



Spring Term at 'Little Chestnuts' Nursery

Welcome to Spring term at Little Chestnuts. We would like to wish you all a Happy New Year. We are looking forward to another exciting term in nursery and have lots of fun activities planned. It is great to see how settled the children are just one week into the new term. We have spent the first week ensuring that children are familiar with each other and with staff. We have also encouraged children to explore the environment and have re-established daily routines.

This term we will be enjoying two whole school topics, covering all aspects of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum. In this first half term our topic is 'Hocus Pocus' in which we will be looking at magic maths, counting and recognising numerals to 10. We will also be exploring lift the flap books and books with a magic theme. In response to the children's interests we have set up a vet role play area. We will also hope to use our kitchen to make something delicious!

In the second half of spring term the topic will be 'Home'. During this term we will be looking at using measures and comparing sizes by using the theme of homes and houses. We will be exploring 'The Family Book' by Todd Parr to help us understand our own families and discuss similarities and differences. We will also retell and discover traditional stories about homes which will link into our activities.

Throughout the year the children will be exposed to a range of festivals from different cultures and religions. During the Spring term we will experience Chinese New Year, Holi festival and Mother's Day.

Our whole school topics for the rest of the academic year:

Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Hocus Pocus	Home	Let's go Lego	The Living Planet

Some information about the Nursery weekly timetable:

Monday AM session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library and reading book changing <i>Please read important information about Library and Reading books below.</i>
Tuesday AM session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PE <i>Please read important information about PE below.</i>
Wednesday PM Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library and reading book changing <i>Please read important information about Library and Book changing below.</i>
Thursday AM Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library and reading book changing <i>Please read important information about Library and Book changing below.</i>
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.

Attendance

Please remember that our school day starts at **8:50am**. It is extremely important that you arrive before the bell goes in order for children to become familiar with our Nursery routines and develop independence in our daily morning activities ready to start the day. Every day we have different focus tasks and the children have access to different learning opportunities so it is essential to start on time.

If you are unable to attend a session for any reason please contact the office who will pass on the information.

PE Sessions (Tuesday AM)

Please ensure that your child comes to nursery in their PE kit if they attend on a Tuesday 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. 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!

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). 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 newly purchased 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.	 

Book changing days

Monday am (library and reading book)	Wednesday pm (library and reading book)	Thursday am (library and reading book)
Sophie Jasmin Olivia Bella Aarya Harry Arun Harrison Anthony Ashwin	Hanna Hattie Louis Saran Alexander Albie Hanish Minuli Charlie Tobie Cyril Camila	Holly Cooper Aadhavi Finn David

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 Bottles

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

If there are any changes that need to be made to your 'regular collections' form please collect a new form and 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 your support.

Miss Hildreth, Mrs Turner and the Early Years team