

It has been lovely to see everyone settling in to the new school year, and welcoming lots of new faces. We have had a very busy half term already, and we are looking forward to lots more to come!

Mrs G Rehal

EVENTS

Individual School Photos	17 Oct
Parent Consultations (All Classes & SENCo) 3.30-6.30pm	17 Oct
Parent Consultations (All Classes & SENCo) 5.00-8.00pm	19 Oct
Wear Red Day	20 Oct
Flu Immunisations	20 Oct
Last Day of Half Term	20 Oct
Inset Day (No School)	30 Oct
First Day of Half Term	31 Oct
Red Class Cake Sale	3 Nov
Odd Socks Day	17 Nov
Perform Workshops	22 Nov
CLESA Christmas Fair	26 Nov

Chestnut Lane School

OCTOBER 2023

Autumn Term Newsletter

Author Visit



On 13th September we had a successful visit from Sam Copeland author of 'The Bear Behind'. We were thrilled that our families purchased approximately 135 copies of the book, which were all individually dedicated to Chestnut Lane children and signed by the author. It was great to have lots of parental support, and the in-school story-telling session was very much enjoyed by all the children who took part.

Holistic Sleep Coach Workshop

Thank you to everyone who attended our first home life workshop, which focussed on sleep. We have attached with

this newsletter some helpful resources from the session. These have also been added to our school website under the Wellbeing tab. We are planning future workshops to support home life, and have taken some great ideas from those who attended, which included nutrition for children, and anxiety in children, in particular separation anxiety. If you have any other areas that you would like support with, please email these to the school office.

Baseline Assessments

We are so pleased with how the children have settled in and are proud of the progress they are making. Teachers are also working hard getting to know individual strengths and areas for

development, through the use of carefully planned assessments. Most of these take place through one-to-one conversations/tasks with the teacher and children are not aware they are being 'assessed', but just given the chance to share their knowledge and understanding. Outcomes of these assessments give detailed, personalised information about each child and inform important links with home learning, such as the reading books and Phonics/Spelling Challenges your child receives. They will also inform discussions at our upcoming Parent Consultations, where you are free to ask your child's teacher any questions.

Focus on Wellbeing

How is it already October! With colder and darker days approaching we would like to check in and give you some tips for winter wellness.

Tip 1 - get out: Get out in the natural day light, sit near a window, take a walk in the garden or park. When you do go outside, dress appropriately for the weather. You will enjoy being outside if you are warm when it's cold. Being outside will boost your mood and it decreases levels of stress and anxiety.

Tip 2 - digital detox : Spend quality time with your loved ones without technology. A digital free hour or day allows for quality interactions that build deeper connections.

Tip 3 - mindful tidying: Declutter spaces in your home, listen to music whilst you do any chores. Research shows that having a tidy up is as good as meditating and the end result of a tidy space is mood boosting.

Last Tuesday, 10th, was World Mental Health Day and we discussed this with the children in our assembly. They then took part in a range of well-being activities including: nature walk, tree rubbing, talking about our emotions and meditating.

Upcoming Events

School Photos—Tuesday 17th October



Individual school photos will be taking place on Tuesday 17th October. Please note that the school photos will be cashless and proof-less again this year. Your child will be coming home with a unique “Boarding Pass” style letter with details of how to order photos online. You may still request that your child’s photo is delivered to the school and they will be sent home in book bags.

There will be an opportunity for you to bring your **pre-school** children to be photographed with their siblings from 8.30am. Places will be limited and offered on a first come first served basis. Please queue outside the school office and we will invite individual families in to avoid congestion in the hall.

Please note the Little Chestnuts children, who do not usually attend on a Tuesday morning, are welcome to come in for their photo to be taken. Please bring them to the school office at 9.15am.

