

Chestnut Lane School

FEBRUARY 2021

As the partial school closures continue we wanted to share with everyone some of the brilliant learning that has been taking place from both the classrooms, and at home. We are extremely proud of all the children (and their parents or guardians!) for adapting so well.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Wishing everyone a restful half term break!

Mrs Gemma Rehal

DIARY DATES

School Closes at	12 Feb
3.05pm	
School Opens at	22 Feb
8.50am	
World Book Day	4 Mar
Jack and the Beanstalk Online Workshop	5 Mar
Science Week	8-14 Mar
Parent Consultations	w/c 22 Mar

Spring Term News

Year 2

Green and Red Classes have been engaging brilliantly with our 'Walking with Dinosaurs' topic. We have found out so much about Mary Anning and fossil hunting, even creating our own fossils. A few were even edible!

We have been trying hard to challenge ourselves in maths and are finding ways to help us solve maths problems with methods that we know and using equipment we have at home, like Lego.



Lots of us are completing our challenges and Year 2 staff are so pleased to see that Green and Red Class children are often thinking of their own activities and extending their learning by researching and exploring other areas which are inspired by their own learning or interests.

We are particularly enjoying warming up for our day of remote learning by joining our teachers for the daily challenge in the morning and sharing or celebrating our day's learning during show and tell in the afternoon.

Year 1

In Year 1, we have been so impressed with the level of

work children have been producing in school and whilst being at home. We love interacting with you all on our live sessions and looking at adjectives and going on noun hunts within these. We have been exploring and comparing a m a z i n g a n i m a l s within our 'Walking with Dinosaurs' topic. We have t h o u g h t about Dinosaurs and

other animals, and about the groups, they belong to. The children have looked at herbivores and carnivores and used great conjunctions to compare them, such as 'however' and 'meanwhile'. The children have also been comparing the similarities and differences of animals.

Reception

In Reception we have been stomping and stamping with dinosaurs. We have done our own research on different dinosaurs. Dinosaur dens were discovered all around Amersham and Reception children made news reports on those dens! We used dinosaur footprints to measure

length and find objects that were longer and shorter. Part of the children's investigations involved them freezing their dinosaur eggs and using different tools to 'hatch' the dinosaur out of the egg. The children in school were curious to explore and investigate the dinosaur eggs they found.

Little Chestnuts

The beginning of Spring Term in Little Chestnuts has been filled with fun, excitement and lots of laughter! The Little Chestnuts welcomed new children and enthusiastically engaged with creative dinosaur activities for our whole school topic.

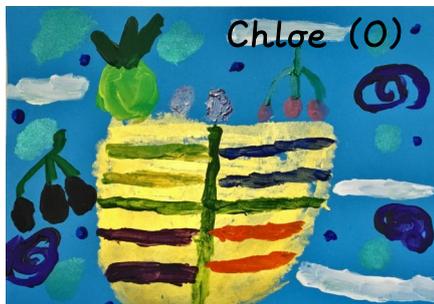
We especially loved creating our own dinosaurs with a range of materials as well as developing our own 'friendlysaurs'!

Little Chestnuts enjoy being helpful gardeners. Last week they planted their own broad beans. They are looking forward to looking after them and observing the changes as they happen.



Art Challenge

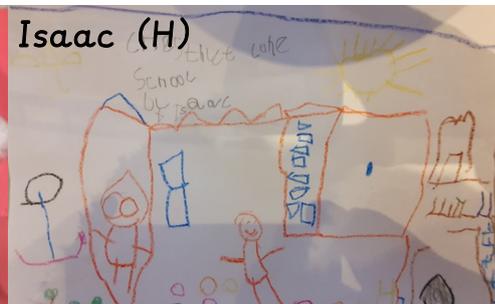
Subject leaders across the school have been setting a range of challenges and competitions to complement our remote learning. Thank you for all of your Art Challenge entries, where children were inspired to create artwork in response to a word prompt. They were a pleasure to view and we have been thrilled to see such a range of artwork in different mediums. Well done to all children who took part!



Chloe (O)



Ella (G)



Isaac (H)

Art Challenge January 2021

Here are a few amazing entries from our challenge. Well done everyone!



