

It is hard to believe that we are about to enter December. The weather has certainly taken a turn and we are looking forward to lots of festive experiences with the children. I would like to wish you all a joyful Christmas break, when we get that far!

Mrs Gemma Rehal

## EVENTS

Christmas Tree Decorating Assembly	1 Dec
Christmas Postcard Sale	1 Dec
Chesham Bois Tree Decorating	3 Dec
Christmas Card Boxes Out	6-14 Dec
Night Before Christmas	7 Dec
Reception Performance at 9.15am	13 Dec
Year 1 Performance at 2pm	13 Dec
Year 2 Performance at 9.15am	14 Dec
Reception Performance at 2pm	14 Dec
Year 1 Performance at 9.15am	15 Dec
Year 2 Performance at 2pm	15 Dec
Christmas Jumper Day	10 Dec
Christmas Lunch	10 Dec
Tea in a Box	17 Dec
School Closes at 2.05pm	17 Dec
School Starts at 8.40am (4-5 Jan Inset Days)	6 Jan

# Chestnut Lane School

NOVEMBER 2021

## Autumn Update

### Friendship Week

Thank you to everyone who supported their children to join in with 'Odd Socks Day' on Thursday 18th November. We had a brilliant number of entries in to our Odd Socks Competition, and I was delighted to be able to present the winners from each class with their sock prize during Well Done Assembly.

All children across the school focussed on acts of kindness, and understanding the impact a kind word can have on others.

In Reception the children used their 'kindness superpowers' and made cards for one another.



During Little Chestnut's nature morning, all the children made leaf necklaces and gave their necklace to a friend. They talked about being kind friends and they decided to share their necklaces with their partner and say 'thank you'.



In Year 1 they played a game of 'we like friends who' and discussed what it means to be a kind friend.



They also read the story Starry Eyed Stan and talked about team work. They then worked in pairs to create a collage of the story making sure that they were working together.

The Year 2 children took part in various activities celebrating what makes them a good friend and how we can help each other.



The children admired each other's odd sock's competition entries and gave each other compliments.

### No Pens Day

On Wednesday 14th November we celebrated 'No Pens Day' in school. This was an opportunity to focus on communication and language skills, and find creative ways for the children to share their learning. The children in Reception joined



in with lots of great experiences, including physical activities such as 'number

jumps' and sharing 'silly sentences' in phonics.

Little Chestnut's have been role-playing different traditional tales this term. During No Pens Day they used different materials to build bridges for the Three Billy Goats Gruff and they recreated the story in different ways. The children also enjoyed creating their own story to tell and act out with their peers during their 'helicopter stories' session on the stage.

For No Pens Day, Year 1 used Chromebooks to draw a picture of what could be at the top of the beanstalk. They worked with a partner and discussed their ideas together. They played their games together where they had to guess what their partner was describing.

Year 2 explored ingredients to make potato latkes. The children focused carefully to peel and grate potatoes and onions, and carefully mix them together with eggs. Afterwards, they tasted their baked creations and described them using brilliant adjectives, such as 'crunchy', 'delicious' and 'mouth-watering'.



## The Queen's Green Canopy

As part of the celebrations for the Queen's Platinum

Jubilee next year, we are proud to

be part of the Queen's Green Canopy project. On Wednesday 24th November the children joined the Eco-committee to plant a Beech tree sapling which we have received from the Woodland Trust. This is in the very front field, at the bottom of the school drive, and is currently taped off in



order to help protect it. We are awaiting the commemorative plaque, and will have a further ceremony when this arrives. We hope that all members of the school community will join us in looking after the tree, and helping it to flourish.



## Focus on Wellbeing

As a school our work towards the Wellbeing Award for Schools continues. We have now set a date for our support day, which will take place in March, and we are aiming to submit all of our evidence towards the award before the end of the academic year. The award focusses on changing the long-term culture of the whole school, and so we are delighted to be collaborating with Bucks Mind on their Early Years and Key Stage 1 Mental Health Awareness Project.

As part of this Bucks Mind will provide assemblies and carpet sessions for the children, training for staff and a parent and guardian workshop.



This workshop will take place in March 2022, and we hope lots of you will join us – further details to follow.

We have also signed up to the DfE's Education Staff Wellbeing Charter (poster sent with this newsletter). This charter supports much of the work that we are already implementing, and we are thrilled that both the DfE and Ofsted have made commitments as part of the charter to prioritise mental health for all.

## How we are Spending Our School Fund

As many parents will know our School Fund includes parent and guardians voluntary contributions, which are used on special experiences and extra resources for the children, which cannot be provided through the school's government delegated budget. So far this academic year we have been thrilled to provide Spaced themed Perform workshops for all classes, as well supply ingredients for cooking and materials for art projects.

On 7th December we will also be using this fund to provide each year group with a Quantum Theatre performance of 'The Night Before Christmas'. We hope that this will add to the festive spirit, and be some inspiration for the Year 2 children who our taking on their own performance of the poem!



## PE & Sports Premium

As a school we are also allocated PE and Sport Premium funding. This academic year we are using some of the grant to extend our work with First Touch Football. As well as providing support in the playground over lunchtimes, their PE specialist is now also supporting National Curriculum PE alongside our teachers. This is allowing us to provide an even greater variety of activities, such as age-appropriate archery and dodgeball. This work has begun with Year 2 this half term, and will be rolled out to other year groups across the year.







## Christmas Activities

### Christmas Performances

Thank you for your patience whilst we make arrangements for our Christmas performances. We are very excited to announce that we are hoping to go ahead with inviting in a live audience to performances, however we will need to take steps to protect everyone. Therefore, this year's Christmas Performances will be in year groups (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) as opposed to whole school. The audience size will be capped at a maximum of 60, with two performances for each year group. This means that each child can have up to **two adults** book tickets to watch live.

