

As we come to the end of our first half term it is lovely to see how well the children and new families have settled in. They have already learnt so much, and it has been wonderful to see new relationships being formed. Thank you for all of your support, and hope you have a restful break.

Mrs G Rehal

EVENTS

Red Class Cake Sale	25 Oct
Last Day of Half Term	25 Oct
Inset Day (No School)	4 Nov
First Day of Half Term	5 Nov
Friendship Week Open Morning	15 Nov
Rotary Shoebox Deadline	15 Nov
Green Class Cake Sale	22 Nov
No Pens Day	27 Nov
CLESA Christmas Cinema	30 Nov
Christmas Card Boxes Out	9 Dec
Reception & KS1 Christmas Performance	13 Dec
Reception & KS1 Christmas Performance	17 Dec
Reception & KS1 Christmas Performance	18 Dec
Last Day of Term	20 Dec

Chestnut Lane School

OCTOBER 2024

Autumn Term Newsletter

Author Visit



During Reception's first full week of the school year, we were delighted to

welcome both author Kes Gray and illustrator Jim Field into school to share their book 'Oi Dinosaur!' with the children. This hilarious story is the latest addition to the 'Oi Frog and Friends' series, with 'Oi Frog' being one of Reception's Core Books.



Thank you to all the parents who supported the event and purchased signed books. Everyone loved their interactive reading of the story, complete with inflatable dinosaur costumes, and the children had the opportunity to illustrate their own



dinosaurs under the guidance of Kes and Jim. Having two inspirational, well-known male literary figures in school was a fantastic way to further develop children's passion for reading and a love of books in their infant years.

'Blast Off Like a Rocket'

On Wednesday 18th October, we were pleased to welcome Perform Drama School who ran a fantastic space workshop with Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes. The children were invited to 'Blast Off Like a Rocket' and learned about the solar system through drama, as well as having lots of fun pretending to be planets, stars and aliens!

Harvest Event

Over the past few weeks the children have been learning a harvest song which they sang at the harvest assembly when they learnt about what harvest means and where our food comes from. We also talked about the importance of sharing and donating food.

A big thank you to Mrs Sanghera and Mrs Tyler for organising and also special thanks to Mrs Tyler for making our Harvest Bread.



We would also like to thank you all for your fantastic food donations! These have now been collected by the Chiltern Food Bank in Chesham. They were so grateful to you all for your generosity which will support their cause of 'Helping People in Crisis'.

For more information about this charity please <https://chiltern.foodbank.org.uk/>

For further information on our harvest event please see our Instagram account: <https://www.instagram.com/chestnutlaneschool/>

Parent Consultations

Thank you to all of the parents who joined us at our parent consultations this week. It has been lovely to hear about how well your children are doing, and how much they are enjoying school. The logistics of arranging appointments is challenging, and so we request that parents and guardians make every effort to attend. We understand that sometimes life happens, but please notify the school so that 'no show' situations are avoided. We politely remind everyone again that these consultations are for adults only.

Upcoming Events

Red Class Cake Sale—Friday 25th October

We are pleased to announce that the first cake sale of the year will be run by Red Class on our last day of term, tomorrow Friday 25th October. Green class cake sale will be taking place on 22nd November.



Friendship Week and Odd Socks Day, w.b. 11th November

During the week of 11th November we will be marking Anti-Bullying Week with the children, through our Friendship Week activities. We will be encouraging the children, and staff, to take part in the Anti-Bullying Alliance's Odd Socks Day, which we have chosen to carry out on Friday 15th November. We will also be inviting parents and guardians to join us in school on **Friday 15th November between 9am – 10am**, for a Friendship Week Open Morning. During this time, we encourage parents and guardians to visit all of the classrooms across the school, and take part in friendship activities with their children.

Road Safety Week, w.b. 18th November

You will have received our communication today regarding inconsiderate parking and disrespectful behaviour within the local community. We have provided reminders about our Parking Promise and outlined our expectations. 17th – 23rd November marks Road Safety Week, delivered by the charity Brake: <https://www.brake.org.uk/road-safety-week>. We will be spending time during the week talking to the children about the topic of road safety, and sharing updates with you via the school's Instagram account.

