

This half term has flown by! We hope you all enjoy a restful half term break ready to begin the final chapter of this academic year. Fingers crossed for sunny weather.

Mrs Gemma Rehal

EVENTS

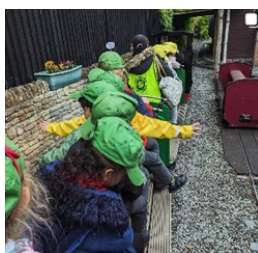
Little Chestnuts Local Area Walk	23 May
Year 2 Trip to Tring Museum	24 May
Author visit	24 May
Meadow Class Cake Sale	24 May
School Closes at 3.05pm	24 May
School Starts at 8.40am (3 Jun Inset Day)	4 Jun
Electric Umbrella Workshop	6 Jun
Year 2 Environment Workshop	7 Jun
CLESA Summer Fair	9 Jun
Sports Morning (Reception/Yr 1&2)	17 Jun
Volunteer Morning (9.30am-12.30pm)	22 Jun
Little Chestnuts Cake Sale	28 Jun
Transition Days	2-3 Jul
Volunteer Evening (3.30pm-6.30pm)	4 Jul
End of Year Celebration Morning	11 Jul
Little Chestnuts End of Year Celebrations	12 Jul
Year 2 Leaver Event	19 Jul
Year 2 Disco	19 Jul
Tea in a Box	19 Jul
School Closes at 2.05pm	23 Jul

Chestnut Lane School

MAY 2023

Summer Term News

Reception visit to Bekonscot



The Reception children had a fabulous day at Bekonscot Model Village. They enjoyed the interactive workshop on the history of toys and games and were very lucky to take a ride on the mini train. Well done to the children for their wonderful behaviour!



Wonderful Wild West Workshops

All the children enjoyed the Perform workshops which took place in March. It was a great day of drama, dance and singing to bring out every child's confidence and potential. Thanks to Perform for providing this free workshop.



Staff Update

As we approach the end of the school year, we begin to plan for changes in our staffing. Firstly, we are thrilled to announce that Miss Zaira Ali is expecting her first child in September. She will be completing this academic year with us, before concentrating on preparing for her new arrival.

In July, we have some teachers who will be moving on to exciting new things. Miss Sidrah Begum will be taking up a role in a brand new phase. Having spent 11 years at Chestnut Lane School, she will be greatly missed by many. Miss Ennia Barden will be taking her new teaching experience and combining this with her passion for work in the theatre. We wish them both lots of luck for the future.

As many of you will already know from conversations with us, recruitment of teachers is a significant nationwide issue. The number of vacancies continues to rise, and filling them is growing increasingly challenging across all schools. We are therefore very pleased to be welcoming Miss Chloe Brookes, Miss Georgia Brown and Miss

Alyssa Harding as full-time class teachers in September. Miss Harding is currently completing her teaching training placement with us in Year 1, providing a perfect opportunity for her to get to know the school and children.

Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions

As highlighted in our recent ParentMail to parents, we have recently updated our procedure for administering medications here in school.

We will, of course, always give a pupil their medication when we see signs and symptoms of need. However, occasionally, parents request that medication that is already held in school for emergencies is given for a brief period, e.g. asthma inhalers. Going forward, in these circumstances parents must contact the school office, in person or via email, giving us the reason why the medication is to be given, the timing, dosage and the duration.

The updated policy can be found on the policies page on our website:

<https://chestnutlane.bucks.sch.uk/parents/policies>



Celebrating Diversity Day at Chestnut Lane

We are incredibly proud of our diverse community at Chestnut Lane. On Tuesday 21st May we were pleased to welcome families to our Open Morning to celebrate the range of ethnicities, religions and diversity in school by taking part in a variety of activities in the classrooms. Thank you to all the families that joined us.

We would like to share a few photos with you from our day!



Please refer to our updated English as an Additional Language Policy on the school website <https://chestnutlane.bucks.sch.uk/parents/policies> for further information on how pupils are assessed and supported within school.



Jobs Around School

Calling all DIY enthusiasts, gardeners, builders or anyone who is not afraid to get their hands dirty.