The performances will take place on the following date and times:

Monday 13th December at 9.15am and Tuesday 14th December at 2.00pm – **Reception only**

Monday 13th December at 2.00pm and Wednesday 15th December at 9.15am – **Year 1 only**

Tuesday 14th December at 9.15am and Wednesday 15th December at 2.00pm – **Year 2 only**

Although we very much hope our plans will not be disrupted, we make this offer on the understanding that if we have a significant increase in COVID-19 cases, a class meets the threshold number of cases again, or if government guidance changes, we will need to amend our plans and this may be at short notice.

In addition to the live performances, we will be recording the children again this year and will provide virtual access to parents and guardians for those who cannot make it, or would prefer not to come on-site. The recordings will be funded using our School Fund this year.



### Little Chestnut Christmas Morning

Little Chestnuts are hosting a separate Christmas morning on Thursday 16th December from 9-10am in the school hall. If your child does not usually attend for the Thursday morning session, you are still very welcome to come along.

### Christmas Postcards - Wednesday 1st December

The Environment Club have been busily preparing recycled Christmas postcards again this year. On Wednesday 1st December we are inviting **Key Stage One (Years 1 and 2)** children to bring a small amount of change into school and they will visit the Christmas postcard stall with their class when they are bringing up their decorations to decorate our hall Christmas tree.



Each class will have postcard packs selected especially for them. A pack of 10 Christmas postcards is 50p and this year the children have voted to donate the money raised to support homeless people. Sadly, we do not have enough recycled Christmas cards this year to supply packs for the children in Early Years.

### Christmas Card Boxes – Monday 6th December

The boxes for children to send Christmas cards/Christmas postcards to one another will be available from Monday 6th December. As an added precaution we will store the Christmas cards for at least 48 hours before they are handed out. **The boxes will close on Tuesday 14th December**, unfortunately we will not be able to accept any cards after this time.

Where we would usually invite parents to bring the Christmas cards in with their children this will not be possible this year, therefore the children will need to bring their cards in their bookbags during the week identified above. Please help the children to include surnames on their envelopes as we have duplicate names in some classes.

### Christmas Jumper Day – Friday 10th December

We invite all the children to join the staff in wearing a Christmas jumper on 10th December. If they would like to bring in a donation towards the charity 'Save the Children' they are welcome to do so.

### Dolce Christmas Lunch – Friday 10th December

Dolce are providing a Christmas lunch for the children on 10th December. The menu is now available on School-Grid so if you would like your child to have the lunch please ensure you order it well in advance.

### Chesham Bois Tree Decorating - Friday 3rd December

The children have been invited to sing at the Christmas Tree decorating ceremony at the War Memorial on 3rd December at 4pm. We will be making decorations in school as well as learning a festive song. I hope you will be able to bring your child/ren to join us at this local festive activity.



### Christmas Holidays

School closes on Friday 17th December at 2.05pm. School returns on Thursday 6th January at 8.40am.



# Important Updates

## Staff News

Mrs Roxanne Turner has now begun her maternity leave and we are excitedly awaiting news of her new arrival. She was delighted to receive cards made by the Key Stage One children, and we all send her our very best wishes.

## Parent Volunteers

As you will have seen in our previous communication, we are welcoming parent and guardian volunteer helpers back in school, to carry out administrative tasks away from the children. If you feel that you can help the classroom staff in any way, please do let them know your availability. We will review our plans for parent volunteers in the classrooms in the new year.

## COVID-19 Debrief

We know that many parents and guardians, alongside staff and governors, contributed their views as part of the COVID-19 debrief in the summer term. We wanted to provide an update to let everyone know that the governing body are still very much working on the analysis of the responses, with the intention to provide feedback to all stakeholders as soon as this work is completed. We hope to have more news in the new year.

## 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.

## Named Coats, Hats, Gloves etc.



All children should have a named coat in school every day and as the weather is getting colder, named hats and gloves may also be required. Please ensure all your child/ren's belongings (including shoes) are clearly labelled.

## Increased Ventilation

We know some children are beginning to feel the cold in the classroom. Additional base layers are encouraged including long sleeve t-shirts or roll/turtle necks if required. As a final option pupils can wear a plain red, black or grey fleece over their uniform.

## Extracurricular Clubs

We have been pleased to welcome back a variety of extracurricular clubs at lunchtime and after school again this term. Please note all lunchtime clubs will finish this week commencing 29 November, but the after school clubs will also be running next week commencing 6 December.

Details of the Spring Term clubs and booking forms will be announced before the end of term.



## 'TEA IN A BOX' IS BACK!!



CLESA will be selling the popular 'Tea in a Box' (TIAB) again at the end of term.

For new parents, TIAB is a fundraising initiative organised by CLESA whereby children can

buy a TIAB consisting of a sausage roll, crisps, kitkat and drink for £4. There are vegetarian and healthy options also available.

It is given to them on the last day of a term on Friday 17 December, in a box to take home to eat - sounds crazy but the children love it!!!

If you would like to order one for your child please look out for the separate ParentMail message which will be sent

shortly. The form enables you to order for more than one child should you wish to purchase more than one TIAB.

**Please submit your order no later than 3.05pm on Monday 6 December.**



## Christmas Fair

Thanks to all for supporting the Christmas Fair. Special thanks to the organisers, Mrs Hardcastle and Mrs Rees, and the volunteers who helped on the day. We were so fortunate with the weather and all the children had a fantastic time. The lucky raffle winners have been notified this morning!