

Welcome back to the new school year. Although not everything is back to normal we are very pleased to have the children back with us. A particularly warm welcome to all of the new families who have joined us.

Mrs Sam Elliott

EVENTS

Green Class Parent Consultations	13 Oct
Individual School Photos	13 Oct
Red Class Parent Consultations	14 Oct
Little Chestnuts Parent Consultations	15 Oct
Silver Class Parent Consultations	19 Oct
Orange Class Parent Consultations	20 Oct
Flu Vaccinations (Reception, Year 1 & 2)	20 Oct
Hive Class Parent Consultations	21 Oct
Forest Class Parent Consultations	22 Oct
Last Day of Half Term	23 Oct
Inset Day (No School)	2 Nov
First Day of Half Term	3 Nov
Year 2 Harvest Event	w/b 2 Nov
Friendship Week	w/b 16 Nov

Chestnut Lane School

OCTOBER 2020

Welcome Back to School

Little Chestnuts

It has been wonderful to see how the Nursery children have settled into Little Chestnuts full of smiles and enthusiasm. They have all enjoyed exploring their new environment inside and outside and building new friendships!

Little Chestnuts are currently busy creating large scale rockets to jump in and go on adventures as part of their space topic.

Reception

All the Reception children have quickly embraced their new classes and routines. They have been enjoying playing outside in the garden and using "The Lion Inside" story to think about being brave and have a go at new challenges. Reception are currently designing their own

aliens and using their imagination to create exciting space adventures with them.

Year 1

In Year One within PSHE we learnt how to start a conversation and play games with our friends. We practised taking turns, waiting and listening to others!



Year 2

As part of the exciting topic 'Earth and Beyond', Year 2 have been looking at the work by famous sculptor



Alberto Giacometti. They had lots of fun creating their own celestial creatures using a range of materials and different joining methods. They also challenged themselves to make them free-standing and strong.

Silver Sunday

KS1 children enjoyed making "a hug in a card" to support Silver Sunday, an annual event celebrating older people in our community. We have had some lovely responses from the recipients and we thank Miss Jones and Mrs Joy for organising it.

Staff News from Mrs Gemma Rehal, Headteacher

I will be returning to school from maternity leave at the beginning of November, initially on a part-time basis.

We are delighted to welcome Ms Yasmeen Jalil as a LSA in Early Years and are pleased to announce Mrs Javariah Sohail has started her teacher training this year.

Mrs Mahum Khan has also joined us to undertake her teacher training in Green Class this year.

Miss Louise Hill has sadly left Chestnut Lane school to take on a new position as

class teacher.

Sadly, we will be saying goodbye to Miss Haylie Walker, midday supervisor, at October half term as she embarks on further education. We wish her the best of luck for the future.

It is also with huge sadness that Mrs Sam Elliott will be leaving us at the end of the term, December 2020. We are extremely grateful for the hard work Mrs Elliott has given the school since joining in September 2019. She will be moving onto a class teacher role elsewhere and we wish her every success.

Important Information

Hot Meals

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, it is essential that we maintain class 'bubbles' as much as possible in school. Therefore, eating lunch in the dining room is staggered further than it ordinarily would be to ensure cleaning can take place in between 'bubbles'. We have moved to having all children eating in the dining room over the lunch period, rather than the classrooms, as this is a better eating environment for all.

We are very keen to move back to offering hot meals, however these will not be able to be served in the same way. We must ensure that children are seated when entering the dining room and remain in their seat for the duration, therefore serving of meals and clearing away will take longer as these tasks need to be completed by the staff.

We are pleased to announce that we will be trialling the introduction of hot meals week beginning 19th October, with a view to continuing this after half term. It is essential that we understand whether it is possible within the restraints of the COVID-19 risk assessment. Full menu details are available on the School Grid ordering system.

Please note that as the menu has changed you will need to re-order your child's meals on Schools Grid from week beginning 19th October.

Feedback about our Hot Meals in school

In March 2020 we asked parents to offer their feedback on the school's offer of fruit and yoghurt only after the children's main meals at lunchtime. Since trialling this in July 2019 we have received mixed views on the decision. Broadly, some parents feel that with the desserts not being offered the children are not getting the calories they need to sustain energy and focus for the school day, whereas others feel that as parents do not have control over choosing whether their children select desserts (the offer is given to all children on the day) they do not maintain ownership over when their children have "treats".

We are offering a final chance for parents to provide feedback. We will be doing so through ParentMail Forms early next week. Please provide your response by Friday 23rd October.

