

Happy New Year! A special welcome to the new families who have joined us. The festive break feels like a lifetime ago, and we have been very busy in school over the past few weeks. We are looking forward to our upcoming events, and have lots of exciting activities planned.  
**Mrs Gemma Rehal**

### EVENTS

CLESA Committee Meeting at 8pm	1 Feb
Children's Mental Health Week	6 Feb
Perform Workshops (whole school)	10 Feb
School Closes at 3.05pm	10 Feb
School Starts at 8.40am	20 Feb
Parent Consultations 3.30-6.30pm (whole school)	22 Feb
Parent Consultations 1.00-3.00pm (Little Chestnuts)	23 Feb
Parent Consultations 5.00-8.00pm (whole school)	23 Feb
World Book Day	2 Mar
World Book Day Workshops	3 Mar
Silver Class Cake Sale	3 Mar
Family Fun Night	4 Mar

# Chestnut Lane School

JANUARY 2023

## Spring Term News

### World Religion Day

On Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January we enjoyed celebrating World Religion Day in school. The children explored what the symbols mean to different groups.



We talked about how everyone believes in different things, but we still treat everyone with respect.

### Lunar New Year

We celebrated the new Lunar year of the rabbit! In Reception, the children listened to the story of the Chinese Zodiac and decorated their own animal masks!



### Topic Meetings

Thank you to everyone who attended our recent Topic meetings. If you were unable to get to these, you should now have received a copy of the presentation, including questions and answers discussed at the meetings.

### Space Dome Visit

The whole school loved entering a planetarium to explore space. The children looked at different planets and asked many questions.



The children came back from the workshops saying "today was so cool! I loved going into the planetarium" and "I enjoyed looking at the planets and learning facts!"

### Strike Action – 1<sup>st</sup> Feb & 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> March

We know that parents and guardians will be well aware of the planned dates for strike action outlined by the NEU.

We hope that everyone received our communication on 26<sup>th</sup> January outlining our plans.

### Charitable Donations

Thank you for your generosity last term. Money was raised for a number of different charities:

- \* Show Racism the Red Card (Wear Red Day): £45.52
- \* Poppy Appeal: £146.67
- \* Save the Children (Christmas Jumper Day): £30
- \* UNISEF (Eco Club Christmas postcard sale): £74.10
- \* Street Kids (Silent Auction and Christmas production): £491.82

### Staff Update

We are very excited to share the news that Mrs Megan Harper is expecting her first child later this year! I am sure that all of our children, parents and guardians will join us in congratulating her.

One of our midday supervisors, Mrs Kahteejah Akhtar, finished working with us recently. She was a hard-working and valued member of our lunchtime team, and we are sad to see her go. She is moving onto a great opportunity as an LSA at another Bucks school, and we wish her all the best in her new venture.

We have advertised for a new midday supervisor, and hope to be recruiting soon.

## Upcoming Events & Workshops

### Children's Mental Health Week – 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> February

During this week we will be celebrating Children's Mental Health week. We will be building on our established wellbeing work and engaging the children in several wellbeing sessions.

We will be concluding the week by welcoming Perform back to school for drama workshops. Their 'Roar like a Ringmaster' session will celebrate confidence and creative expression as they help every child find their voice on a fantastic circus adventure.

### Parent Consultations – 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> February

Due to unforeseen circumstances when we set our original parent and guardian consultation dates, we have had to move these to after the February half term break. This term we will only be offering in-person consultations, as the uptake of virtual consultations was low across the classes in the autumn.

This week you will receive a ParentMail communication so you can list your time preferences. We will also be offering separate SENCo consultations again this term, however there is no need to make a SENCo appointment unless there is an area of Special Educational Needs you would like to discuss. The children's classrooms and work books will be available to view on these dates.

### Online Safety webinar for Parents and Guardians – Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 7-8 pm

Thank you to everyone who responded to the class reps' polls on WhatsApp to help us to identify if an in-person or virtual workshop would be most beneficial for parents. The overwhelming response was that parents and guardians would prefer an online workshop.



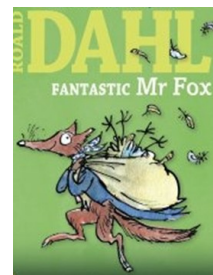
Therefore we have arranged for Alison Watts to lead the session on Online Safety via Microsoft Teams. Alison is CEOP Ambassador trained and has over 14 years of experience in training professionals, teachers, parents and students of all ages on how to stay safe online and how to use resources effectively in the classroom and at home. More details on the session will be provided nearer the time.