We are looking for a team of volunteers on:

Saturday 22nd June (9.30am-12.30pm) and/or on Thursday 4th July (between 3.30pm-6.00pm) to help with some jobs around school:

- ⇒ Mending Outdoor Staging
- ⇒ Erecting a Shed
- ⇒ Tree Pruning and clearing area behind Year 1 Block
- ⇒ Painting
- ⇒ Cleaning of Climbing Frame
- ⇒ Setting up a School Muddy Puddles Area

If you have an hour or two to spare during the times given above we would love to hear from you.

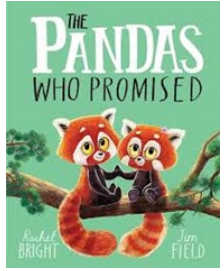
Please contact the school office on 01494 727415 or email: office@chestnutlane.bucks.sch.uk to let us know when and how you can help. Thank you :)

Upcoming Events

Year 2 Trip to Tring Museum—24th May

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, on Friday 24th May, year 2 will be visiting Tring Museum to learn about prehistoric animals, and will attend a Prehistoric Detectives workshop to round off our Imagine topic. This trip has been subsidised using our school fund.

Rachel Bright, Author Visit—24th May



Rachel Bright, the author of books such as 'The Lion Inside' and 'The Koala Who Could', will be coming to visit us on Friday 24th May. She will be sharing her new book 'The Pandas Who Promised' with the children in Early Years and Year 1. Please refer to the ParentMail message sent on 15th

May for full details. Parents may preorder copies of Rachel's books by visiting the following link:

<https://schools.chilternbookshops.co.uk/rachel-bright-24th-may/>.

Electric Umbrella Workshops—6th June

We are very much looking forward to welcoming Electric Umbrella into school on 6th June. Electric Umbrella is a music charity with a team of professional and learning disabled musicians who have now visited over 120 mainstream primary schools. They encourage the entire school community to sing, dance, smile and celebrate difference through their whole school interactive shows. This will be funded by the school fund.



Year 2 Only One Earth Workshops—7th June



One Day Creative are returning to school to showcase their Only One Earth Workshops. The children will use an array of drama-led activities to understand how climate change is impacting the world we live in. Again, this is being paid for with our school fund.

Little Chestnuts Local Area Walk—23rd May

Thank you to the parents who have volunteered to walk with the children, and to the class reps for supporting Mrs Sanghera in getting the team together!

Sports Morning—17th June

On Monday 17th June we will be holding a Sports Morning for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children on Elangeni's field, supported by sports coaches from First Touch Football. This will be an opportunity for the children to demonstrate the PE skills they have been developing throughout the year. Parents will be invited to attend and further information will follow.

End of Year Celebration Morning—11th July

On 11th July we will be inviting all parents and guardians to our End of Year celebration morning. This will be another opportunity to look at the children's workbooks and displays, as well as watch Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 perform a song and a dance, taught by Mrs Douglass and Mr Turnham.

Little Chestnuts Sports & Celebration—12th July

Little Chestnuts parents are invited to come to a celebration morning on Friday 12th July where Little Chestnuts will showcase some of their amazing sports skills and then join in with activities to celebrate the end of their preschool year! If your child does not normally attend Friday morning, then you and your child are still very welcome to come and join us. Full details will be provided in due course.

Year 2 Leavers' Event & Disco—19th July

All Year 2 parents and guardians are invited to attend the Year 2 Leavers' Event on Friday 19th July, at 9.15am. Due to capacity, this is restricted to two adults per family please.

In the afternoon of Friday 19th July, CLESA have generously funded a disco for the Year 2 children. All children are welcome to bring party clothes to school on the day, to get changed into after lunch. We hope that the children have a lots of fun, and a great send off!

Transition

Tuesday 2nd July is the county-wide transition day, where lots of our Year 2 pupils will be invited to attend their new schools. If your child has a place at Elangeni School, our staff will drop them off and pick them up from Elangeni for their morning visit. If your child is not attending Elangeni, please let us know of any plans for transition with their new junior school.

