



Welcome to 'Little Chestnuts' Nursery

Welcome to Little Chestnuts Nursery! The children have settled quickly and are becoming familiar with staff, different areas of the school environment and with each other. We are looking forward to getting to know the children better and we have lots of exciting things planned. This Autumn term we will be enjoying three whole school topics, covering all aspects of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum. Our first topic is called 'Zap' where we will be learning about 'Super me'. In this topic we will be looking at ourselves and our families. We will also be covering a second topic called 'Game on' where we will be looking at electronic toys and games. In the second term our third topic will be 'Rubbish'. We will be looking at different materials and how to recycle them. This will also include making a recycling centre where children can sort, explore and create junk models from recycled materials.

Our whole school topics for the year:

Autumn 1st	Autumn 2nd	Spring 1st	Spring 2nd	Summer 1st	Summer 2nd
Zap	Rubbish	One World	Up, up and away!	Who? What?	Dream big!
Game on!				Where?	

Some information about the Nursery weekly timetable:

Monday AM Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library • Reading book changing <p><i>Please read important information about Library and Reading books below.</i></p>
Wednesday AM Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library • Reading book changing • <i>Please read important information about Library and Reading books below.</i>
Thursday AM Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PE • Library • Reading book changing <p><i>Please read important information about PE, Library and Book changing below.</i></p>
Friday AM Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Read in' (8:45-9:00am) If your child attends Nursery on a Friday morning you are welcome to stay until 9am and share a book with them.

PE Sessions

Please ensure that your child comes to nursery in their PE kit if they attend on a Thursday morning. Please keep a pair of plimsolls in a named peg bag in your child's locker. We will help them change into their plimsolls for the PE session.

Library

Library books are borrowed from our school library and children can choose from a wide variety of books. Please see the 'Book changing days' list below to find out which day of the week your child will be borrowing a library book. The library book should be kept at home for one week. Please return the library book, in your child's red book bag, on the same day of the next week in order for your child to choose a new one. Unfortunately if you do not return it on the specified day we will be unable to swap it for another one until their time slot in the following week.

Reading books

Your child will be provided with a 'Reading' book on the same day they are issued with a library book (See 'Book changing days' list below). **These books will be issued later in the term.** As with the library book, your child's reading book will be changed weekly, on the same day each week. We would appreciate it if you could ensure your child's reading book is kept in their book bag and brought to every session, this enables us to share the book with them in school too.

The reading books that we will be sending home are from our newly purchased collection of wordless 'picture books'. We have looked at some of these books in nursery over the past 2 weeks and the children are beginning to answer questions about what is happening in the pictures with enthusiasm! It is very important for children to be able to talk about the pictures in a book and begin to tell the story in their own words, just by using the pictorial clues. This aids them to develop early reading skills, imagination and creativity. You will find some ideas about different ways of using the picture books on sticky labels in the front cover of each book. You will also find some examples of key questions in the back cover of the book. Repetition is a great way to develop children's love of books and early reading skills, and often children want to look at, and talk about, the pictures again and again.

Before you return the reading book to nursery we would appreciate it if you could fill in a row of the 'Book Sharing Record' in your child's communication book. We would also like to know your child's feelings about the book; they can colour in a suitable face as to whether they enjoyed it or were not so keen! You can see

an example is below:

		<u>Book Sharing Record</u>			
Date	Book Title	Parents comments	How I felt about the book		
e.g. 28.09.16	Chalk	Toby really enjoyed this book. He looked carefully at all of the pictures and we made up the story together. Towards the end of the week Toby was able to describe what was happening on each page in his own words.			

Book changing days

Monday AM book change (library and reading book)	Wednesday AM book change (library and reading book)	Thursday AM book change (library and reading book)
Benjamin Clara Eva Felicity Musa Nisaja Olive Sara Wilfred	Austin Eleni Elisa Henry Isaac Jackson Jessica Moritz Oliver Sophie	Xander

Communication Books

Your child will be given a new communication book at the start of each full term. Please ensure this is brought to school every day in your child's book bag. Inside the communication book you will find pages titled 'Home/School communication', 'Book Sharing Record' and 'My Nursery Learning Journey'. The Learning Journey pages are used by staff to record evidence, such as photographs of your child and observations on sticky labels, which help towards completing our Early Years Foundation Stage assessment. If you wish to tell us about any new skills your child has demonstrated at home, or any significant achievements, please share them with us by writing a note on these Learning Journey pages. Staff will write in green pen in the communication books so we ask you to please use a different colour.

Toileting / Self-help skills

We understand that children in the nursery may require some help to manage their personal hygiene and self-care. We are encouraging all children to practise tasks such as being able to clean themselves thoroughly after toileting, washing their hands independently, taking off and putting on their shoes, putting their coat on, dressing and undressing (if they need to change their clothes) and eating with cutlery (if they have a hot meal). We would really appreciate it if you could keep practising all of these skills at home, as often as possible, to develop your child's independence.

Water

Please ensure your child brings a full bottle of water to Nursery each time they attend. We encourage children to drink plenty of water to ensure they stay hydrated and we refill it for them throughout the day if they drink it all.

Personal Belongings

Please ensure that all of your child's belongings are clearly marked with their name; all clothing (including shoes), water bottles, lunch boxes, book bags and peg bags. We have plenty of exciting activities and resources for children at nursery so we would appreciate it if any other personal belonging, such as toys / books etc, are left at home as we cannot accept responsibility for items getting lost or damaged.

Coats and Weather Protection

We are lucky to have a well-equipped and exciting outdoor space. Now that the weather is getting cooler, we ask if you could ensure your child brings a warm or waterproof coat for outdoor activities.

Regular arrangements for collecting children from nursery

Thank you all for completing your 'Regular Arrangement' forms. If at any point there is a change to your weekly collection arrangements please collect a new form to make amendments. Please remember to ask for the 'Going-Home book' to note down any 'one off' pick-ups that are not a regular arrangement.

Thank you for all of your support so far,

Mrs Sanghera and the Early Years team

Frequently Asked Questions:

- Can my child bring a snack from home?
 - Yes, any healthy snack. They can bring it in and keep it in their locker. Although there is no need to do this as all children are provided with a fruit snack every day.

- How do you assess the children?
 - Assessments are on-going and are conducted through play.

- Will we receive a copy of our child's assessment?
 - We will discuss the outcomes of any assessments and observations in detail during scheduled parents meetings which take place once in the autumn and once in the spring term.

- When is a good time to talk to the teacher?
 - In the morning at the gate or after school are best for quick catch-ups. Alternatively, you can arrange an appointment with the teacher for a convenient time.

- What do we write on the topic webs?
 - Anything your child already knows about a topic and any of their ideas / suggestions. It is used to help us plan activities relating to specific interests.

- How do we know if our child is eating their lunch?
 - If your child is not eating much at lunchtime we will write it in their communication book or let you know if there are any concerns at the end of the day.

- It is our child's birthday. Can we send in sweets or a cake for the children to share?
 - Although we appreciate your kind intentions we are unable to give children any 'sweet treats' due to us being part of a 'Healthy School'. If you are still keen to bring something in for your child to share we would encourage a healthy snack such as fresh or dried fruit. Please do not feel obliged to do this, it is personal choice.

If you have any other questions please do not hesitate to ask a member of nursery staff or write a note in your child's communication book. Thank you.