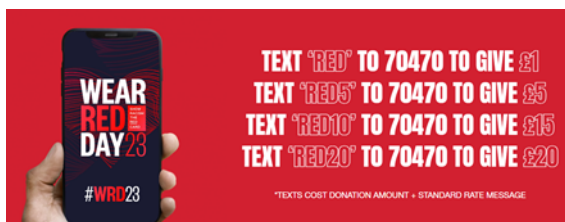
Parent Consultations

Thanks to all parents for indicating their availability for our upcoming Parent Consultations will be taking place this week, on Tuesday 17th and Thursday 19th October. All 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. 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.

Show Racism the Red Card

On Friday 20th October we will be taking part in the Show Racism the Red Card’s Wear Red Day. We appreciate that the children already wear red on a daily basis, but we are inviting them to wear as much red as possible on the 20th. Their outfits can be as fun as they like!

If you would like to make a donation towards the anti-racism educational charity, this can be done via the class teacher or by texting Red to 70470 to donate £1.



Flu Immunisations - Friday 20th October

The flu immunisations for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be taking place in school on Friday 20th October. Please provide your consent by Thursday 19th October and refer to the ParentMail correspondence sent out on 14th September for details on how to do this.

Friendship Week and Odd Socks Day, w.b. 13th November

During the week of 13th November we will be marking Anti-Bullying Week with the children, through our Friendship Week activities. We will be encouraging the children, and staff, to take part in the Anti-Bullying Alliance’s Odds Sock Day, which we have chosen to carry out on Friday 17th November. We will also be inviting parents and guardians to join us in school on Friday 17th November between 9am – 10am, for a Friendship Week open morning. During this time we encourage parents and guardians to visit all of the classrooms across the school, and take part in friendship activities with their children.

Perform Workshops—22nd November



The Reception and Key Stage 1 children will be taking part in 'around the world' workshops on 22nd November. These workshops will be run by perform and involve an exciting globe trotting adventure in the role of Phileas Fogg. It includes drama, dancing and singing.

Red Class Cake Sale—Friday 3rd November

We are pleased to announce that the first cake sale of the year will be run by Red Class on 3rd November.



Term Dates

Please be reminded that we break up for half term on Friday 20th October and return to school on Tuesday 31st October (Monday 30th October is an Inset Day).



Important Information

Our Website

Our school website is continually updated, and we are always keen to hear from parents and guardians about what they would find useful.



If you have not done so already, please do have a look in

the 'Curriculum' section to find out about what each year group will be covering as part of our whole school topics. Within this tab there are also 'Resources for Parents' and 'Parent Video Guides' which are useful tools to demonstrate how elements of the curriculum are taught in school.

There are also informative reports on how we used grant funding last academic year, such as the PE and Sport premium.

Instagram

Have you heard 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 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.

Staff News

This year we have been pleased to welcome two additional LSAs to our team. Miss Ria Rose is working in Reception, and Mrs Kamalika Wijesinghe is supporting in Year 1.

At the end of September, we were very sad to say goodbye to Mrs Abbey Warner who had been part of our Reception team for 4 years. We are currently interviewing for her role, along with additional vacancies. Please click on the following link to our website to look at our staff vacancies <https://chestnutlane.bucks.sch.uk/school/vacancies>

if you know anybody looking for a school role. Whilst our recruitment processes are ongoing, you may see an increase in supply agency staff supporting us in school.

Due to the national difficulties recruiting teachers, we are continuing to advertise for a Year 2 teacher for January 2024. All options are being considered.

Water Beads

We have recently been reminded of the dangers of water beads for young children, and therefore would ask that parents and guardians consider this if they are using them at home. Further information can be found [here](#).

The Platinum Tree Award

Over the summer holiday we were thrilled to receive the Platinum Tree Award from the Woodland Trust. Building on our Gold Tree Award, we worked on projects throughout last academic year including tree art projects, tree identification, local area walks and whole school events. Following our submission of evidence we earned the points required to obtain the Platinum Tree Award.



A special thank you to Mrs Sanghera and Mrs Tyler for all of their hard work co-ordinating the project.

