

I cannot believe we are almost in December! What a busy first 3 months of the school year. The children have settled into their new classes extremely well, and we have already seen so much progress from them. Although it still seems a little early, I would like to wish all families a joyous and peaceful festive break.

Mrs Gemma Rehal

EVENTS

No Pens Day	29 Nov
Christmas Postcard Sale	29 Nov
Chesham Bois Tree Lights Switch on	1 Dec
Christmas Tree Decorating Assembly	4 Dec
Christmas Jumper Day	15 Dec
Dolce Christmas Lunch	15 Dec
Christmas Card Boxes Out	11-15 Dec
Christmas Performance (with siblings)	12 Dec
Christmas Performance	13 Dec
Christmas Performance	14 Dec
Little Chestnuts Christmas Morning	15 Dec
Tea in a Box	15 Dec
School Closes at 2.05pm	19 Dec
School Starts at 8.40am	4 Jan

Chestnut Lane School

NOVEMBER 2023

Autumn Update

Outdoor Classroom Day

On Thursday 2nd November we braved the weather and celebrated **Outdoor Classroom Day!** Year 2 practised measuring, Year 1 worked on their number bonds and Early Years practised their Phonics – all outside with natural resources!



Friendship Week

Friendship Week was a great success, with daily opportunities to reflect on what makes a good friend and appreciate the importance of friendship. It was wonderful to see so many relatives attend the Open Morning and participate in activities from making our huge whole school



'compliment chain', to creating friendship cards, crowns and flowers. It is always a pleas-

ure to see the children proudly showing parents, siblings and other family members their learning in their classrooms and around their school. During this week, we were pleased to relaunch our [Anti-Bullying policy](#) and take part in 'Odd Socks Day' to celebrate that we are all unique. Thank you to all the children that took part in the odd socks design competition. Our winners will be announced soon.

Reception Walk to the Post Box



Reception went on their first local walk to the post box to post their letters! The children all behaved fantastically and kept themselves safe next to the roads. Well done, wonderful walkers!



Perform Workshops

The children loved their Perform workshop: Around the World. They explored

different countries and languages, and used their bodies to make different natural objects.



Perform are also offering a free drama class to children at Chestnut Lane School. Please click on the link to their website for further details: [Free Perform Drama Class](#)

No Pens Day

This Wednesday 29th November, we will be taking part in No Pens Day, which is a chance for your child to improve their speech, language and communication skills through a day of talking and listening activities. We are getting ready to put down our pens and pencils and use our voices to record our learning in different ways. We encourage children (and staff!) to participate in the 'biggest ever Show and Tell' as part of this special day – please see the attached flyer for further details.

No Pens Day
Wednesday

Staff Update

We are pleased to welcome a number of staff who have recently joined Chestnut Lane School. Namal Botenne, Zaira Ali and Srivani Ainkaren are all working as SEN Learning Support Assistants in our Early Years and Key Stage One classes.

We would also like to inform parents that we are currently looking for a Midday Supervisor to join our team. Please see our [website](#) for further details.

Governing Body Update from Christine Plimsaul, Chair of Governors

On behalf of the governing body, I would like to thank the members of the CLESA committee and all their helpers for organising and running the Christmas Fair on Sunday. It was great to see so many parents and children at the event and I know the additional funds raised will be put to good use.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy Christmas holiday.

KSI Tapestry Launch

At Chestnut Lane, children receive rich and varied learning experiences and we are committed to capturing these in a range of ways. Tapestry is



an online learning journal which we have successfully used in Early Years since early 2021. We are very pleased to announce that we are now using

Tapestry across the whole school, so we can continue documenting children's experiences and development from the Early Years into Years 1 and 2. All parents now have a Tapestry account which they can log into to view their child/ren's observations, photographs and videos. Class teachers will upload these on a fortnightly basis. You can like and/or comment on observations and it is also possible for you to add your own observations, to enable us to find out about which activities your child enjoyed and the learning that takes place at home. There is a Tapestry section on our [website](#) with further information. We are excited about the potential this platform has to evidence and share your child's learning journey at Chestnut Lane and thank you for your engagement and support.

Parent Video Guides

We would like to remind parents that we have a range of videos and presentations created by the

teachers and children, which demonstrate how the children approach their learning in school. These cover aspects such as written methods in Maths, pure sounds and bars & buttons in Phonics, and questioning used to develop comprehension skills when reading. These videos are linked on our school website (<https://chestnutlane.bucks.sch.uk/classes/parent-video-guides>) and are available through the Vimeo platform [Password: Chestnut]. We hope that you will find them a useful reference when supporting your child at home.

Instagram

Did you know 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 who have already found us, we are really excited about sharing life in school with you in this way.



The Big Ambition Survey

The Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, has launched The Big Ambition, a national survey of children and young people across England. The survey aims to hear from children across England on what they think is important! This survey will be open until **Friday 15th December**. Please click on the link for further details: https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/the_big_ambition/

Art Packs

The children love receiving the Art Packs which are awarded at our Well Done assemblies. In order for us to recirculate them, please remember they have to be returned to school by the following Monday.

Donations

Thanks to all parents who have brought in donations in response to our recent request. We would still be grateful for donations of small fidget and wind up toys if you are having a sort out over the coming weeks.

Cake Sales

The children were very excited to be holding the first Cake Sale of the year this term. An amazing total of £262.33 was raised for Red Class despite the wet drizzly weather.