No Pens Day—27th November

On Wednesday 27th November we will be taking part in No Pens Day, which is a chance for your child to improve their speech, language and communication skills through a day of talking and listening activities. We are getting ready to put down our pens and pencils and use our voices to record our learning in different ways. Further details will be provided after half term.

Read-ins

Thank you to all of the parents and guardians who have been attending our Friday read-ins. It is lovely to see the joy the children have in sharing books with you. Next half term we will begin our plans to relaunch themed read-ins, providing an opportunity for the children to share examples of classroom activities with you. Further details on this will follow via the Tapestry memos.

Poppy Appeal

We will be supporting the Royal British Legion again this year in their annual Poppy Appeal. Poppies will be taken round to all the classrooms after half term so if you would like your child to purchase one please send a donation in to school with your child from **Tuesday 5th - Monday 11th November**.

Along with poppies there are other items such as reflectors and wristbands. If you would like one of these other items please come to the office in the morning or at the end of the school day by **Monday 11th November**. Suggested donation £2 each.

Chiltern Toy Bank

The Chiltern Toy Bank are inviting families who are in need of some extra help this festive season to register online at www.chilterntoybank.org from 28th October - 24th November.

Rotary Shoe Boxes

Further to our recent communication, we have been asked to participate again in the Rotary Shoe Box Appeal. This year they will be distributed to local families and households through local charities.

The Rotary Club have supplied flat pack boxes and labels, to fill with items that will be delivered to children and families in need. Items can be toys, clothes, household items etc. If you would like to participate please collect a box from the school office. All filled boxes must be returned to the school office by **Friday 15th November**.

Bucks SEND Local Offer webinar recordings

Find out about the information, advice, and support available online in Buckinghamshire for families with children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

The webinars cover:

- find out about the information available on the Bucks SEND Local Offer
- learn how to navigate the directory of services and website
- see the new Bucks SEND Local Offer app

Link to recordings: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HpO9IPIVfXU&list=PLOIC5CeA6z4TOZLFG6ZnrwxRM2mKoKlqG>

Term Dates

Please be reminded that we break up for half term on Friday 25th October and return to school on Tuesday 5th November (Monday 4th November is an Inset Day).



Important Information

Tapestry & Memos

We now share an awful lot of your children’s learning via Tapestry. This platform is not only used to provide you with weekly observations of what your child has been learning in school, but also feedback on their reading, and weekly memos with bite size information and tips on how to further support learning and development at home. We will also be using Tapestry to share all pupil progress update sheets and end of year reports this academic year.

Initial feedback has been positive, and we are always keen to provide what is useful to parents and guardians at home. If there are specific areas that you would like further guidance on, please share these with your child’s class rep.

If you have not yet activated your child’s Tapestry account, please don’t miss out! If you need support, please talk to your child’s class teacher.

Class Reps WhatsApp Groups

Thank you to all the parents who have come forward to be class reps this year. We know that there is an active WhatsApp network amongst classes, and that this is a quick and effective way of reaching parents and guardians. If you haven’t received an invitation to join your class WhatsApp group and would like to, please contact the school office.

We will also be holding a meeting with the class reps on 13th November. If you have any questions which you would like raised with Mrs Rehal or the office team, please contact your class rep who can then bring them along to share.

Important Reminder

Respect amongst our Community

We are proud of the diverse community within our school. We know that many parents and guardians feel the same way with comments such as, ‘a supportive environment which is welcoming and nurturing’, ‘inclusive atmosphere’ and ‘actively promoting diversity and understanding’ reflected within parent survey feedback.

Our community is diverse in a wide range of ways, and ensuring a respectful environment is our top priority. ‘Respect’ and ‘Kindness’ are two of our school values, and young children rely on adults as their role models. We therefore ask that all parents, guardians and wider family are mindful when interacting with one another, with members of the local community, with staff and with the children. It is all of our responsibility to ensure that everyone feels safe and welcomed.

