

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 39

We have had a very busy half term celebrating Lunar New Year, reading and science. The children have thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and had many wonderful hands-on experiences. We can hardly believe we are about to enter the final term of the academic year. Fingers crossed for sunshine! Wishing everyone a peaceful Easter break.

Mrs Gemma Rehal

EVENTS

Wonderful Wild West Workshop **27 Mar**

School Closes at 2.05pm **28 Mar**

School Starts at 8.40am **15 Apr**

Forest Class Cake **26 Apr**

Topic Drop-in 8.20-8.40am **30 Apr**

Class Photos **30 Apr**

Topic Afternoon Drop in 3.05-3.20pm **2 May**

Bank Holiday **6 May**

Reception Visit to Bekonscot **14 May**

Mufti Day for Summer Fair **17 May**

Diversity Day Open Morning **21 May**

Year 2 Trip to Tring Museum

Meadow Class Cake Sale **24 May**

School Closes at 3.05pm **24 May**

Chestnut Lane School

MARCH 2024

Spring Term Update

World Book Day

The first full week of March saw an exciting book-filled week celebrating the importance of communication and nurturing a love for reading. All children enjoyed virtual author visits and taking part in Story Explorer workshops run by 'West End in Schools', focusing on the traditional tale *Jack and the Beanstalk*. Children across the school loved listening to staff read their favourite stories aloud and children in Reception became authors, publishing their own class books about the adventures of 'Freddie the Fox'. On World Book Day itself, the children amazed us with their creative costumes as they came to school dressed as their favourite book characters and we welcomed relatives into school to share stories as part of a special 'Read-in'. We also used this time to share our new 'Remarkable Reading' resource – a helpful guide to different comments that you could write in your child's log when you read together at home. These can be found in the [resources for parents](#) section of our website.



British Science Week / Animal Workshops



To celebrate Science Week, the children were visited by Jungle Juniors and their amazing animals. Through hands-on learning, children were able to describe each animal and learnt about their adaptations. This was funded by our School Fund.

Comic Relief / Funny Face Competition

Thank you to everyone who attended Environment Club's Funny Faces exhibition on Friday 15th March, for Comic Relief. Mrs Tyler and the children worked very hard on creating their funny faces, promoting the exhibition 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 £193.11. The winner and runner-up certificates were handed out in Well Done assembly.



Chinese Dragon Workshops

On Wednesday 21st February, the children had a wonderful time celebrating the



Lunar New Year through dance. They enjoyed

dancing with all the props, especially the dragon



This was paid for by our PE & Sports Premium Grant.

The Great British Spring Clean

As part of Keep Britain Tidy, schools, community groups, and individuals have been pledging to collect litter in their local environment. Chestnut Lane's Environment Club have been busy collecting litter along the school driveway and around the school premises. They were shocked at how much litter they were able to find but proud they were able to make a difference. Well done Environment Club. Everyone has been invited to take part up to 31st March. We would love to see your efforts on Tapestry.



Upcoming Events & Workshops

Wonderful Wild West Workshops

We are pleased to be welcoming Perform into school this Wednesday, 27th March. They will be running Workshops with all the classes including Little Chestnuts bringing a unique mix of drama, dance and singing to bring out every child's confidence and potential.

Reception Visit to Bekonscot Museum

Meadow and Forest class will be visiting Bekonscot Model Village on 14th May. A letter will be sent home to parents after Easter with full details.

Year 2 Trip to Tring Museum

On Friday 24th May, Year 2 will visit Tring Museum and attend the Prehistoric Detectives workshop, where children will learn about prehistoric animals, rounding off our Imagine topic. Full details will follow after the Easter holidays.

Diversity Day Open Morning

We are looking forward to celebrating Diversity Day on 21st May in school. We are keen to showcase diversity across our school community. Diversity can come in many forms, and the focus of our celebrations will be 'belonging'. We all belong to the school community, but we also belong to many others. We hope to bring the children, staff and families together to share the communities they belong to. Further details will be shared after the break.

Amersham Museum Exhibition



This year Amersham Museum have been working with us to explore the work of an Austrian artist Marie-Louise von Motesiczky who lived on Chestnut Lane in the 1940s. The children attended workshops and

guided walks and the Year 2 children created an illustrated map and trail which is forming part of the von Motesiczky Exhibition at the Amersham Museum now.



Visit <https://amershammuseum.org/> for more details.

Reminders

Returning Spare Clothes

If your child is sent home in spare clothes please ensure these are washed and returned to school. We have had a significant number of items not returned and are running out, particularly of socks and underwear. We would rather spend money on enriching the children's learning and school life than on socks!

Any donations of old uniform would be gratefully received as well.

