

# Chestnut Lane School

APRIL 2021

We cannot believe we are in the final term of the academic year already! I hope you all enjoyed a restful and sunny Easter break, and that you managed to spend some much-needed time outside, with others.

Mrs Gemma Rehal

## DIARY DATES

Bank Holiday	3rd May
Class Photos	4th May
Clubs Restart	4th May
School Closes at 3.05pm	28th May
INSET Day	7th June
School Reopens at 8.40am	8th June

## Summer Term News

### Celebrating British Science Week

All children returned to school at an exciting time as we celebrated British Science Week. The theme this year was 'Innovating for the future' and it has been lovely hearing about what the children have been doing.



Year Two observed the dramatic landing of NASA's Perseverance Rover and designed their own curious machines, thinking carefully about suitable materials and justifying their choices. During our topic 'Machines and Me', the children tested various simple machines on different surfaces and explored the effect of friction. They have also researched how Alexander Calder revolutionised the world of kinetic sculpture and produced their own mobiles. They were very proud of their creations!



Year One also looked at different materials. They sorted them and identified their different properties. The chil-



dren thought about whether these materials were man-made or natural. Within DT lessons, they used these different materials to build a bridge inspired by their learning of Brunel.



In Early Years the children have explored people who help us in our community. The children created their own emergency vehicles using a range of materials and enjoyed role playing different occupations. They thought about questions they would like to ask to find out more about these jobs and wrote thank you letters for all the brilliant work they do.



### Book Week Workshop

Thank you for all the positive feedback we received about the virtual Jack and the Beanstalk workshop organised for the end of World Book



Week, and the final day of home learning. It has been wonderful to hear how engaged the children were and the enjoyment they had from taking part. We are hopeful that next year we will be able to return to having 'West End in Schools' conduct their workshops in school!

### Funny Face Gallery for Comic Relief



We had so many wonderful entries into our gallery on Friday 19th March. The children really enjoyed the opportunity to come and see each other's creations. In total your kind donations raised £86.07. We would like to say a special thank you to Mrs Tyler for all of her efforts in putting it together.

## Important Updates

### Friendships in the Playground

In my virtual assemblies with the children since 8th March we have been talking a lot about friendship, and how to be a good friend. Thanks to a very kind and generous donation from the Amin family, we have been able to create friendship areas to support the children's social skills in the playground. These have been donated in loving memory of Kanchan Bhagat, Kieran's Grandma.



### Looking at Children's Workbooks

We realise one area that parents and guardians have greatly missed is the opportunity to look at the work children have been producing in school. We have therefore been working on a safe way to allow parents access to these, should they wish to see them. From 10th May we will be inviting key stage one par-

ents and guardians to come into school, during a given time slot, to look at their child's books in a socially-distanced way. We will aim to begin with Year 2 parents and guardians and hope to offer Early Year's parents the opportunity after the May half term. More information regarding this will follow.

### Website Resources

Our school website is a valuable place to find an assortment of resources which will help to support children's learning at home. This section can be found under the 'parents' tab and is constantly evolving to meet the needs of the children and parents. Recently Chestnut Lane School sound mats have been added for Phases 2, 3 & 5 of Letters & Sounds, as well as our Reading Workshop for parents outlining all aspects of reading from across the school. Please refer to this section regularly, as well as letting us know any specific resources which may be of use at home.

### COVID-19 Risk Assessment

Although some areas of our lives are opening back up, schools remain under government guidance to ensure that they are taking protective measures against the virus. We appreciate parents' patience with the staggered drop-off and pick-up times, limiting numbers on site and the reduced access to the school during these difficult times. Please remember that appointments can always be requested to take place via the telephone, and that the children's communication books/learning logs are a good way of communicating with the class teachers.

### Return of Extra-Curricular Clubs

We are delighted to be in a position to invite clubs back to school. Clubs will recommence from Tuesday 4th May. Please refer to our recent ParentMail message for further details.

## Focus on Wellbeing



At Chestnut Lane School we are committed to promoting emotional wellbeing and positive mental health. Therefore, we have decided to pursue the 'Wellbeing Award for Schools'. The award focuses on developing a long-term wellbeing culture for the whole school. The process uses an evidence-based framework, involving all stakeholders, to drive change to support the pupils, staff and the whole school community. Our aim using the 'Wellbeing Award for Schools' pathway is to ensure that wellbeing and mental health continues to sit at the heart of our whole school ethos.

**Resources for parents:** As a staff team, we really enjoy using [Action for Happiness Calendars](#). Take 5 minutes out of your busy day to have a go at the daily challenge or use the [family calendar](#) for active, fun suggestions to work through together.

**Activity for children:** Give yourself a mindful minute by using 'starfish breathing' to refocus your attention. Open your left hand like a starfish. Place your right index finger at the tip of the thumb and move your right finger down the inside of the thumb while breathing in deeply. Breathe out deeply while it moves up the index finger. Continue breathing deeply while going up each and exhaling when going down each finger. Swap hands and repeat.

## Please Note

### Riding bikes & Scooters to & from School



We have been alerted to some concerns that children are riding their bikes and scooters very quickly on

local pavements, and in alleyways, meaning they are not always considering the dangers when reaching roads. Please can you ensure that your children are riding considerately and carefully to ensure their own, and others', safety. As previously mentioned, we also ask that children do not ride their bikes and scooters on the school drive as the one-way system does not provide adequate space to do so.

We would also like to remind parents that Chestnut Lane children are not to use the Elangeni scooter park.

### Supervision in the School Car Park

As you will know, due to the COVID-19 protective measures, we have asked that parents and guardians keep their children close to them on the school drive and in the car park. Sadly, there was a recent incident where a car was significantly damaged in the car park at the end of the school day. Please ensure that you are supervising your children's behaviour at all times. In addition, please support Mr King by ensuring that the children are not deliberately knocking over the cones along the drive.

### Parent View

We would like to encourage all parents to share their views via the Ofsted Parent View Site: <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

### Staff News

We are pleased to welcome Mrs Kahteejah Akhtar who has joined us as a Midday Supervisor.

### Summer Caps

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

### Class Photos

Class photos will be taking place on Tuesday 4th May.

### Parent Governor Nominations

Thank you to the parents who have put themselves forward to become a parent governor. Steve West, Chair of Governors, will be contacting the candidates shortly.

### Head Lice

There are cases of head lice in school. Therefore, we would be grateful if you could check your child and treat if necessary.

We have a few nit combs, as well as general information on head lice available at the school office if you are interested.

## CLESA Update



### AGM - Tuesday 25th May 2021

The entire parent and teacher community are invited to attend the virtual AGM for CLESA at 8pm on Tuesday 25th May 2021.

It is with a heavy heart that we notify you all that the key item for discussion will be the closure of the PTA.

Sadly procedures for closing the PTA will commence on 25th May unless the key positions of chair, treasurer and secretary are filled. CLESA is a registered charity and without anyone taking on these positions CLESA no longer meets the conditions of the constitution and will be forced to close.

If you are considering taking on one of the roles noted please contact [clesacochair@gmail.com](mailto:clesacochair@gmail.com), and role descriptions can be made available to you via email.

### What Does Closure of the PTA Mean?

- All events will cease and it will no longer be possible to hold events such as the Christmas or summer fair for example.
- All online fundraising activities will cease, including the voucher scheme, easy fundraising and Amazon smile.
- The charity will be de-registered with the charity commission.
- All bank accounts will be shut and monies divided between the two schools.
- Once closed, if the parent community wish to run any fundraising events for the school, they will be required to start the process from scratch, which will require setting up bank accounts and registering as a new charity.