

We cannot believe it is the end of March already! We have had a very busy Spring Term. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all an enjoyable Easter break and look forward to welcoming you all back in the final term of the school year.

**Mrs Gemma Rehal**

### EVENTS

Tea in a Box	24 Mar
Year 2 Trip to Waddesdon	29 Mar
School Closes at 2.05pm	31 Mar
Silver Class Cake Sale	31 Mar
School Starts at 8.40am	17 Apr
Year 1 Topic Meeting	26 Apr
Year 1 Land Art Workshops	26 Apr
Year 2 Topic Meeting	27 Apr
Reception Topic Meeting	28 Apr
Forest Class Cake	28 Apr
Bank Holiday	1 May
Bank Holiday	8 May
Class Photos	9 May
Quiz and Curry Night at Elangeni	13 May
Maths Workshops (Reception, Yr 1 & Yr 2)	17 May
Music Workshops (whole school)	24 May
School Closes at 3.05pm	26 May
Meadow Class Cake Sale	26 May

# Chestnut Lane School

MARCH 2023

## Spring Term Update

### World Book Day

We love World Book Day so much that we celebrated reading all week with wonderful activities! All the staff read their favourite stories and the children chose which one they would like to listen to. The dress-up character outfits were amazing and the conversations around different stories were lovely to hear. The children really enjoyed getting together to share their story with children in different year groups.

West End in Schools ran a fantastic 'Story Explorer' workshop where the children were involved in becoming different characters and developing the storyline with sound effects and movements.



Thank you everyone who visited our second-hand book sale. It was a great success in raising funds for the Turkey-Syria Earthquake appeal (total of £188.20), as well as inspiring the children with a range of new stories to read!

### Year 1 Trip to Discover Bucks Museum

Year 1 had a fantastic trip to Discover Bucks Museum in Aylesbury. They created dream bottles based on the BFG, and they explored the Roald Dahl Gallery. They wrote some brilliant stories in school based on their dreams.



### British Science Week / Animal Workshops

The whole school celebrated British Science week by exploring our school grounds and making connections to different habitats. We were visited by

Animal Club who allowed us to touch many different animals and ask questions about their adaptations and habitats.



### Comic Relief / Funny Faces Competition

Thank you to everyone who attended Environment Club's Funny Faces exhibition on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March,

for Comic Relief. Mrs Tyler and the children worked very hard on creating their funny faces, promoting the exhibition including in assembly, and raising awareness of the Comic Relief cause. They were very proud to have done something 'funny for money' and as a school we have raised a total of £286.72.

### National Day of Reflection—Marie Curie

On 23<sup>rd</sup> March, it was the third UK National Day of Reflection. Over the past 4 months, 9 members of our staff team have experienced bereavements, many extremely close family members. It has very sadly been a time like no other, which has had an impact on all of us. We wanted to take this opportunity as colleagues, to remember our loved ones who've died, support people who are grieving, and connect with each other. We shared memories on our own Wall of Reflection, and took time to reflect on the range of feelings we are experiencing. If you are struggling with bereavement, please do come and talk to one of us.



### Staff News

We are pleased to welcome our new midday supervisor, Lauren Walford, to our busy lunchtime team.

## Upcoming Events & Workshops

### Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel - 20th-31st March

As many of you will have seen, we have a lovely new bike and scooter shelter along the driveway, generously funded by CLESA.



To celebrate the new shelter, we are currently taking part in the Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel fortnight. It is an initiative to inspire pupils to make active journeys to school, either by walking or using bikes or scooters, as well as improving the air quality in our neighbourhood. Further information can be found on their website:

<https://www.sustrans.org.uk/our-blog/projects/uk-wide/schools/sustrans-big-walk-and-wheel/>.

Children travelling to school in the ways mentioned are welcome to see Mr King our Site Manager, who will be pleased to give them a sticker.

The teachers are tallying up the different ways the children travelled to school and each day we are competing against other schools, to see which school has the highest percentage of their pupils to taking part.

### Year 1's Land Artist Visit - 26th April



On Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April, James Brunt who is a Land Artist, will be visiting Year 1 as part of their natural artwork topic. This is being funded by the School Fund.

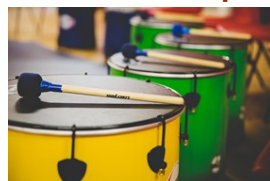
### Maths Workshops - Wednesday 17th May

On 17<sup>th</sup> May we are looking forward to welcoming the Happy Puzzle company into school. They will be conducting maths workshops with Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. The workshops will encourage children to think, communicate and solve challenges and situations.

Little Chestnuts will be carrying out their own maths focussed activities on the day, led by Mrs Sanghera and Mrs Harper.

These events are being funded by the School Fund.

### Music Workshops - Wednesday 24th May



We are very excited to have booked a Samba Drumming Workshop for the whole school on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May. Each class will visit the hall for an exciting and hands on workshop.

