

Welcome to a new school year. It has been lovely to see the children, and their families, back in the school grounds, meeting their class teachers at the class gates. It has also been a pleasure meeting new members of our school community. If you would like to say 'hello' you will find me on the front step, outside the school office, most mornings.

Mrs G Rehal

EVENTS

Year 1 Vision Checks	4 Oct
Drama Workshops	12 Oct
CLESA AGM (MS Teams)	13 Oct
Year 2 Visit to Church	18 Oct
Virtual Parent Consultations (Yr 2, Silver & SENCo)	18 Oct
Individual School Photos	19 Oct
Virtual Parent Consultations (Reception, Orange & SENCo)	19 Oct
Face-to-face Consultations (All Classes & SENCo)	20 Oct
Face-to-face Consultations (Little Chestnuts)	21 Oct
Last Day of Half Term	22 Oct
Inset Day (No School)	1 Nov
First Day of Half Term	2 Nov

Chestnut Lane School

OCTOBER 2021

Welcome Back to School

Baseline Assessments

The children have settled very well into their new classes, and are enjoying getting to know one another. The staff have worked hard to carry out baseline assessments, which will inform their planning for the coming term. These assessments are carried out in an informal way, either one-to-one or in small groups. Last week parents and guardians received information regarding their child's reading assessments via their communication book/learning log. If you have any questions, please do contact your child's class teacher.

Equality & Diversity

We have invested heavily in a wide range of age-appropriate books to support our equality

and diversity aims. For each of our topics all classes across the school will focus on the same text, and these have been chosen as they challenge stereotypes, and widen ambitions for all. We hope to begin to build our range of equality and diversity texts within our library as well, so that the children can share these with their families at home.



Thank you to CLESA for their support with this project.

Staff News

It has been our pleasure to work with Mrs Javariah Sohail over many years, and support her to achieve her

Qualified Teacher Status (QTS). We are delighted that she has now joined our permanent teaching team, and wish her a long and successful career.

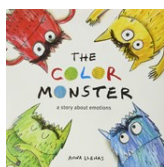
We are also delighted to share that Mrs Roxanne Turner is expecting her third child in a short few months. She will continue to work part-time until the end of November.

We have one vacancy in school for a midday supervisor role (11.30am-1.30pm, everyday) if you know anyone who might be interested please ask them to contact the school office.

Focus on Wellbeing

Last year, we embarked on our 2-year journey towards achieving the 'Wellbeing Award for Schools'. We decided to pursue the award in order to ensure that we develop and embed a positive long-term wellbeing culture for the whole school.

Resource suggestion: 'The Colour Monster' by Anna Llenas is a great way for children to begin to identify different emotions.



The book is a good resource to encourage children to check in with how they are feeling and aid regular conversations about feelings.

Activity suggestion: Go on a mindful walk outside. While you are walking take time to engage each sense and actively think about what you can hear, smell, feel, touch. Take time to tune into each sense. What can you feel? What can you see? Where are you? What can you smell?



Important Information

Signpost to our School Website

We are continually updating our [school website](#) with useful information and resources. If you have not done so already, please do have a look in the 'Curriculum' section to find out about what each year group will be covering as part of our whole school topics.



There are also informative reports on how we used grant funding last academic year, such as the PE and Sport premium, Pupil premium and the one-off Catch-up premium.

In the near future we hope to launch new sections on our website, including greater support for well-being, and useful forms for parents and guardians to access at home when needed.

Making Contact with Staff

As our protective measures have begun to ease, we hope that it will now be easier to share short messages with your child's class teacher at drop-off and pick-up times. Another effective way to contact them is via your child's communication book/learning log. This can also be a way of requesting a telephone conversation, or longer appointment. Please also remember that changes to the regular pick-up arrangements should be written in the 'Going Home' books at morning drop-off. Although emails to the school office will be passed on to the class teacher, this isn't always the quickest way of getting messages to them.



Well Done Assemblies

Our weekly Well Done Assemblies take place on Monday mornings, and they are a time for us all to celebrate the achievements of the children. The children are not just praised for their academic work but also for showing kindness to others, or demonstrating effective characteristics of learning within the classroom. We would like to remind everyone that these assemblies are a great time for the children to share their achievements from outside of school as well, such as certificates, medals and trophies that they may have been awarded, or special events that they may have been part of. If you think your child has something they would like to share please speak with your child's class teacher. Currently these assemblies are not attended by Little Chestnuts.

