bbc.co.uk/kent</a>
Heart FM	103.1/102.8fm	<a href="http://www.heart.co.uk/kent">www.heart.co.uk/kent</a>

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





# Diary Dates

Please also refer to the e-bulletin

Thursday 1st December—Year 2 Forest School

Thursday 1st December—4 Toke Swimming

Friday 2nd December—Year 6 Educational Visit to Museum of Kent Life

Friday 2nd December 2pm—Parenting Session with Nicky Ostridge. Invited parents only.

Friday 2nd December 2pm—KSI Christmas Show to Parents with pre-school children

Monday 5th to Wednesday 7th December 9.15am —KSI Christmas Show to Parents

Thursday 8th December—Christmas Jumper Day

Thursday 8th December—EYFS Forest School

Thursday 8th December—4 Toke Swimming

Friday 9th December—Friends' Elfridges Sale

Friday 9th December—Year 6 World War II day

Monday 12th December—KS2 Christmas Carol Concert

Wednesday 14th December 7pm —Friends' Association Meeting

Friday 16th December—Friends' Association Coffee Morning

**Friday 16th December—Last Day of Term**

**Tuesday 3rd January—First Day of Term**

Friday 20th January—Year 6 Open Session

Friday 27th January—Year 5 Open Session

Friday 3rd February—Year 4 Open Session

**Friday 10th February—Last Day of Term**

**Monday 20th February—First Day of Term**

Friday 10th March—Year 2 Open Session

Friday 17th March—Year 1 Open Session

Friday 24th March—EYFS & Year 3 Open Session

## Up Coming Exciting Dates

### 1st December

Non school uniform for donations to the Friends' Association Elfridges Sale

### 14th December

Christmas Dinner

### 16th December

Panto—The Great Christmas Robbery  
Headteacher's Tea Party

### Last Day for Clubs

**Kestrel Gymnastics for Yrs 1, 4 & 5** –  
Thursday 1st Dec

**Kestrel Gymnastics for Yrs 2, 3 & 6** —  
Friday 2nd Dec

**Year 6 Cooking Club**—Monday 5th Dec

**Football Yrs 1&2**— Monday 5th Dec

**STEM Computing** —Tuesday 6th Dec

**Cross Country**—Tuesday 6th Dec

**Rugby 7's**—Tuesday 6th Dec

**Irish Dancing**—Tuesday 6th Dec

**Choir**—Tuesday 6th Dec

**Football Yrs 3-6**— Wednesday 7th Dec

**Rugby**—Thursday 8th Dec

**Debating Club** — Thurs 8th Dec

**Tennis Club**—Monday 12th Dec

**Natalie's Stars**—Wednesday  
14th Dec



**Tuesday 6th December—Year 5**

**Wednesday 7th December—Year 3**

**Thursday 8th December—4G**

**Friday 9th December—4T**

**Monday 12th December—Year 1**

**Tuesday 13th December—Year 2**

**Wednesday 14th December—EYFS**

**Thursday 15th December—Year 6**

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.