Return Reading/Library Books

A ParentMail message was sent out on Friday reminding parents to return all the children's reading books by today, **Monday 25th March 2024**. This includes all Phase books, Shared Reader books and library books. It is essential that we are able to collect in all books so that we can check stock ahead of reissuing after the Easter holidays.

Class Photos

The class photos will be taking place on Tuesday 30th April. Parents of Little Chestnuts children who do not normally attend on a Tuesday morning are welcome to bring their child to the school office at 9.15am so they may be photographed with the rest of the class.

Cake Sales

Thank you to the Silver Class reps for organising the recent cake sale. They raised a fabulous total of £297.80 for the class. Forest class will be holding our next cake sale on 26th April.

Happy Easter!

Wishing families a lovely Easter break. Please note we return to school on Monday 15th April.



Focus on Wellbeing

Message from Mrs Sanghera, Wellbeing Lead

This April it is Stress Management month. The theme is 'Little by Little' meaning making a small change to your daily routine to improve your wellbeing. Please look at the link below for a range of resources including a Digital Detox Quiz; Little by Little Journal to track your progress and how it is contributing to your wellbeing, as well as a One Day at a Time Daily Wellness Challenge.

<https://www.stress.org.uk/freeresourcesstressawareness/>



Important Updates

Staffing News

We are delighted to let everyone know that Mrs Megan Harper will be returning from her maternity leave after the Easter break. We are also thrilled that Mrs Louise Naidoo will be staying with us, and both will hold the roles of part-time Deputy Headteachers.

In addition, Mrs Harper will return to her role as Early Years Lead Teacher. We would like to take the opportunity to thank Miss Catie Vacher for her hard work and support for the team whilst she was covering this role.

Governor Update from Mrs Christine Plimsaul

I am delighted to say that we received two nominations from the parent body for our Parent Governor vacancies. The two candidates have relevant experience and will certainly strengthen the team. We look forward to welcoming them to the board once all the safer recruitment checks have been completed. As we had two vacancies and two parents have self-nominated there is no need to go to a ballot. We will share with you the names of our two new governors in the next newsletter.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the governors for their support and commitment to the school. We were sad to say goodbye to Mrs Julia Goldman who contributed significantly to our work. We wish her lots of luck in her new ventures. Over the next few months, we will be advertising in the wider community again for more governors as some of our members reach the end of their tenure.

Breakfast Club Update Thank you to the parents who contacted the local authority to request a response to our application for a Breakfast Club at Chestnut Lane. We did eventually hear back from them and so we have now returned to our discussions with our preferred provider. We look forward to sharing more information with you after the Easter break.

Parent Survey Thank you to everyone who responded to our recent parent survey. This survey is now closed. The governors will be analysing all the

responses in the coming weeks and a letter will be sent out to parents with the feedback.

Be Healthy Bucks

Following the recent height and weight measurements taken in school as part of the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) the nursing team would like to draw your attention to the free services and wealth of healthy lifestyle resources that can help on Be Healthy Bucks: <https://bhb.maximusuk.co.uk/>

Community Information

Sustainable Amersham

Sustainable Amersham is a local community group deeply concerned about the devastating impacts of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss. Volunteer members design and implement projects that address these impacts. They work together with individuals, local government, businesses and community organisations in Amersham and Chesham Bois. For more information and to sign up to their newsletter, please click on the link: <https://sustainableamersham.org/>

Medic to Medic

The school continues to support a charity called Medic to Medic. They will be presenting the work their charity does to the children on 7th May during a school assembly. We have a recycling box in the office for parents to bring in old toothbrushes/electric heads and dental floss containers (unfortunately no toothpaste tubes please). However there are many more items which parents can drop off in the yellow wheelie bin located at Newlyn Corner, Sycamore Close, Amersham HP6 6BW. Items include:

*Aqua Optimas Water Filters, *Babybel Wax & Wrappers, *Biscuit Outer Packaging, *books, *bread bags, *cameras & video cameras, *CDS and DVDs in cases, *cheese wrappers, *coffee bag/tea bag outer packing, dishwasher plastic packaging, *games consoles & games, *home laundry outer packing, *ipads, mobile phones & tablet computers and gadgets, *Lavazza coffee capsules, *jewellery, *make up, *marigold gloves, *pringle tubes, *printer cartridges (not laser), *rigid plastic food containers/lids & reusable plastic water bottles, *stamps/albums, *watches and *writing implements (plastic).

CLESA NEWS

A huge thank you to Mandip Malhotra, Sarah Carroll, Pam Deering and Gaele Symonds for organising the Family Fun Night and Elangeni Disco. Everyone who attended had such fun and the event has made a fantastic £2,437 for the schools!

Planning for the Summer Fair is now underway so please do 'save the date' of Sunday 9th June for what we hope will be another fun (and sunny!!) event. Keep an eye out for more details via ParentMail in due course.