On Tuesday 2nd and Wednesday 3rd July we will welcome our new Reception children to visit their new classrooms and teachers. This provides an opportunity for our current classes to also go and visit their new teachers on these mornings. This will be the start of a number of opportunities for the children to work in their new classrooms in July. We find this to be useful in supporting the children with the upcoming changes, and gives them a chance to ask any questions they may have. New classes will be shared with everyone by Friday 28th June.

Half Term Holidays

We would like to remind parents that school closes for half term this coming Friday 24th May at 3.05pm. We will be returning on Tuesday 4th June.

Important Updates

Governor Update by Mrs Christine Plimsaul

Parent Governors

We are delighted to welcome to the Governing Body Ilona Verrek as a parent governor. Ilona is a finance professional who we feel sure will be an asset to our finance committee. She has already started work with us.

Our second candidate is close to completing all the paperwork and we are looking forward to welcoming him onto our Board. We will share his details in the next newsletter.

We are sad to say goodbye to Debbie Woof who has stepped down from the Governing Board. Debbie's term of office came to an end this year and as she has just started a new venture, she felt it was time to step away. Debbie contributed significantly to the work of the Governing Body and in particular to the Finance committee. We wish her well in her new role.

Breakfast Club update

Thank you to everyone who expressed interest in the Breakfast Club via our recent ParentMail form. As we work to finalise the last details, this information has been very useful. We hope to be able to update everyone very soon about the provider's offer to families for September 2024.

Parent Survey

The governors have now completed the analysis of the results and will be feeding back to you all very soon. We were delighted to read so many positive comments about the school and have taken on board the 'even better if' feedback. Thank you to everyone who completed the survey.

Cake Sales

Thank you to the Forest Class Reps for organising their cake sale in April. The class made a fabulous sum of £220.75. Meadow Class will be holding the next cake sale this coming Friday, 24th May.

Focus on Wellbeing

National Walking Month

Research shows that even a small amount of physical activity can make a big difference in a person's health, National Walking Month is a great time to get connected and get moving! To mark National Walking Month, the Ramblers Association are offering a free Ramblers Route for every day in May. Please visit their website for further details: <https://www.ramblers.org.uk/national-walking-month>



No Mow May

You may have noticed that we have taped off the grassy area by the Early Years pedestrian gate as we are taking part in No Mow May again this year. This is an initiative to liberate part of our lawn and provide a space for nature. This will allow us to take a closer look at how wildflowers within lawns provide vital food for pollinators.



Sustainable Amersham

Please click on the following link to find out about local sustainable activities in our area: <https://sustainableamersham.org/little-green-adventures/>

Friends of the Honey Bee School

We are very pleased to announce that Chestnut Lane has recently become a friend of the Honey Bee School, part of the British Bee Keeping Association. Mrs Tyler has been busy sharing lots of wonderful facts about different types of bees and planting bee friendly flowers with the gardening club. The children were also able to see some natural honeycomb which was recently donated to the school from a local bee keeper.



Sun Hats

As the weather is warming up, please send your child to school with a summer cap (please ensure it is clearly labelled).

CLESA Update

Thank you to everyone who helped out and donated on Donation Day. It was hugely successful and has helped tremendously in preparing for the Summer Fair on Sunday 9th June. The fair is set to be an amazing day, with inflatables, a BBQ, lots of fun games and sweet treats and even a falconry experience included, we look forward to seeing you there! Don't forget to return your raffle ticket stubs by Friday 24th May - there are over 20 fantastic prizes including vouchers for family days out, afternoon tea, photo sessions, hampers and even a Michael Kors handbag!

We do still need as many people as possible to volunteer at the fair, please speak to your class reps about manning your class stall or email clesacochair@gmail.com if you

are able to help with the set up or close of the event. Thank you!

CLESA will also be running the bar at the Chesham Bois Fete on Saturday 15th June. If you are attending the event, please do pop by and say hello over a beer or glass of Pimms!

Finally, the last CLESA meeting of the school year will be taking place online on Wednesday 5th June at 8pm. It's a great opportunity to hear more about our events and how the money raised will be spent. We will circulate the meeting link closer to the time and hope to see you there!