These workshops will also be funded by the School Fund, and are only possible because of parent and guardians generous contributions. Thank you.

### Amersham Health & Wellbeing Event

Buckinghamshire Council are holding a Health & Wellbeing event in Amersham at the Chiltern Lifestyle Centre Community Hal on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April between 1-5pm. The event will highlight local community groups, activities and services that can support residents to remain independent at home for longer. Please click on this link for further details: [Amersham Health & Wellbeing Event](#)

### Cake Sales

Thank you to the Orange Class reps for organising the recent cake sale. They raised a total of £154 for the class. Silver class will be holding our next cake sale on the last day of term on 31st March at 2.05pm.



## Focus on Wellbeing

### Message from Christine Plimsaul, Chair of Governors

One of our responsibilities as Governors is to monitor the wellbeing of the staff and pupils. We take this responsibility very seriously and have a member of our team who is a qualified Mental Health First Aider as well as another member who is a Chartered Clinical Psychologist. Their experience in the field of wellbeing complements the work of Mrs Rehal and her staff and they check in regularly with each other. If any concerns were ever raised or identified then the governors would move swiftly to support the school team.

As Governors we join the staff team in setting high standards for the education of your children but not at any cost. There may be ways that some of us could help to reduce some of the workload so please speak to your child's teacher to see if there is anything you might be able to do to help either at home or in school.

For more information about wellbeing in school please refer to the school website. If anyone requires further support then please do contact Mrs Rehal.

### Pupil Survey

In January we conducted a pupil survey with all classes across the school, using the questions from the Ofsted pupil survey. The survey was completed by 200 children and we were encouraged to hear that:

- 91% of children feel that teachers always, or mostly, listen to what they have to say.
- 92% of children feel that our school always, or mostly, encourages them to respect people from other backgrounds and to treat everyone equally.
- 89% of children feel that the adults in our school always, or mostly, show them how to make their work better.

All 'never' responses, to the twelve statements, were fewer than 10%, however we are seeking to understand these further, referring to individual feedback.

### Independent Review

On 9<sup>th</sup> February an independent review of the school was conducted by a consultant who used to inspect on behalf of Ofsted, and now works with the organisation Challenge Partners.

It was a valuable exercise, which has supported us in sharpening actions and priorities for the school moving forward. Her visit also reaffirmed many of the great things that we see taking place on a daily basis. We are particularly proud of the following:

*"Pupils are motivated and participate well in learning activities." "Positive relationships enables pupils to ask for help."*

*"Younger children really enjoy working outside and the school environment is used well."*

*"The Systematic Synthetic Phonics and Early Reading teaching is clearly systematic, detailed and effective."*

### E-Safety Resources on Website

Thank you to everyone who attended our virtual e-safety training evening with Alison Watts at the end of February. It was a very informative sessions, and great to see that many parents and guardians found it helpful. We have updated our e-safety resources on our

school website, which can be found here: <https://chestnutlane.bucks.sch.uk/classes/resources-for-parents>

### Promotion of Little Chestnuts

As many of you may be aware, we are currently seeking ways to promote Little Chestnuts further, in order to increase the number of hours taken up, whilst remaining at our maximum class size of 26. Thank you to the parents and guardians who have already contacted us with offers of help with photography, marketing and social media.

Thank you too, to everyone who has responded to our recent Little Chestnuts survey. Your feedback will be extremely useful in updating our promotional materials.

As of September 'Little Chestnuts Nursery' will be known as 'Little Chestnuts Preschool', and we have already begun some changes on our website and within our paperwork. We will be updating signage around the school in due course.

If anyone feels they can offer any other support, please contact the school office.

### Parking

Sadly, we have received more complaints about inconsiderate parking on the neighbouring roads to the school. 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.

### Show & Tell

If your child plays a musical instrument outside of school, we would be delighted for your child to bring in their instrument for our show and tell sessions which take place on Fridays.

### School Governor

Our Governing Body are currently looking to recruit new School Governors from the local community. Please see the attached flyer for further details.

## CLESA NEWS

A very big thank you to Pam Deering, Mandip Malhotra, Gurjinder Bhandal-Dyson, Hannah Borthwick, Gaele Symons & Sarah Sharma for organising the Family Fun Night and disco recently. Lots of fun was had on the day and the team managed to raise a fantastic £2,378 - thank you so much!!!!

We're delighted that several volunteers have stepped forward to run this year's Summer Fair - planning has started and we will let you know as soon as we have a date confirmed.

As previously communicated, we need one or two volunteers to take over as chairs of CLESA from September, as Nicola and Sophie will be stepping down after 2 years in the role. If you would like to find out more information about what the role entails or have any questions, please do get in touch. We need to arrange this before the summer holidays so we can arrange a handover and determine whether CLESA will be able to continue from September.

Please email Nicola and Sophie at [clesacochair@gmail.com](mailto:clesacochair@gmail.com) for full details.

