

It has been great to 'hit the ground running' this half term and see so many special events and activities taking place. Personally, I have loved getting out to observe all of the classes and see first-hand all of the brilliant learning which is taking place. We are looking forward to a very festive December month.

Mrs Gemma Rehal

EVENTS

Christmas Postcard Sale	1 Dec
Christmas Tree Decorating Assembly	2 Dec
Chesham Bois Tree Decorating	2 Dec
Christmas Jumper Day	9 Dec
Dolce Christmas Lunch	9 Dec
Christmas Card Boxes Out	12-16 Dec
Christmas Performance (with siblings)	13 Dec
Christmas Performance	14 Dec
Christmas Performance	15 Dec
Little Chestnuts Christmas Morning	16 Dec
Tea in a Box	16 Dec
School Closes at 2.05pm	20 Dec
School Starts at 8.40am (4 Jan Inset Day)	5 Jan
Year 1 Topic Meeting	11 Jan
Year 2 Topic Meeting	12 Jan
Reception Topic Meeting	13 Jan
World Religion Day	16 Jan

Chestnut Lane School

NOVEMBER 2022

Autumn Update

Bollywood Dance Workshops

Wow! We had an amazing day celebrating Diwali in school and learning some very energetic dance moves.



There was such a wonderful atmosphere across the school, and everyone looked amazing in their



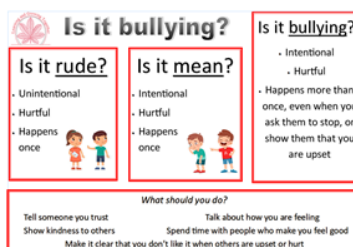
brightly coloured clothes. Thank you to all of the parents and guardians who joined us at the end of the day. Please check out our Instagram page to see a little more.

Friendship Week & Anti-Bullying Workshops

Across the school we spent some time during w.b. 14th November to better understand friendship, and focussed on our school value of kindness. Through lessons, and

assemblies, we looked at the qualities that make a good friend and the children had many valuable suggestions, such as trust, respect and fun!

We also took the opportunity to launch a new poster across the school, focussed on ensuring a shared understanding of what bullying is, how to identify it, and what we can all do to help prevent it. These posters are in all of the classrooms, and will be referred to with the children, as required.



We are looking forward to welcoming OpenView Education this week, who will be running anti-bullying workshops with all Reception – Year 2 classes. These sessions use role-play to focus on showing kindness towards others, understanding how our actions can affect the way others feel and help us to identify who we can speak to if we need help.

Odd Socks Competition

We had a very colourful and 'odd' Odd Socks day –

a great way to show how we don't discriminate against differences! A big well done to the winners of the Odd Socks competition. It was a very hard choice to make!



Year 1 Local Area Walk

Year 1 had a brilliant Local Area Walk. They enjoyed finding different features on a 'spotter sheet' and thought about seasonal changes that were happening.



Reception Walk to the Post Box

Reception enjoyed their walk to Chesham Bois' Postbox. We practised being safe on the road and used our listening ears and looking eyes!



Update on The Platinum Tree Award / Tree Champion Competition

In 2022 we started working towards the Platinum level of the Woodland Trust's Green Trees Award, having already achieved 15 points to get our Gold Award. We have already completed a number of activities including a Tree Party involving the whole school and Woodland wild trails by children in year 2.



As part of this award, the children were also invited to design a Tree Champion. Well done to all our entries. We loved looking at all the great designs

and descriptions. Each year group voted for their favourite from their entries and the display can be seen in the school library. Congratulations to the winners—Maya, George & Callia!



Checking Bookbags

Please can we remind all parents and guardians that it is important to check your child/ren's bookbags every day for notes, such as first aid slips or communications from staff in the Communication Books/Learning Logs. It is not always possible to catch parents and guardians at the class gates at pick-up time, due to after school clubs/childcare and it being a busy time of the day, and so the bookbags are an important route for communication. Thank you.

Parent Video Guides

We are very excited to have available a range of videos and presentations created by the teachers and children, which demonstrate how the children approach their learning in school. These cover aspects such as written methods in maths, pure sounds and bars &

buttons in phonics, and questioning used to develop comprehension skills when reading. These videos are linked on our school website (<https://chestnutlane.bucks.sch.uk/classes/parent-video-guides>) and are available through the Vimeo platform [Password: Chestnut]. We hope that you will find them a useful reference when supporting your child at home.

