

It has been a busy start to 2024, and January has gone by very quickly. We have now reached the mid-year point, and hopefully there is warmer and brighter weather to come in the Spring. We hope everyone has a relaxing half term break.

Mrs Gemma Rehal

EVENTS

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| School Closes at 3.05pm | 9 Feb |
| School Starts at 8.40am | 20 Feb |
| Chinese Dragon Workshops | 21 Feb |
| CLESA Committee Meeting 8pm (online) | 22 Feb |
| Parents Consultations 3.30-6.30pm (whole school) | 27 Feb |
| Parent Consultations 1.00-3.00pm (Little Chestnuts) | 29 Feb |
| Parent Consultations 5.00-8.00pm (whole school) | 29 Feb |
| World Book Day | 7 Mar |
| Jack & the Beanstalk Workshops | 8 Mar |
| Silver Class Cake Sale | 8 Mar |
| CLESA Family Fun Night | 9 Mar |
| Reception Heights/Weights/Vision Checks | 11 Mar |
| Jungle Animals Workshops | 15 Mar |

Chestnut Lane School

FEBRUARY 2024

Spring Term News

World Religion Day

On Monday 22nd January we celebrated World Religion Day by discussing the importance of respect and working in harmony. The children practised their singing assembly song 'We Can Make This World a Better Place' to bring the message home!



Year 1 Trip to Discover Bucks Museum



Year 1 had a fantastic trip to Discover Bucks Museum. They explored in the museum to get some imagination for their dream bottles inspired by the BFG.

Year 2 Cooking



Year 2 loved learning about food from different

countries. With support, children measured the ingredients and mixed them together, to make Egyptian style flatbread.

BSL Assembly

The whole school enjoyed an assembly about British Sign Language this afternoon. Farah Punjwani, from Sign2Go, along with her interpreter, talked to the children about Deaf Awareness and we all learned to sign some key words in British Sign Language. It was a fantastic way to end this half term's 'Tell Me, Show Me' topic, promoting children's communication skills and celebrating one of the many languages that are part of our school community.

Safer Internet Day

We talked about the importance of staying safe whilst using the internet and to ask an adult to help.

Charitable Donations

Thank you for your generosity last term. Money was raised for a number of different charities:

- * Show Racism the Red Card (Wear Red Day): £45.70
- * Poppy Appeal: £224
- * Save the Children (Christmas Jumper Day):

£101.78

- * Wycombe Homeless (Eco Club Christmas postcard sale): £79.13

Muddy Puddles



We have had a great start to the new Muddy Puddle year with a purchase of brand new water-proof clothing! Our Muddy Puddlers look very stylish and dry in their red outfits. Re-



ception have been practicing their observation skills and have started a nature journal. Little Chestnuts are exploring the wonderful outdoors and working on listening to the world!

Staff Update

This half term we have been pleased to welcome Mrs Priyanka Pandya to our teaching team, working part-time in Year 2, and Mrs Kate Haselden as a Midday Supervisor. After half term, we are looking forward to having a new Learning Support Assistant join us in Reception, Miss Andrea Northcott.

Upcoming Events & Workshops

RSPCA Assembly - 20th February



We are pleased to be welcoming the RSPCA Bucks South Team to speak to the children during our school assembly after half term. They will be talking about the welfare needs and responsibilities of owning a pet in a fun and informative way.

Chinese Dragon Workshops - 21st February



Many families within our school community will be celebrating Lunar New Year Celebrations in the February half term, we are therefore very pleased to have organised a Chinese Dragon workshop. The workshop is for all children on Wednesday 21st February. The children will be engaging in a dance workshop whilst learning about this important festival. This is being funded by the School Fund.

Parent Consultations – 27th & 29th February

Thanks to all parents for indicating their availability for our upcoming Parent Consultations which will be taking place on Tuesday 27th and Thursday 29th February. All Reception and Key Stage One parents should now have received a slip in their children’s bookbags confirming their slot with their child’s class teacher and SENCo if requested. Parents in Little Chestnuts will receive the slips after half term.

We would appreciate parents paying close attention to their allocated time, arriving punctually, in order that the evening runs smoothly for everyone. Please also let us know in advance if you are unable to make it. Missed appointments on the evenings will not be able to be rescheduled.

Book Week Celebrations: 4th – 8th March 2024

National World Book Day this year will be held on Thursday 7th March. We are planning a whole week of book-themed activities to celebrate the wonder of books and the pleasure of reading. Events will include a ‘Share a Story’ session, where school staff will read aloud their favourite books and a ‘Dress-Up Day’, where children (and staff!) can come to school dressed in a costume inspired by a book. There will also be a special ‘Read-in’ on the same day, so that parents

have the opportunity to see all the wonderful costumes and share books with their child at school. We will also be welcoming back ‘West End in Schools’ who will run ‘Story Explorer’ workshops for each class, focusing on the traditional tale ‘Jack and the Beanstalk’. The children will use drama exercises and activities to explore the story’s setting and imagine how the characters move, feel and think. Further communication about this exciting week will follow after half term.

Early Years Communication Week

Coinciding with our Book Week events, we will also be celebrating Communication Week, to promote the values of ‘Engage with Chat: Explore with Play: Read Together’. We will be making the most of live streamed virtual author events, ‘chat away’ cards and Poetry Basket poems. Ahead of this week, Bucks County Council are running events for families throughout half term. Further information can be found here <https://familyinfo.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/news/early-years-communications/>

Red Nose Day for Comic Relief – 15th March

The environment club will be hosting a Funny Face Exhibition again this year. More details will be provided nearer the time. Please note however that the school will not be selling red noses this year.