School Photos

Individual school photos will be taking place on Tuesday 19th October. Please note that the school photos will be cashless and proofless again this year. Your child will be coming home with a unique "Boarding Pass" style letter with details of how to order photos online. You may still request that your child's photo is delivered to the school and they will be sent home in book bags.

There will be an opportunity for you to bring your **pre-school** children to be photographed with their siblings from 8.30am. Places will be limited and offered on a first come first served basis. Please queue outside the school office and we will invite individual families in to avoid congestion in the hall.

Please note the Little Chestnuts children, who do not usually attend on a Tuesday morning, are welcome to come in for their photo to be taken. Please bring them to the school office at 9.15am.

Parent Consultations



Parent Consultations will be taking place the week commencing 18th October. We will be offering a mixture of face-to-face and virtual consultations. A communication will be sent out shortly together with a ParentMail form for parents to select their preferences and availability.

Year 1 Vision Checks

The school nursing team will be conducting vision checks for the Year 1 children on 4th October. A letter has been sent out to all parents with further details and an opportunity to opt out.

Flu Immunisations

The flu immunisation for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children will be taking place in school on 4th November. A communication from the school nursing team will be sent out to parents in due course with details of how to provide your consent.

2021/22 Term Dates

There has been a slight change to the term dates this year, in lieu of the extra bank holiday given to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee taking place this year. The end of term will now be 20th July 2022. Please click on the link below to refer to the term dates for the whole academic year.

<https://chestnutlane.bucks.sch.uk/school/term-dates>

Parent View

We would like to encourage all parents to share their views on the school via the Ofsted Parent View Site: <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/> This provides us with useful information but we are unable to see the responses until the minimum number of replies is reached.

Please Note

Scooter Park & Front Field

We are pleased to have reopened our bike and scooter park in the school car park (on the right as you approach Elangeni schools' gate). This is a designated space where children can leave their bikes and scooters during the school day. Please note that this area will not be locked, therefore belongings are left at your own risk. In order to keep everybody safe, bikes and scooters should not be used in the school grounds due to the high volume of people around, including young siblings.

We have also now reopened the front field at the bottom of the school drive. Although we still request that parents and guardians are mindful and considerate of others, we recognise that this is a useful space for the school community. It would be of huge support to us if everyone could discourage children from climbing in the bushes and trees that line the drive.

Parking Concerns

Sadly, we continue to receive complaints about illegal and inconsiderate parking on the neighbouring roads to the school. This is deeply disappointing considering the communication sent earlier in the year, and the Parking Promise signed by new parents as part of their starter pack. We would like to stress yet again that if at all possible children should walk, cycle or scoot to school. If this is not possible, parking must be safe, considerate and legal. We encourage everyone to report any parking of concern to Buckinghamshire Council.



The role of Class Reps

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.

We are hoping to work closely with Class Reps going forward to use these networks as a way of promoting initiatives and projects that benefit the school (such as the "it's good to grow" scheme which was recently introduced by Morrisons Supermarket).



We are keen to see the return of class cake sales this academic year, as we know they are popular with the school community, and raise funds that go directly to the individual classes. Further information will be shared with Class Reps shortly.

Early Years Need Your Help

Our Early Years Team would be grateful for **second-hand donations** of equipment to use both inside the classrooms and in the garden. They have created a 'wish list' of items which are outlined in the attached flyer.

Smaller items can be dropped off at the school office. We would however ask that you take a photo of larger items to share on your Class WhatsApp Group. Your Class Reps have agreed to share the photos with the school office to identify which items the school would like to accept and to arrange appropriate delivery times.



CLESA

You are invited to CLESA's virtual AGM meeting on Wednesday 13th October at 8pm.

[Link to CLESA AGM - Wednesday 13th October.](#)

For new parents, CLESA is the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) which supports both Chestnut Lane and Elangeni Schools. Following the end of a year-long sabbatical, we have a new PTA committee in place and we are excited at restarting some of the events that have been so key in raising funds for the schools as well as contributing to a greater sense of community between parents and schools.

Please join us to find out more about CLESA, hear our plans for the upcoming academic year and the Headteachers' spending plans for money raised through the PTA.

Many thanks, CLESA