Instagram

Did you know that we are on Instagram? You can find us by following the link on the homepage of our website, or searching 'Chestnut Lane School' on Instagram. Thank you to all those who have already found us, we are really excited about sharing life in school with you in this way.

Cake Sales

The children were very excited to be holding the first Cake Sale of the year on Friday. An impressive total of £165.76 was raised for Red Class. The **Second hand uniform sales** also raised £31.55 through donations which will go towards the school fund.

Bucks Council Travel Campaign

Bucks Council is running a campaign focussed on motorists around schools. The *#Beconsiderate* campaign seeks to be a gentle reminder for motorists to think carefully.

Steven Broadbent, Buckinghamshire Council's Cabinet Member for Transport said: "The sentiments of this campaign should apply to all motorists. We all know, it's so easy to pull up onto the kerb if you are quickly dropping someone off or dashing in somewhere to pick something up but have you considered the impact your actions could have on a wheelchair user, a parent with a pushchair or any pedestrian walking on the pavement, especially on a narrow lane or busy road?"

Focus on Wellbeing

We are continuously updating our Wellbeing Library for the children, to ensure we have a range of books to support all emotions and situations.

A few of the wonderful new titles which we have added this term include; "The Worrying Worries" by Rachel Rooney, "Find Your Happy" by Emily Coxhead, "The Big Book of Feelings" by Alexandra Penfold and "Tilda Tries Again" by Tom Percival.

There is a book guide in the wellbeing section of our website but please do get in touch with the school if you would like support to address specific emotions with your child.



Governing Body Update

We have now completed the interviews for new governors, as mentioned in the October newsletter. We are very pleased to welcome Mrs Hillary London to the Governing Body this term. Hillary has a lot of experience in Safeguarding and Child Protection which is a key area of focus for all governing boards and so we are delighted to have a member of our team of governors with such expertise. We hope that parents and guardians will join staff and governors in welcoming her. There is still one more governor who will be joining us shortly. We hope to be welcoming them later this term and will update you on our next newsletter.

Also many, thanks to everyone who have completed the survey on **Before School Childcare**. The working party of staff and governors will meet again in the next few weeks to review the responses. Following that meeting we will let you know the next steps we will be taking.

Parent Volunteers Welcome

A huge thank you to the parents, staff, and wider friends of the school, who joined us on Saturday 5th November to offer up their time, and help us achieve so much, despite the rain! It was brilliant to see many hands making light work, and making a real difference to the outdoor environment. We have already begun discussing jobs for the Spring term, and hope that volunteers can join us again then.

We welcome volunteers helping in school and there are many ways in which parents and guardians can contribute, including class administration such as laminating and preparing resources, wider school support including maintaining the library, improving the environment such as gardening or in-class tasks such as hearing readers and art / DT projects to name a few. Please see attached letter giving further details.

Voluntary Donations to the School Fund

Thank you to all parents who have made contributions towards our school fund so far. We are all aware that many households are being affected by the cost of living crisis and we are not exempt. Projections show our energy costs are likely to increase by up to 500% this academic year. This will undoubtedly place a significant strain on our already restricted funds and is cause for considerable concern.

We do not want to alarm our school community but rather make everyone aware that we also face challenges and rely more than ever, on the generous donations made by families to our school fund. They enrich all children's educational experiences and help to deliver the extra activities that make our school so special. If you would like to make a donation please contact the school office.

Astra Train to Teach Webinar

Astra are hosting an ITT Recruitment Webinar on Wednesday 7 December from 4-5pm - see flyer attached. The webinar will be an opportunity for potential new trainees to find out more about their primary and secondary salaried and unsalaried/bursary led route to QTS/PGCE.

Family Support

If you, or anyone you know, are finding circumstances at home particularly challenging there is support available. Family support and signposting can be found on our school website here: <https://chestnutlane.bucks.sch.uk/wellbeing/connect> (scroll to the bottom). Buckinghamshire Council also offer support here: <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/cost-of-living/contact-helping-hands/>. HAF Activity Finder <https://familyinfo.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/advice-and-support/buckinghamshire-haf/haf-christmas-activity-providers/>. Please speak to one of us if you feel you need further support.



