

As we are rapidly approaching July, this will be our final school newsletter of the academic year! We all know that the past two years have been hugely challenging, but we continue to be immensely proud of the children. They have often provided a much-needed lift for us all. When we finally get there, we hope that everyone has an enjoyable summer break.

Mrs Gemma Rehal

DIARY DATES

Class Lists 2021-22	2nd Jul
End of Year Reports	9th Jul
Year 2 Drama Workshops	15th Jul
Year 2 Leavers' Disco	20th Jul
School Closes at 1.55/2.05pm	21st Jul
School Reopens at 8.50am	2nd Sep

Our Recovery Curriculum

Ahead of the full reopening of school in March this year we wrote to you and provided an outline of Our Recovery Curriculum work during the Autumn term. Since March we have continued to develop this, providing support through the catch-up premium, as well as addressing the losses the children have experienced through the wider curriculum.

The catch-up premium has largely been used to fund additional teaching hours so that class teachers have more time to implement the smaller group and intensive teaching sessions that we have been so keen to return to. Whilst ensuring that the protective measures are adhered to, we have been able to provide the scaffolding and challenge required to address gaps in learning, and specifically target areas that will enable greater progress.

We are extremely pleased to report that during the period March – May 2021:

- In total **42** interventions

were run across the school (not including intervention provided one-to-one to individual pupils)

- **60%** of pupils across the school accessed at least one intervention
- Of those children in the 42 interventions, **77%** made expected or better progress

These interventions are one part of our wider offer, which includes in-class support for pupils, a whole school focus on social and emotional development, and a curriculum tailored to meet the specific needs identified. At the end of the year, we will be providing a more detailed report of what we have been doing and the impact it has had.

End of Year Reports

End of Year Reports will be sent home in book bags on Friday 9th July. Although statutory assessments for the end of Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 have been cancelled

for this academic year, the reports will contain assessment information which will support with the transition to new classes and provide an update on where the children have ended the academic year.

Transition

We are at that time of year when we are sadly preparing to say goodbye to our Year 2s, and those that are leaving us from Little Chestnuts. We are very disappointed that transition events have been disrupted again this year, however we are working hard to do whatever we can to make the move as smooth as possible. We will liaise closely with feeder schools and in the classroom, we will continue to prepare the children as best as possible for the changes. If you know your child has a particular question, or concern, please share it with your child's class teacher so that we can better support them.

Amersham in Bloom Competition

The Amersham in Bloom committee were delighted with the fantastic response to their design a flower bed competition. The children should be proud of their wonderfully vibrant and original designs.

The winning design will be planted at the Boot & Slipper roundabout.

Congratulations Vaia!



End of Year Events

Sports Day



As mentioned in our communication about Transition Days, our end of year

events will sadly need to be a little different this year. We will be going ahead with our Sports Mornings but these will take place in year groups, with no mixing of class 'bubbles', and with school staff only. We are hoping to have some specialist support with our sport activities, and are therefore waiting to confirm the exact dates. We will of course keep you updated.

Year 2 Leavers' Performance & Disco

The Year 2s have been working on a very special end of year performance, which will be professionally recorded, to share with parents. We have enlisted the help of Mrs Douglass and Mr Turnham and we are very excited to see the end result. The Year 2s will also be enjoying Leavers' Discos on the afternoon of 20th July. The children are invited to bring party clothes in on the day to change into after lunch.



Leavers' Picnics

We are looking into the possibility of holding Leavers' picnics for Year 2s and Little Chestnuts after 19th July. If these are possible, we will explore the option of safely inviting parents/guardians to attend, however we appreciate that if we are able to this it is likely to be at very short notice.

We aim to share photographs of all of the events at the end of the year.

Important Updates

Year 2 Drama Workshops

Year 2 parents may recall that a school trip had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Some of the trip money will be used to provide drama workshops for the Year 2 children. We have arranged for Perform to come into school on 15th July to run them.

Looking Ahead

We do not yet know what the Government guidance for schools will be on our return in September, and we are unlikely to hear ahead of the summer break. Therefore, it is possible we will need to communicate with parents and guardians ahead of the children's first day back on 2nd September. We would like to think we could return to greeting all children from 8.40am in the mornings, with the school day starting at 8.50am, and that all children will be dismissed at 3.05pm.

