



**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. We will be following the exciting new whole school topics for the year to creatively cover all aspects of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum.

*Our whole school topics for the year:*

Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Welcome to Little Chestnuts and Mr Men and Little Miss	Mr Men and Little Miss Continued and Christmas	Wild World	Once Upon a Time	Earth, Wind and Fire	To Infinity and Beyond!

The topics this term:

**Welcome to Little Chestnuts!**

We know that starting school is a mixture of emotions so we will spend the first few weeks ensuring that the children feel happy and settled (as well as the parents). During this time we play lots of name games, social activities and explore all the different areas in our classroom and outside. It is an important time to find out 'all about me'. We encourage the children to share more about themselves through art work, photos and speaking activities.

**Mr Men and Little Miss**

Mr Men and Little Miss characters are an exciting way to explore different emotions, personalities and characteristics. Through role play, artwork and messy play will we be sharing our favourite characters and stories. We will also use the characters to help the children gain an understanding of different ways to learn and become confident to have a go at new activities. Mr Chatterbox can help us develop confidence with speaking and listening games, while we need to help Mr Forgetful follow instructions. During every term we will also be cooking and using the Balance bikes regularly.

We will then turn our attention to winter activities and Christmas when we are fully in the festive season.

*Key information to be aware of on the Nursery weekly timetable:*

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

## **PE Sessions (Wednesday PM/ Thursday AM)**

Please ensure that your child comes to nursery in their PE kit if they attend on a Wed/Thurs. 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. During our PE sessions we will use a range of equipment to develop large and small physical movements and control. One of the sessions every week will be using the Balanceability bikes to build up core strength and balance. In addition to the PE sessions, we will be developing gross motor skills daily through the use of climbing equipment, the adventure playground and bikes/scooters.

## **Library**

Library books are borrowed from our wonderful school library and children can choose from a wide variety of books to share at home with an adult. 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 the plastic wallet provided, on the same day of the next week in order for your child to choose a new one. *It is essential that it is kept in this bag and separate from the home reading book.* 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. Remember: These books are for you to share together, so we hope you enjoy the titles too!

## **Book changing days**

<b>Monday am (library and reading book)</b>	<b>Tuesday am (library and reading book)</b>	<b>Wed am (library and reading book)</b>	<b>Thurs am (library and reading book)</b>
Arham Chenuka Evie Jon Sienna	Alex Darcie Lily Amanda Neel	Chloe Inigo Rory Roja	Daisy Jacob Tanya

## **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). 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 we have started to send home are from our collection of wordless 'picture books'. We have looked at some of these books in nursery over the past week 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:



## Book Sharing Record

Date	Book Title	Parents Comments	How I felt about the book
14/09/17	Chalk	Sam really enjoyed this book. He carefully looked through all the pictures first and then together we made up an exciting story to describe each page. Towards the end of the week he even thought about which character he liked best and told me why.	

### 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. Water bottles need to be clearly named and kept in water bottle the box in the classroom.

## **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 which we use in all weather. Now that the weather is getting cooler, we ask if you could ensure your child brings a warm and 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.

## **Parent Helpers**

It is great to have parents help in the classroom and get involved in activities with the children, as well as supporting the daily running of the classroom. Help does not have to be on a weekly basis, but could be alternate weeks, half termly, or as and when you are available. It is important for all helpers to have the appropriate clearance (DBS check), so please see the school office if you do not already have this in place. You will need to help at least once every 3 months in order to keep your DBS up to date.

## **Class Reps**

Class Reps are volunteering parents who help to liaise with the rest of the parents in the class about key dates and information. It is beneficial to have 2 Class Reps per class for the year. If you are interested in becoming a Class Rep please see myself or the school office.

Thank you for all of your support,

*Miss Hildreth and the Early Years team*