Noura (G)



Aditya (R)



Lily (S)



Matteo (G)



James P (F)



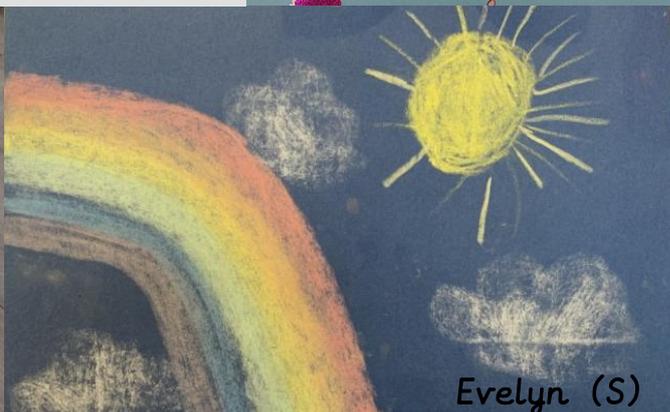
Hannah (R)



Miles (H)



Harrison (R)



Evelyn (S)

Important Updates

New Competitions

The teachers have uploaded our PE and Geography competitions onto MS Teams. The closing date for these is Monday 22nd February. You will then receive two new competitions to enjoy!

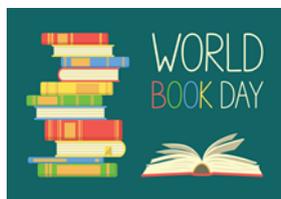
Home Learning Packs w.b. 22nd February

Weeks 7 and 8 of home learning will be sent via ParentMail on Friday 19th March (during half term), and will be uploaded to MS Teams on Monday 22nd February.

Parent Consultations w.b. 22nd March 2021

We will be conducting parent consultations via MS Teams this term. These will take place during the week beginning 22nd March. We will share your child/ren's Pupil Progress Update sheet with you prior to your consultation. These sheets will identify achievements made during the second half of the Autumn term, as well as throughout the partial school closures. Due to the circumstances, we have not been able to conduct formal assessments, but we will be providing next steps for your child/ren.

World Book Day

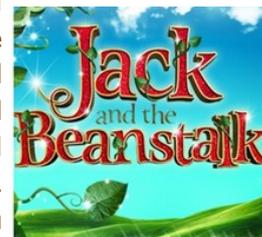


During the week beginning 1st March we will be engaging the children in a selection of book related activities to celebrate World Book Day. On Thursday 4th March we are

asking all children to dress-up as their favourite book character, whether they are at home or in school. The children will have a chance to see one another's, and the staff's, costumes during the live sessions on the day. The children will be asked to share the book that their character is from. Parents and guardians are more than welcome to join in from home too!

On Friday 5th March we have been fortunate to arrange online workshops for the children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. The workshops will be pro-

vided by West End in Schools, who usually visit us in school at this time of year, and will be based on Jack and the Beanstalk. These workshops will take place via MS Teams, and will be delivered to those in school and at home at the same time. Nearer the time we will let you know when your class's time slot is, but it may mean that some of the regular live sessions cannot take place on that day. This opportunity will be paid for by the School Fund. The children in Little Chestnuts will be offered a workshop later in the year.



Science Week



Unfortunately, no one yet knows what the week of the 8th March will bring for schools. However, 8th-14th March is

British Science Week and so we will be marking the occasion whatever happens. We have a Science competition lined up, as well as some practical experiments which can be carried out both in the classroom and at home. This year's theme is 'Innovating for the future' and so we hope the children will have lots of fun creating!

Wellbeing Award for Schools

As you will know wellbeing is a primary focus for so many at the moment, and in school we have strengthened our work to understand and support the emotional and social development of the children. We hope that parents found the resources shared as part of Children's Mental Health Week useful. As a school we wanted to ensure that our journey was well-informed and that it addresses all aspects of wellbeing across the school. Therefore, we have embarked on the Wellbeing Award for Schools, <https://www.awardplace.co.uk/award/was>. This is in the early stages, and we will keep parents and guardians updated with our progress.

Staff News

As you will be aware we welcomed Mrs Megan Harper as our Deputy Headteacher at the start of this term. We are also delighted to say that Miss Sidrah Begum has taken on the role of KSI Lead Teacher. Miss Begum has worked across KSI for many years, and has trained and supported the local authority with moderation of end of KSI assessments, providing her with lots of valuable experience for the role.

I began my phased return to work, following maternity leave, in November 2020. I have now increased back to my full-time role, but continue to work on and off-site as the majority of the staff do during this period.