'TEA IN A BOX'

CLESA will be selling the popular 'Tea in a Box' (TIAB) again at the end of term.

For new parents, TIAB is a fundraising initiative organised by CLESA whereby children can buy a TIAB consisting of a sausage roll, crisps, kitkat and drink for £4. There are vegetarian and healthy options also available.

It will be given to them on the last Friday before the end of term (16 December), in a box to take home to eat - sounds crazy but the children love it!!!

Please look out for the separate ParentMail message and submit your order no later than **3.05pm on Tuesday 6th December**.

Holiday Shopping Fundraising Opportunities!

With Christmas shopping on the agenda for many of us, now is the perfect time to add some FREE funding for the school before you check out and at no extra cost to you.

It's easy to nominate CLESA as your charity on AmazonSmile and on Easy Fundraising, and as the shopping season gets underway many participating brands are offering generous donations. It's so easy and it doesn't cost you a penny! Instead of visiting Amazon when you shop, go to <https://smile.amazon.com> and search for CLESA as your chosen charity. Also visit <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk> to sign up to support CLESA.





Christmas Activities

Christmas Performances, 'A Miracle in Town'

13th– 15th December

Our Christmas play will be taking place on Tuesday 13th, Wednesday 14th and Thursday 15th December this year. Please note that siblings are welcome to come on Tuesday 13th December.



To keep to acceptable levels of safety in our hall we will be allocating two tickets per family. A ParentMail form has been sent to all primary contacts to indicate your preference and we will be sending out the first allocation of tickets via the bookbags this week. We hope to offer additional tickets (on a first come first served basis) in due course.

Little Chestnut Christmas Morning



Little Chestnuts are hosting a separate Christmas morning on Friday 16th December from 9-10am in the school hall. If your child does not usually attend for the Friday morning session, you are still very welcome to come along. Pre-school siblings will also be welcome to attend.

Christmas Postcards - Thursday 1st December

The Environment Club have been busily preparing recycled Christmas postcards again this year. On Thursday 1st December we are inviting **Key Stage One (Years 1 and 2)** children to bring a small amount of change into school and they will visit the Christmas postcard stall with their class during the school day.



A pack of 10 Christmas postcards is 50p and this year the children have voted to donate the money raised to support the UNICEF Children Emergency Fund.

Christmas Card Boxes – Monday 12th December

The boxes for children to send Christmas cards/Christmas postcards to one another will be placed in the main building from Monday 12th December. Please help the children to include surnames on their envelopes as we have duplicate names in some classes. Cards should be posted before or after school, with parents supervision.

Christmas Jumper Day – Friday 9th December

We invite all the children to join the staff in wearing a Christmas jumper on 10th December. If they would like to bring in a donation towards the charity 'Save the Children' they are welcome to do so.

Dolce Christmas Lunch – Friday 9th December

Dolce are providing a Christmas lunch for the children on 9th December. The menu is now available on SchoolGrid so if you would like your child to have the lunch please ensure you order it well in advance.

Chesham Bois Tree Decorating - Friday 2nd December

The children have been invited to sing at the Christmas Tree decorating ceremony at the War Memorial on 2nd December at 4pm. We will be making decorations in school as well as learning a festive song. I hope you will be able to bring your child/ren to join the staff at this local festive activity.



Secret Santa Shop

In the absence of a School Fair this year, the Class Reps are bringing the secret wrapping stall into school. The children will be able to choose and wrap their gift for an adult family member.

This will rely on donations from the parents, so please send in pre-loved jewellery, books, nick-nacks, a bottle of bubble bath or box of chocolates. It can be something you've had at the back of a cupboard or a little something you added to the shopping list—something just right for Christmas, but please no alcohol donations.

Please drop off donations at the office on Tuesday 6th, Wednesday 7th or Thursday 8th December.

Children should bring money (a small donation to go to a charity of the children's choosing) to school on the day allocated for their secret wrapping selection. Shopping days will be between Tuesday 13th—Thursday 15th December. Full details will be announced in a flyer shortly.

Christmas Holidays

School closes on Tuesday 20th December at 2.05pm.

School returns on Thursday 5th January at 8.40am.

