

The past few weeks have been the toughest time for staff absences that we can remember. We would like to thank parents and guardians for their understanding and patience, as we prioritised keeping classes on-site. It was 'touch-and-go' on many occasions, and I would like to pay particular tribute to the staff team who have come together, yet again, showing resilience and determination. We would not have kept going without each and every one of them.

Mrs Gemma Rehal

EVENTS

| | |
|--------------------------------------------|--------|
| Mind Wellbeing Assembly KSI | 5 Apr |
| KSI Workshops with Rabbi Zvi | 8 Apr |
| Tea in a Box | 8 Apr |
| School Closes at 2.05pm | 8 Apr |
| School Starts at 8.40am | 25 Apr |
| Year 2 Titanic Workshop | 29 Apr |
| Bank Holiday | 2 May |
| Class Photos | 10 May |
| Wellbeing Day | 11 May |
| Mufti-day for Summer Fair donations | 20 May |
| Year 2 Cake Sale | 27 May |
| School Closes at 3.05pm | 27 May |
| School Starts at 8.40am (6 June Inset Day) | 7 Jun |

Spring Term Update

World Book Day

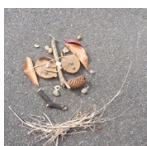
We all had a brilliant time celebrating World Book Day together. It was lovely to see all of the children and staff in their costumes, and we all enjoyed the joyous atmosphere. The children had the opportunity to share their favourite books with children from other year groups. The children also designed their own front cover of a book, and they wrote a book review. The Stick Man and Matilda workshops were a great way to round off the week.



Thank you to everyone for their enthusiasm!

British Science Week

The Year 2 children made geodes by observing the effects of mixing different ingredients. They also explored the school grounds to find different aspects of nature to help them record their own acrostic poems.



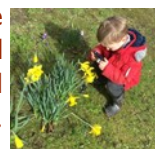
The Year 1 children looked at 'Growth', they observed differ-

ent plants, trees, and practised their observational drawing skills in the garden. They made sure to spot whether the trees were evergreen or deciduous trees and also created Natural Art in the style of Andy Goldsworthy and Richard Shilling.

In Reception, the children explored a range of spring flowers. They used their creative skills and painted observational artwork of the spring flowers. The children measured different flowers by height, using nonstandard measurements.



Little Chestnuts went on a 'Signs of Spring' scavenger hunt and noticed how things are growing and changing all around us. Then the children used the cameras to take photos of their favourite changes in the environment.



Year 2 Trip to Tring Museum

The children loved their first coach trip! They handled fossils and compared different animals from around the world.

Red Nose Day Funny Face Exhibition

The children in Year 2's Environment Club created many wonderful entries for our Red Nose Day Funny Face Exhibition on Friday 18th March. It was lovely to see the children really enjoying the opportunity to come and see the creations. In total your kind donations raised £249.92. We would like to say a special thank you to Mrs Tyler for all of her efforts in putting it together.

999 Cenotaph

We were very disappointed to have had to cancel our 999 Cenotaph fundraising event, due to Storm Eunice, and so it was wonderful to see it finally happen last week. The children, and staff, really embraced the theme and we were very lucky to be visited by PC Dan and PC Mark and the Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue, who brought along their emergency vehicles for the children to experience. Thank you for all of your generous donations; it was very rewarding for the children to be part of supporting our wider community.



Upcoming Events & Workshops

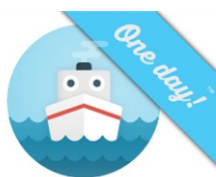
Welcoming Rabbi Zvi Solomons – Friday 8th April

The Jewish celebration of Passover falls within the two week break. To mark this occasion, we will be welcoming Rabbi Zvi Solomons into school to deliver a whole school assembly, and provide the opportunity for our Year 1 and Year 2 classes to experience a synagogue, within our school. This visit will be funded using our School Fund.

Year 2 Titanic Workshop – Friday 29th April

Year 2 will be welcoming back One Day Creative following their successful Great Fire of London workshop.

After the break, Year Two are looking forward to attending a special workshop to introduce Titanic as part of our 'Beyond the Sea' topic. The children will immerse themselves into British history by exploring this key event using music, props and questions. This workshop will be funded using our school fund.



Celebrating the Platinum Jubilee – 7th-10th June

As you will all know, the country will be celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee over the bank holiday weekend 2nd-5th June. In school we have begun plans to continue celebrations into the following week. During 7th-10th

June (6th June is an INSET day) all classes will be taking part in a range of activities and special events to mark the occasion. We look forward to sharing more details with parents and guardians next half term. These events will be funded using our School Fund.



