

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	18 Oct
Face-to-face Consultations (All Classes & SEN-Co)	18 Oct
3.30-7.30pm	
Virtual Parent Consultations Little Chestnuts	19 Oct
8.45am-12.00pm	
Year 2 Local Walk	19 Oct
Virtual Parent Consultations (Reception & Green Class)	19 Oct
3.30-7.30pm	
Virtual Parent Consultations (Yr 1 Classes, Red Class & SENCo)	20 Oct
3.30-7.30pm	
Wear Red Day	21 Oct
Last Day of Half Term	21 Oct
Inset Day (No School)	31 Oct
First Day of Half Term	1 Nov
Bollywood Workshops	2 Nov
Flu vaccinations	9 Nov
Odd Socks Day	18 Nov

# Chestnut Lane School

OCTOBER 2022

## Autumn Term Newsletter

### KSI Author Visit

On 30<sup>th</sup> September, Year 1 and Year 2 enjoyed a very special visit from the author Sarah Coyle who shared her book 'Pick a Story, A pirate + alien + jungle adventure'.

The children loved exploring different characters and enjoyed creating a story with Sarah.



Thank you to everyone who pre-ordered copies of the books to have signed on the day, we hope the children enjoy sharing the story at home!

### Our School Values

In July we shared our school values: Respect, Kindness,

Resilience, Independence and Responsibility. The School Council have now finalised our five winning posters, and these will be displayed across the school, and on the school website.



### Phase Books & Chestnut Lane Phonics presentation

As you will know, we have now launched our new phase books for home reading, and

sent home the link to our Chestnut Lane Phonics presentation, as well as our phonics parent guide. These can also be accessed from the resource section of our school website:

<https://chestnutlane.bucks.sch.uk/classes/resources-for-parents>

Assessment in phonics and reading is ongoing, and as part of the upcoming parent and guardian consultations updated assessment information and focuses for your child/ren will be shared.

In the coming days we will be finalising and sharing the next stage of our offer, via a reading presentation which will outline how we aim to develop comprehension skills through our shared reader books.

## Focus on Wellbeing

There is a dedicated 'Wellbeing' section of our school website which we hope will prove useful to parents and guardians throughout the year. We have shared practical resources for use at home on topics such as managing emotions, promoting the five ways to wellbeing and engaging your child/ren in conversation about how they are feeling.

### Wellness Walk

Go on a nature walk outside together. While you are walking, encourage your child to actively take time to engage each sense one by one. Ask them to think about what they can hear, smell, feel, touch. Take a route that you would not normally do and remember to stop and notice as you go.



## Important Information

### Website Updates



Our school website is continually updated, and we are always keen to here 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.

### Topic Meetings

This term's topic meetings took place during week commencing 12<sup>th</sup> September. If you weren't able to attend in-person, virtual presentations can be accessed using the Vimeo links sent to parents and guardians. If you require support with this, please contact the school office.

### Using Knives and Forks

We all know what an essential skill using knives and forks is, but children do not do this naturally, it is a skill that needs to be taught. We have noticed during lunchtimes that some children will avoid using cutlery, preferring to eat with their hands. Whilst this is may be appropriate for some meals (e.g. wraps, pizza, burgers in buns etc) there are always times when cutlery is needed.

The children are given the support they need during their time in the dining room, but this is a limited time. It would be of huge support if everyone could support their children with developing these skills at home as well. We have attached a handout which may be helpful. If you require further support, please speak to your child's class teacher.

### 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/connect> (scroll to the bottom).

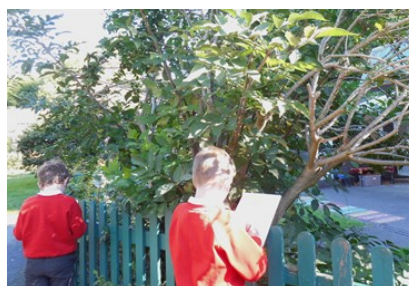
Buckinghamshire Council also offer support here: <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/cost-of-living/contact-helping-hands/>

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

### The Platinum Tree Award

As a school, we have already achieved the gold level of the Woodland Trusts' Green Tree Schools Award. This has allowed us to unlock bonus projects which we have been working towards in the hope of obtaining the platinum level.

Through activities such as planting a new tree for the Queen's Green Canopy (to replace the one that was sadly lost over the summer heat-wave), carrying out nature walks as part of poetry writing and storytelling, and organising events in woodland areas, such as picnics, we have been able to widen the children's awareness and knowledge of trees within our environment.



As part of the recent Great Big Green Week, the children have been celebrating nature and asking questions about it. They have been considering what they can do to help our wild world,

enjoyed a playground nature trail and Year 2's environment club have been growing pea shoots. Early Years are also beginning their nature mornings again, focussed on developing their communication and language in the great outdoors!

### Create a Tree Champion

As part of our Platinum Tree Award we are launching a whole school competition to create a 'Tree Champion'. This is to encourage the children to invent their own character who will be a proud voice for woods and trees.

The Tree Champion could be a person, an animal or a made up creature. For further information about the Tree Champion please refer to the following link: <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/support-us/act/your-school/green-tree-schools-award/tree-champion/#>

Attached with this newsletter you will find two templates, please choose the most appropriate template for your child. Once they have completed this challenge please give it to your class teacher by Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November. Then the children will vote for their winner from each year group.