Jungle Animals Workshops—15th March

To celebrate the 30th anniversary of British Science Week, the whole school will be visited by Jungle Juniors. They will provide a hands-on animal workshop for children to learn about different animals and their adaptations. All workshops taking place are being funded using the School Fund.



Cake Sales

Thanks to the Orange Class Reps and Volunteers who held our cake sale last Friday. A very impressive £199.15 was raised. Silver class will be holding our next cake sale on 8 March.

Half Term Break

Wishing all families a restful half term. Please note we will be returning on Tuesday 20 February (19 February is an Inset day).

CONVERSATION STARTERS

Some ways to start a conversation with your child about mental health could be...

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| TELL ME ABOUT YOUR DAY | WHAT WAS THE BEST THING ABOUT TODAY? |
| WHAT IS THE BIGGEST STRESS / WORRY IN YOUR LIFE RIGHT NOW? | WHAT'S YOUR ONLINE LIFE LIKE? |
| WHO WOULD YOU TALK TO IF YOU WERE FEELING WORRIED ABOUT YOUR MENTAL HEALTH? | WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP YOU? |

Focus on Wellbeing

Children's Mental Health Week took place this week between 5th-11th February with the theme of ‘My Voice Matters’. We want all children to be empowered to express their thoughts, feelings and views. In school we have been encouraging children to express themselves during our circle time and show and tell sessions in school. At home we would like parents to make time for meaningful conversations with your children showing active listening. You may also find the resources available on the following Place2Be website with some top tips to look at:

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/families/>

Useful Information

Governor Update

My thanks go to all members of the Governing Body for their work and support this year. Parent governors form part of our team and we are now preparing to advertise for another parent to join us. The advert will include some information about the work of the Governing Body but if anyone would like to talk to a governor about their role then some of the team will be present at the parent consultation meetings, we will be wearing our orange lanyards. Wishing you all a happy half term break.

Update on Breakfast Club

I am sorry to report that we are still waiting on the Local Authority to respond to our request to start a Breakfast Club at Chestnut Lane. We continue to contact the relevant department requesting action but to date they have failed to respond. You can write in support of the school directly to the local authority to enquire about the progress by emailing fami-lyinfo@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.

Mrs Christine Plimsaul, Chair of Governors

Grass area in the Quad

We are growing increasingly concerned about the behaviour of the children, and younger siblings, in the Quad area before and after school. There have been occasions where children have been hurt and property and plants have been damaged. A number of staff have had to speak to the children and remind them of the expectations. Please can we ask, again, that children are supervised at all times by parents and guardians, and remind everyone that the **grass area is not for playing on**. We are looking forward to seeing what will begin to bloom in Spring, and want to protect this space for everyone to enjoy!

Reinforcing our Behaviour Policy



We would like to thank everyone who has worked with the school recently to discuss children's behaviour, and reinforce our expectations. We believe it is vital to have consistency between home and school, so that the children are clear

about boundaries, and so that we can ensure a safe learning environment for everyone. We continuously discuss our values, and school rules with the children, through assemblies, whole class sessions and our social skills support. Further information can be found in our Whole School Behaviour policy: <https://chestnutlane.bucks.sch.uk/parents/policies>

Family Support

We have recently updated our website with support and resources available for families. The document contains links and telephone numbers of services available locally and nationally to assist families looking for financial, social or emotional support. Please refer to the **Wellbeing Support and Resources** link on our website for further details: <https://chestnutlane.bucks.sch.uk/wellbeing/parents-and-guardians>

Energy Doctor Scheme

Buckinghamshire Council have a face-to-face service that can help low-income households in receipt of means tested benefits in Buckinghamshire with advice and measures to reduce their household energy use and subsequently their bills. To find out if you are eligible for an energy Doctor visit and other services please contact Better Housing Better Health on 0800 107 0044 or fill out the form online: <https://www.bhbh.org.uk/>

Reception Dental Survey

Public Health would appreciate it if Reception Parents could spend 5-minutes completing a short survey that asks some basic questions regarding your child's oral health and general oral routines. The survey is completely anonymous. Please click on the link below to access the survey: <https://yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com/public-health/894e5b84>
Deadline for completion: Monday 28th February 2024

Stay OK

Stay Ok is a website for people with learning disabilities and autism living in the Thames Valley. It provides information and guidance on staying safe whilst at home, and out and about in the community covering a range of topics. For more information please refer to the website: <https://stayok.uk/>



CLESA NEWS

We are looking forward to seeing so many of you at the **Family Fun Night on Saturday 9th March** - it looks set to be fantastic fun!

A big thank you to everyone that is currently helping with events and fundraising plans, without volunteers we wouldn't be able to offer our children such amazing experiences or support the schools with the funding of additional resources. With that in mind, we are currently in need of a few more people to join in with the following events/CLESA roles:

Tea in a Box: someone to join the existing team, ideally from this term

Sausage Sizzle: A new leader to organise this termly event from September

Camp Out: A team of 2-3 people to organise this year's event

Treasurer: Someone to handle the CLESA finances from September.

If you are interested in getting involved, please do get in touch via clesacochair@gmail.com to find out more!