Focus On Wellbeing

Welcome to December everyone! We have got it all in December, colder days; darker days and sick days! But the good news is that we can prepare ourselves and try to get some control. So here are some tips and links for continued winter wellness and support.

Tip 1 - Eat Well

We hear it all the time but food can really affect how we feel about ourselves so take a look at the NHS guide to eating healthily, and remember that having a routine and eating on time will help you maintain a balanced diet.



Tip 2 - Get out

Being outside is **SO** good for you. Dress warmly and get out for a walk. Spending time outside with your family away from technology will help you bond with

one another; it will give you time to talk; make fun memories and help build an appreciation for the great outdoors.



Tip 3 - Stay connected

Loneliness is a huge problem in our modern world, especially during the winter period. Check in on others around you.

Helpful Links

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/eat-well/how-to-eat-a-balanced-diet/eight-tips-for-healthy-eating/>

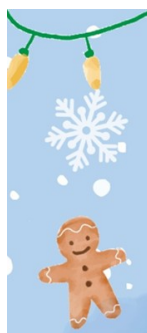
<https://www.ramblers.org.uk/go-walking/ramblers-groups/amersham-district-group>

<https://www.solentmind.org.uk/news-events/news/winter-wellbeing/>



CLESA Christmas Fair

Thanks to all for supporting the Christmas Fair this year, with special thanks to Mrs Burns-Snook for organising this event and to all the volunteers who helped on the day. The children had a fantastic time. The lucky raffle winners have been now been notified!



Holiday Shopping Fundraising Opportunities!

Make Money While You Shop With EasyFundraising

If you shop online for groceries or are about to do some online Christmas shopping, we would love your help!

With the Easyfundraising App, you can get big companies donating to CLESA **with minimal effort and zero extra expense to you.**

All you need to do is:

1. **Sign up to Easyfundraising using [this link](#) and download the app.**

2. Every time you want to shop simply **search for the shop you want to go to on the Easyfundraising app/website** (there are over 8,000 of them listed) and click through to shop. There's actually a browser extension you can turn on which will remind you every time you visit a site that makes the donations.

The shop's website is exactly the same and the **prices are exactly the same.** The stores simply give cashback to Easyfundraising for the referral which is then passed on to our charity, CLESA. It's just two extra clicks for you before you shop.



'TEA IN A BOX'

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 will be given to them on the last Friday before the end of term (15th December), in a box to take home to eat - sounds crazy but the children love it!!!

Please look out for the separate ParentMail message and submit your order no later than **3.05pm on Tuesday 4th December.**



Christmas Activities

Christmas Performances, 'Christmas Day'

12th - 14th December

Our Christmas performances of "Christmas Day" will be taking place on Tuesday 12th, Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th December this year. Please note that siblings are welcome to come on Tuesday 12th December.

To keep to acceptable levels of safety in our hall we will be allocating two seats per family. A ParentMail form has been sent to all primary contacts to indicate your preference and we will be emailing parents notification of their allocation of seats as we will be ticketless this year.

Little Chestnut Christmas Morning - Friday 15th December



Little Chestnuts are hosting a separate Christmas morning on Friday 15th December from 9-10am in the school hall. If your child does not usually attend for the Friday morning session, you are still very welcome to come along.

Christmas Postcards - Wednesday 29th November

The Environment Club have been busily preparing recycled Christmas postcards again this year. On Wednesday 29th November we are inviting children to bring a small amount of change into school and they will visit the Christmas postcard stall with their class during the school day.



A pack of 10 Christmas postcards is 50p and this year the children have voted to donate the money raised to support the homeless people in the UK.

Christmas Card Boxes – Monday 11th December

The boxes for children to send Christmas cards/Christmas postcards to one another will be placed in the main building from Monday 11th December. Please help the children to include surnames on their envelopes as we have duplicate names in some classes. Cards should be posted before or after school, with parents supervision and will be distributed to the children throughout the school day.

School Christmas Tree Decorating - Monday 4th December

All of the children across the school will come together on the morning of 4th December to decorate our Hall Christmas tree together. The children will make their decorations in class leading up to the day, and it is always a very special occasion listening to festive music and then reading the Christmas story together.

Christmas Jumper Day – Friday 15th December

We invite all the children to join the staff in wearing a Christmas jumper on 15th 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 15th December

Dolce are providing a Christmas lunch for the children on 15th December. Most parents have now ordered their child's Christmas lunch but those who had missed this opportunity, please note that Dolce have extended their deadline to place their order until Friday 1st December.

Chesham Bois Tree Decorating - Friday 1st December

The children have been invited to sing at the Christmas Tree decorating ceremony at the War Memorial on 1st December at 4pm. The children will be learning a festive song. I hope you will be able to bring your child/ren to join the staff at this local festive activity.



Extracurricular Clubs

The lunchtime and afterschool clubs will finish next week commencing 4th December with the exception of Playball which will be finishing on 11th December.



Please note First Touch Football club have already opened their booking link for the spring term. If your child is in Year 1 or 2 you can book them onto the club using the following link: <https://first-touch-sports.co.uk/>. This booking link will close on 15th December.

Details of all the other spring term clubs and booking forms will be announced before the end of term.

Christmas Holidays

School closes on Tuesday 19th December at 2.05pm. School returns on Thursday 4th January at 8.40am.