We hope you enjoy this challenge and look forward to seeing your wonderful Tree Champions!



### Parking Concerns

Sadly, we continue to receive complaints about illegal and inconsiderate parking on the neighbouring roads to the school and on the zig-zag markings opposite the school entrance.

Rule 243 of the Highway Code states that drivers must not park near a school entrance. Parking outside a school obstructs visibility for children trying to cross the road and we are concerned that there may be a serious accident soon.

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 Buckinghamshire Council.

### Dogs on Site

It is with sadness, and frustration, that we continue to receive complaints about dogs at the entrance of our school drive. Dogs should not be tied up on our premises (including the school drive). We ask again that everyone behaves responsibly when it comes to bringing their dogs on the school run.

### Amersham Recycles for Medic to Medic

We are pleased to announce that we will be accepting old toothbrushes and toothpaste tubes for recycling after half term. There will be a new recycling box in the school reception area where you can drop these items off.



The money raised through this initiative goes to Medic to Medic a charity run by an ex Chestnut Lane and Elangeni pupil. This charity supports the training of health care workers in Malawi where there is an overwhelming need for skilled medical professionals across all areas.

### Recycling in School

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

- \* Batteries
- \* Stamps
- \* Printer Ink Cartridges (not laser or toner cartridges)

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

### Class Reps

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.

### Cake Sales

We will be holding the very popular cake sales again this year. The cake sales raise funds that go directly to the individual classes. Further information and the individual dates of the cake sales will be shared with Class Reps shortly.

### Staff Update

We are very pleased to have welcomed Miss Lucy Brissimitzakis as a Learning Support Assistant in Little Chestnuts. Mrs Ada Man is currently on leave, visiting family, and we look forward to having her back with us in the spring term.

### Governor Update

We are very pleased to welcome a new governor to our governing body following the departure of Mr David Pullinger. Mrs Ann Rowland began working with us in September. She comes with a wealth of experience mainly in supporting the emotional well-being of children and young people and we feel she will be a real asset to the team. We hope that parents and guardians will join staff and governors in welcoming her.

Following our advert in the summer we are currently in the process of interviewing other potential governors and we will update you all shortly as to the outcome of the interviews.

## CLESA

Thank you to everyone who attended the CLESA AGM on Thursday. We were delighted to confirm at the AGM that volunteers have come forward to run the Family Fun Night/Elangeni disco and a parents quiz night next term.

Sadly, there won't be a CLESA Christmas Fair this year as we didn't have any volunteers come forward to lead on this. We still require volunteers to lead the organisation of the Summer Fair - several parents have offered to help as part of the organising committee so we just need 1-2 people willing to take the lead. Both fairs raise significant amounts of money - in June we raised approx £4,500 from the Summer Fair and is a key event in bringing the whole school community together. If you want to find out more, please do get in touch

at [clesacochair@gmail.com](mailto:clesacochair@gmail.com).

We would also like to say another HUGE thank you to Trudie Holt who has raised thousands of pounds for CLESA through the shopping gift card scheme and is stepping down after over 4 years of running it. And a big welcome to Lou Woolf who is taking over from Trudie.





# Upcoming Events

## School Photos



Individual school photos will be taking place on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October. Please note that the school photos will be cashless and proofless 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

Parent Consultations will be taking place next week commencing 18<sup>th</sup> October. A parentmail form was sent out to primary contacts for completion last week and a slip will be coming home in bookbags this week confirming your slot with your class teacher and SENCo if requested.

## Show Racism the Red Card

On Friday 21<sup>st</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup>. 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 - 9<sup>th</sup> November

The flu immunisations for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children will be taking place in school on 9<sup>th</sup> November. A communication from the school nursing team will be sent out to parents early next week with details of how to provide your consent.

## Bollywood Dance Workshops, Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November

Many families within our school community will be celebrating Diwali during the October half term, we are therefore very pleased to have organised a Bollywood dance workshop for all children on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup>



November. Kalpesh Zalavadiya from K'z Dance Entertainment will visit and everyone will work towards mini dance performances, getting active whilst learning about this important festival.

To make the event extra festive, we are inviting the children to wear brightly coloured clothing on the day, which could include traditional Indian outfits. This is a great opportunity for the children to learn from one another, and share their experiences from home.

If the weather permits, parents and guardians will be invited to the playground at the end of the day to see what the children have created. Unfortunately, this will only be possible outside due to the large number of people.

## Friendship Week and Odd Socks Day, w.b. 14<sup>th</sup> November

During the week of 14<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> November.

On 30<sup>th</sup> November we will be welcoming OpenView Education, who will be carrying out anti-bullying workshops with children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

## Perform Workshops

The children's drama and dance school, Perform, is offering a Free Trial Session and a **special introductory discount of £40 for members of Chestnut Lane Primary School** if they sign up by Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January. Parents should quote GREE240123 when they book their free session by going to [perform.org.uk/try](https://perform.org.uk/try) or calling 020 7255 9120.

Perform will also be performing their new West End family musical, *Magical*



*Merlin*, at the Fortune Theatre in October. For more details and booking information please go to: <https://www.perform.org.uk/about-perform/what-we-offer/magicalmerlin>

## Term Dates

Please be reminded that we break up for half term on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October and return to school on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November (Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October is an Inset Day).