COVID-19 Debrief

We hope that everyone received the Parentmail form asking for feedback from parents and guardians as part of our school-wide COVID-19 debrief. If you have not already done so, could you please complete your responses by Monday 28th June as they will be hugely valuable to us.

Leave of Absence Requests

As restrictions have begun to ease in wider society we have had an increase in the number of leave of absence requests. Many of these have been at short notice, and sometimes on or after the absence has occurred. Please can we ask that requests are made in advance, as far as possible, so that we can appropriately respond and prepare class teachers. I hope that all parents and guardians can understand that given the further disruption to education, absences are unlikely to be authorised, except for exceptional reasons.

CLESA Update

Thanks to Sarah Carroll for hosting our recent virtual AGM Meeting, her last occasion as Chair. We would like to thank Sarah and all committee members for their hard work and fundraising efforts over the years.



Despite the cancellation of many events, CLESA raised a very impressive £17,597 in 2020/21. This has largely been due to the Lottery, Giftcard, Easy Fundraising and Amazon Smile fundraising initiatives. Please continue to support these schemes and thank you to those who have kept them going.

We are also pleased to announce that all CLESA vacancies have now been filled and would like to thank all parents who have agreed to take on the roles. We look forward to working together to plan future events and fundraising opportunities with you all.

CLESA Co-Chairs: Nicola Woodward/Sophie Fillmore (clesacochair@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Laura Chinnakone / **Vice-treasurer:** Kristina Zwaig

Secretary: Kate Nash

Please Note

Consideration when Parking

We have had further reports of inconsiderate and unsafe parking on neighbouring roads at drop-off and pick-up times. Please can we remind parents and guardians of our Parking Promise and to think carefully when parking in the local area.

BOLOH Helpline

Barnado's are supporting Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic families who have been affected by COVID-19. Families can call them free on 0800 1512 605. For further details please see the flyer attached to this ParentMail.

Playground Equipment Reminder

Children should not be playing on the playground equipment in the morning or afterschool. Please help us to keep everyone safe, and avoid any accidents, by keeping your child/ren with you at all times.

COVID-19 Symptoms

As you are aware, there have been an increasing amount of COVID-19 cases in the area, including within the school community.

It is therefore essential that if your child presents any of the COVID-19 symptoms (a high temperature, a

new continuous cough or a loss or change to sense of smell or taste) however mild, they should take a PCR test. This should not be confused with the lateral flow test, which is only appropriate for asymptomatic testing.

Lost Property

We have a variety of lost property items in the school office. We will therefore be placing a table outside the school office next week, before school drop off / pick up. Parents are welcome to take a look at the items available. Please use the hand sanitiser and respect social distancing guidelines.



Wishing you all a wonderful summer. Please be reminded that we return on Thursday 2nd September. Full details of our term dates can be found on our website:

<https://chestnutlane.bucks.sch.uk>



Focus on Wellbeing



In school this term, we have continued to develop our weekly wellbeing sessions. We were also extremely pleased to receive a pack of 'The Happy News'. They are newspapers filled with positive news stories and suitable for all ages to encourage children to look for the kindness in their school and communities. The children and staff have thoroughly enjoyed sharing the stories and finding out fun facts.



Resources for parents:

In school, we use a range of activities to support wellbeing, such as Yoga with [Cosmic Kids](#). In addition to this, we believe stories are a fantastic starting place to open up conversations about emotions, or address certain feelings or situations. *Partnership for children* have created a '[Good Books for Tough Times](#)' guide and *Book Trust* also frequently update recommendations for [supporting a healthy mind](#). If you have any particular areas you would like to address then please get in touch with us and we can help find the right story for you.

BBC Bitesize have created a [support toolkit](#) which offers advice for parents to support your child's mental health during the summer. It includes tips on wellbeing and managing anxiety as the world starts to open up again.

Activity for children:

Create a 'Magic Worry Box'. This is a box to put your worries in and give your brain a break from holding on to them. It is a great way to let go of what's bothering you and help you have more space to have fun, play and learn! To make the box you will need; an empty tissue box, fun paper for wrapping, decorations, small blank pieces of paper. Make sure there is a hole in the box before wrapping so you can pop your worries inside. Top tip; you could make it look like a monster with google eyes and teeth so it can eat your worries away!