Amersham in Bloom Writing Competition

All of our classes are taking part in Amersham Town Council's 'Green and Blue' Book Project. We will be submitting all entries this week for the Town Council's consideration, and 100 entries from across Amersham will be published in their book, 'Green and Blue: Short Stories and Poems by Children to Inspire Change'. Further information can be found on the attached flyer, and in this video: <https://bit.ly/ATCbook>



Buckinghamshire Council Adult Learning Courses

There are a number of courses available to parents including: * Helping with 'Managing Stress and Anxiety' *Getting confident for Y1 and * Supporting your child with science. Full details can be found in the attached flyer or by visiting: <https://www.adultlearningbc.ac.uk/family-learning/schools-kit-newsletter/>

Focus on Wellbeing

We would like to thank Bucks Mind for their support this term, in developing mental health awareness with the children. So far in our school,



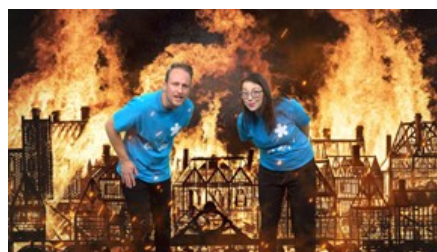
they have led 2 assemblies, 2 carpet sessions, staff training and a parent workshop. Thank you everyone who attended the parent workshop. We hope you found the session beneficial and a useful tool to begin thinking about children's wellbeing. As mentioned during the session, the resources will be made available to you all. Please remember to also use the [well-being section](#) on our school website for further information and resources. We will continue to add to the wellbeing resources and have most recently added a [recommended book list](#) to support key wellbeing themes, which we hope you find useful.



We are pleased to report that we are progressing towards the final stages of our Wellbeing Award for Schools, after a successful interim support day. Through the support day, we were able to share examples of the practices which we have embedded in school such as wellbeing sessions, large resource banks and wellbeing trackers for individual and class support. As part of the award, we will be conducting surveys next term to establish the impact of our wellbeing practices. We will also be asking parents to provide individual feedback on the day of the award verification.

How are we spending our School Fund?

Thank you for all the voluntary contributions given towards our School Fund. We are very pleased that so far this academic year we have used the School Fund to enable cooking sessions, film the Christmas performances for parents and guardians, and provide a Brazilian dance, World Book week and Great Fire of London workshop.



Important Information

Covid-19 Debrief

We are very pleased that the school has been able to complete the COVID-19 debrief process, and feedback from parents, staff and governors has been reviewed. As outlined in our communication, the period of partial school closures was hard on everyone, but we are pleased to have been able to take the opportunity to learn some lessons, which will support us in the future. Thank you to everyone who contributed in the process.

Instagram



Have you heard that we are now 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 parents, guardians and wider friends of the school who have already found us, we are really excited about sharing life in school with you in this way.

Concerns and Complaints

We, of course, always hope that everyone in our community is happy about what the school does, however if you ever have concerns or complaints we hope that parents and guardians know they can come and speak to us. Class teachers are always available at pick-up and drop-off times, or via the communication books/learning logs, and other members of staff (such as key stage leaders and the Headteacher) can be contacted via the school office, or telephone. If there is anything at all, we always want to know so that we can work together to find solutions. Further information can be found within the Complaints and Resolutions Procedure on our school website.

Parent Video Guides

A reminder that there are a range of [video guides](#) on our school website which demonstrate many of our approaches to different aspects of our curriculum. If you ever have queries about how the children are being taught in school, this would be a good starting place to support them at home.

Dental Screening—Wednesday 27th April

A random, selection of children chosen as part of the PHE National Dental Epidemiology Programme have been invited to take part in a dental survey at school. Those selected to take part in this survey have received a letter via

bookbags. Please return to the school office indicating whether you wish your child to take part or not.

Signs of Spring

It has been great to see signs of spring pop up over the past few weeks, and with the warmer weather, we look forward to this continuing. Please can we remind parents and guardians that we have many plants growing across the school, including in the grass of the quad area. Please ensure that everyone, including younger siblings, are respectful of our environment and help us to look after the school grounds.

New Governor

We are very pleased to have appointed a new governor to our Governing Body, following the departure of Mr Steve West. Mrs Clare Atkinson began working with us last week, and I am sure that parents and guardians will join staff and governors in welcoming her.

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 10th May.

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. We understand that by having the Ofsted label this may seem daunting, however it is a useful tool for the school as we work towards our next inspection.

Cake Sales

We were delighted to see the return of our first cake sale in a while! Thank you to all the Early Years parents who ran the sale. An amazing total of £251.69 was raised, including the proceeds of an additional cake sale which took place on the Saturday by the Almond family.



Year 2 will be holding our next cake sale on Friday 27 May.

May Bank Holiday – 2nd May

We would like to remind parents that Monday 2nd May is a bank holiday so school will be closed.

CLESA Update

CLESA Coffee Morning

Thank you to those who attended the coffee morning. Our CLESA team enjoyed meeting our "new" early years parents as well as catching up with some more familiar faces.

Easter Hunt

Thank you to all the families that have taken part in our Easter trails over the last 10 days. It's been lovely to hear how much the children have enjoyed it! If you have not already done so, email clesacochair@gmail.com ASAP with your child's name, class & trail answer, in order for your child to receive a free prize for completing the trail – prizes will be given out via the school towards the end of the week.

The team is busy organising the **Summer Fair** to be held on **Saturday 18 June** and **Summer Camp Out** on **Saturday 9 July**. More information about tickets and booking forms will be coming out in book bags next term. We are really excited to be holding these events again – they are really popular with the children & grown ups alike. Your class reps will be asking you to volunteer at the Summer Fair so please do support them & give a little time to help run your class stall & make the day a big success!

Dates for the Diary

Tea in a Box—Friday 8th April

Mufti-day for Summer Fair—Friday 20th May

Summer Fair—Saturday 18th June

Summer Camp Out—Saturday 9th July