Our work with the great outdoors doesn't end there, this year we are really pleased to be incorporating into our curriculum Muddy Puddle sessions throughout all year groups. We are currently developing our resources and trialling lots of ideas with the children. Look out on our Instagram page for updates!

Respecting the School Grounds

Recently we were hugely disappointed to learn that one of our recently planted young trees in the front field (bottom of the school drive), that we were fortunate to be donated, had been pulled out. Sadly, this is just one example of areas of our school where nature and growing are not being shown the respect that they should be. This is primarily taking place before and after school, when children are under the supervision of their parents and carers.

We would like to remind everyone that all plants, trees and flowers growing within our school grounds should be treated with care. Trees should not be climbed on, pulled, or damaged, and other plants should not be trodden on or picked. We spend a lot of time working with the children to look after our school grounds, and we would ask that outside of the school hours, the same respect is shown by all.

Parking Concerns

Sadly, we continue to receive complaints about illegal and inconsiderate parking on the neighbouring roads to the school, parking on double yellow lines and also blocking driveways, particularly around the roads of Chestnut Close, The Gowers and Hollybush Lane.

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. We encourage everyone to report any parking of concern to the Thames Valley Policing team.



Governor Update from Mrs Plimsaul, Chair of Governors

I am delighted to welcome two new governors to our team, Mrs Aditi Zutshi and Mr Tom Burkinshaw. Aditi is our governor responsible for Early Years and brings her knowledge and experience to the Health and Safety committee. Tom is our governor responsible for Safeguarding and he has joined the Pay and Personnel committee where his skills will complement that team.

One of the key responsibilities of the Governing Board is to monitor teacher workload. We are aware that this week is parent consultations and we know that this involves the staff in a lot of additional work. Therefore, we would really appreciate your support in trying to manage workload and ask that you keep your consultation appointments. Missed appointments create additional work and can result in teachers arriving home much later than is reasonable.

I am sure you will all enjoy looking through your child/ren work and will be very proud of what they have achieved already.

SEND News

We would like to update all of our parents and guardians of children with Education, Health and Care plans that our link EHC co-ordinator has changed to Lauren Langton, and she can be contacted on lauren.langton@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.

If any parents and guardians are looking for independent advice regarding any area of SEND support, Bucks SENDIAS Service is a useful contact to be aware of. Please see their new flyer attached to this newsletter.

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/parents-and-guardians> (scroll to the bottom).

Buckinghamshire Council also offer support here: <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/cost-of-living/contact-helping-hands/>

Please speak to one of us if you feel you need further support.

Recycling in School

We would like to remind parents that you may recycle the following items in school:

- * Batteries
- * Stamps
- * Printer Ink Cartridges (not laser or toner cartridges)
- * Old Toothbrushes / Toothpaste

We are also happy to accept donations of second-hand uniform. Please bring items to the school office.

Class Reps WhatsApp Groups

Thank you to all the parents who have come forward to be class reps this year. We know that there is an active WhatsApp network amongst classes, and that this is a quick and effective way of reaching parents and guardians. If you haven't received an invitation to join your class WhatsApp group and would like to, please contact the school office.

CLESA

Thank you to everyone who attended the CLESA AGM last Wednesday. We were delighted to announce that the Christmas Fair will go ahead this year with the date being set for **Sunday 26th November**. More details will follow soon but do pop the date in your diary as it's sure to be a lot of fun!

It's set to be a busy year as we look forward to running a full calendar of events. A big thank you to everyone who has volunteered to run or support so far. We are currently looking for volunteers for the Christmas Fair, and for a group of people to run the Summer Camp Out, so if you would like to help out with either of these events, please do contact us on clesacochair@gmail.com.

There will be leaflets coming home soon telling you about our school lottery and easy fundraising schemes. Information about how to sign up for these and our gift cards scheme is available on the school website <https://chestnutlane.bucks.sch.uk/clesa/welcome-to-clesa>. These are great initiatives that raise thousands of pounds for our schools each year, at little or no cost to you, so we really hope that as many as possible get involved!