School Photos

Individual pupil photographs will be taking place on Tuesday 13th October. Siblings in school will be automatically paired up for a joint photo.

Please note that the school photos will be cashless and proofless 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.



Regrettably we will not be able to offer the opportunity for pre-school children to be photographed with their siblings this year or older siblings.

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 9am.

Parent Consultations

Thank you for completing the ParentMail form giving your availability for the upcoming Parent Consultations. Your allocated time slot has now been sent home in your child's learning log/bookbag. Could we please ask that you are available for the full timeslot indicated.

Flu Immunisations

All Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children have been invited to have their flu immunisations in school on Tuesday 20th October. If you haven't already do so please click on the following link

<https://www.buckschildimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu> which will direct you to an online consent form for you to complete by 15th October and use the following school code: EE110294.

Statutory Relationships & Health Education

During 2020 - 2021 the new curriculum for relationships and health education will be mandatory for all primary schools. Work has already begun within school to prepare for this including developing our policy and carefully planning progression within our curriculum from Early Years to Year 2. We will be consulting virtually with parents in due course and aim to share resources with you which we hope will be useful in supporting the curriculum aims at home. Further information for parents can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-sex-and-health-education-guides-for-schools>

Wellbeing Survey

Thank you for completing the wellbeing survey. It was very helpful to hear about the children's wellbeing from parents. The teachers have used this information to support the children in their transition back to school and have put some personalised interventions in place where needed.

The children responded well to "The Lion Inside" and "The Colour Monster" stories which helped them to identify and express different feelings. We will continue to develop language and emotions throughout the year.

Please Note

Well Done Assemblies

Our weekly Well Done Assemblies are now taking place on a Monday morning and it is a time for us to celebrate the achievements of the children. These are currently taking place via zoom. The children are not just praised for their academic work but also for showing kindness to others, or demonstrating effective characteristics of learning within the classroom. We would like to remind everyone that these assemblies are a great time for the children to share their achievements from outside of school as well, such as certificates, medals or trophies that they may have been awarded, or special events that they may have been part of. If you think your child has something they would like to share please speak with your child's class teacher. Currently these assemblies are not attended by the Little Chestnut or Reception pupils.

Respect Social Distancing

We would like to thank parents for your response to our Health & Safety Governor's request to wear face coverings when picking up and dropping off their children in school and to respect social distancing. We have a number of vulnerable children, staff and parents who appreciate everyone's support in ensuring their safety during these times.

Keep Logs in Good Condition (No Stickers Please)

As ever we are very keen to preserve the condition of our Key Stage One Learning Logs. With this in mind, we would ask that the children refrain from sticking any stickers onto them, as these are very hard to remove for the following year.

Cake Sales

Thank you to those parents who have agreed to be class reps this year. Unfortunately, we will not be able to hold any cake sales at the current time.

Second-Hand Uniform

We have been donated lots of second hand uniform items recently. When the weather permits, we plan to put some tables out in the field and will send out a communication in due course. Please help yourself to any school uniform items. There will be a box available and any small donations would be gratefully received.

Amersham Community Board

Community Boards are a new initiative which are about working collaboratively with key partners and residents to make a difference within communities. Key priorities identified include Coronavirus recovery and ongoing support, Amersham town centre revival, the health and wellbeing of young people and green issues and the environment. Everyone within the local community is welcome to be part of the community board. Please email the Community Board Coordinator at:

lizzie.wright@buckinghamshire.gov.uk if you wish to get involved.

Lunch Time & After School Clubs

We are pleased to announce that clubs will be introduced back into school after the half term. We will be sending out a ParentMail message with full details of clubs available soon.



CLESA needs a new team!

Would you and a few friends (mums or dads) come together to form a new team to lead CLESA (the Chestnut Lane and Elangeni PTA)? As mentioned previously, Sarah is resigning as Chair after 3 years in the role and we need a brand-new team to take it forward.

This academic year CLESA is officially taking a sabbatical as the usual events will not be able to go ahead. So, it is a great opportunity to think about some new ideas to bring to the table in this new way we have to live. In addition, the schools cannot spend any of the previously raised funds without a Treasurer to process the payments.

A new team needs at a minimum a Chair or two Co-Chairs, a Treasurer and a Secretary.



Thank you

CLESA would like to say a huge **thanks** to all of the volunteers who helped to build the new CLESA shed over the summer holidays. It was a fantastic team effort and a special thanks goes to Darren, Russell, Amit and Tony.