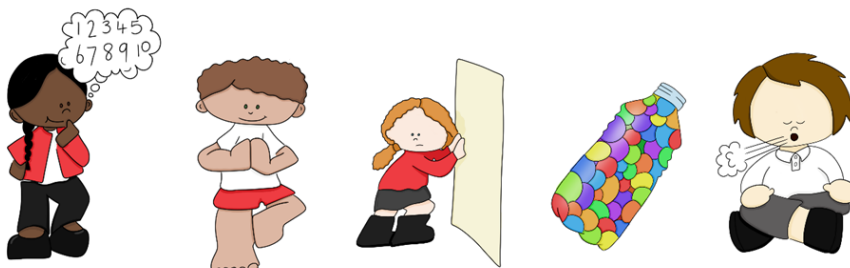


Focus On Wellbeing

During our first half term, we have introduced or reminded, all the children about the Zones of Regulation. The Zones help children to categorise their feelings and improve their ability to recognise and communicate how they are feeling in a safe, non-judgmental way. We use them to teach children strategies or tools to help them move across zones.

What can I do to get back into the green zone?

Yoga / sensory toys / Breathing practise (i.e starfish breathing) / Count to ten / Read a book / Squeeze a pillow / Push against the wall



Governor Update from Mrs Plimsaul, Chair of Governors

I am pleased to welcome Mr To-Sum Chan to the Governing Body as our second Parent Governor. To-Sum is a Systems Engineer and comes with lots of knowledge and experience in Health and Safety. He has already started work with the group of Governors responsible for ensuring the school is a safe environment for all members of the school community.

The feedback from the parent survey carried out last term has now been analysed and one area we are focussing our attention on is how the Governing Body communicates with parents and families about the work we do. We will be sharing more information with you over the next few months through the Governor section of the school website. We will be starting with a brief introduction from each governor outlining their experience and interests with further information about the work of individual Governors, as well as the work of the different committees added over time.

Clare Atkinson is our lead Governor for Finance and she has started the ball rolling with
'The Finance Governors monitor the schools budget and ensures that monies are spent appropriately to support the children and teachers. We are also responsible for carrying out an annual audit to make sure that all the correct procedures are followed.'

The role of the Governors in the area of Finance is more important than ever. The funding the school receives no longer covers the basic requirements to run the school, such as energy, staffing and day-to-day resources, which is now a significant concern.

The Governing Body continues to challenge the authorities to provide appropriate support for Chestnut Lane School, and other schools as this is a County wide issue, to ensure we can maintain our high standards of welfare and education for our children.

Food Working Group Update on School Meals

Thank you to all Reception and Key Stage 1 parents for completing the food lunch order form for the next half term. This has now been sent over to the Kids Lunch Company.

The Kids Lunch Company website is currently being updated with the new menus for after half term and will be live for **Little Chestnuts Pre-School** parents to order from Saturday 26th October. Please note orders will need to be made by **midday on Friday 1st November**.

The Food Working Group continue to liaise with the Kids Lunch Company, to discuss the provision of hot meals. However, we currently do not have a timeline as to when this will be possible. We will also continue to look at other local providers who may be able to provide hot meals in the future and we will provide further updates over the course of the year.

CLESA

Hello and welcome to the new school year! We held our annual AGM on 16th October and it was great to see new faces there! During the meeting we started to look at the year to come and we were excited to announce that we will have a good number of events running, starting with the new **Christmas Cinema** which is scheduled for the **30th November**, watch this space as more details will be revealed soon!

We also welcomed new members to the team, a big thank you to Rob Phillips for stepping up as our new Treasurer, Sally Hardcastle for taking over the EasyFundraising initiative and Fiona Jones for joining the TIAB organisers! But, that also means we have said goodbye to some wonderful volunteers too. Laura Chinnakone, you have been absolutely amazing and a lifeline for so many of us over the last 3 years, we are very grateful for everything you have done! Jo Bengel and Fiona Breen, thank you for all your hard work running EasyFundraising and TIAB, you have both been fantastic and raised considerable funds for our schools.

We are still looking for more people to get involved, so if you think you could help out at any of the events, or be part of a team to organise either our Quiz Night or Campout, or even Co-Chair with me, please do get in touch via clesachair@gmail.com.

We hope to see you at one of our events soon!
CLESA