### World Book Day – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March

When we return after the half term break it will be time to celebrate World Book Day once again. On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March we are inviting all children to dress up as a favourite book character, and bring their book along with them too, so that they can share it with their friends.



On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March we will be welcoming West End in Schools, who will be working with all of the children throughout the day. To link in with our 'Awesome Authors' topic, Early Years children will be taking part in workshops based on 'The Gruffalo' by Julia Donaldson and Key Stage 1's focus will be 'Fantastic Mr Fox' by Roald Dahl. These workshops are being funded using the School Fund.



### Year 1 Trip to Discover Bucks Museum – Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March

Year 1 will be visiting Discover Bucks Museum in Aylesbury. They will be exploring the Roald Dahl Gallery, and attend a 'Dream Bottles' workshop to create a magical dream bottle souvenir that will inspire fantasy writing opportunities in school. This trip will be subsidised using the School Fund.

### Red Nose Day for Comic Relief – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March

The environment club will be hosting a Funny Face Exhibition again this year. More details will be provided nearer the time. Red noses will be available from the school office.

## Focus on Wellbeing

Children's Mental Health Week will take place between 6<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> February with the theme of 'Let's Connect'. Let's Connect is about making meaningful and healthy connections to others. In school, we are going to be exploring a range of resources and games such as linking all the different ways they are connected to their classmates. The children will also be participating in a Drama4All workshop to encourage them to develop their communication with others, as well as helping the "clown with the frown" understand his emotions. Place2Be has provided some useful tips and free resources to help families get involved with the week: <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org/families/>

Accompanying this newsletter is a flyer about Bucks Mind Mental Health Crisis Service — Safe Haven.

## Upcoming Events & Workshops

### Animal Workshops – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March



The Animal Club will be joining us and all the children will be participating in workshops during the day. They will see and learn about reptiles and other animals, and their adaptations.

### Year 2 Trip to Waddesdon Manor – Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March

Linking to our topic, Awesome Authors, Year 2 will be visiting the manor to look at a special painting showing Sleeping Beauty. They will use this stimulus to develop their creative language. This trip is being part-funded by The Rothschild Foundation.



### The work of the Governing Body

An important part of our work is to seek the views and opinions of the parents and families of Chestnut Lane School. We are keen to ensure that the children are happy in school and that they are all doing well and enjoying the many extra-curricular activities that are offered. The best way for us to gauge the views of parents and families is to ask you to complete the Ofsted Parent View survey which can be found on the Ofsted website: <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

The survey is quick to complete and once the data is there, governors and school staff can view the results and assess where best to focus our attention. We appreciate that you may feel that the link with Ofsted is concerning but this survey is a very useful tool to all schools and we would very much appreciate your help. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

### Before School Childcare

Thank you again to all parents who responded to our survey about Before School childcare. Governors and School are in the process of seeking information regarding suitable companies to provide this service but it is important to stress that there is still a lot of work to do and there is no guarantee that before school childcare will become a feature of the school.

**Mrs Christine Plimsaul,  
Chair of Governors**

### Instagram

We would like to remind all parents and guardians that the best way to see what we have been up to in school, in real-time, is to look on our Instagram account. You can find us by searching 'Chestnut Lane School' on Instagram. If you are not on Instagram then our account can be viewed from our school website home page, without needing to log-in. <https://chestnutlane.bucks.sch.uk/>

### Concerns and Complaints

We, of course, always hope that everyone in our community is happy about what the school does, however if you ever have concerns or complaints we hope that parents and guardians know they can come and speak to us. Class teachers are always available at pick-up and drop-off times, or via the communication books/ learning logs, and other members of staff (such as key stage leaders and the Headteacher) can be contacted via the school office, or telephone. If there is anything at all, we always want to know so that we can work together to find solutions. Further information can be found within the Complaints and Resolutions Procedure on our school website.

### Cake Sales

Green Class raised £123.90 for their class – well done. The next sale is on 3<sup>rd</sup> March hosted by Silver Class.

### Training to Teach

Please find attached a flyer about training to teach in Bucks.



## CLESA NEWS

CLESA is delighted to announce that the Family Fun Night / Elangeni Disco and The Curry & Quiz Night are back!

- \* Family Fun Night & Elangeni Disco **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March**
- \* Curry & Quiz **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May**

More information to follow.

CLESA will be holding a meeting with the core CLESA committee soon to discuss fundraising activities over the remainder of the year.

**If you are interested in taking part, please email them at [clesacochair@gmail.com](mailto:clesacochair@gmail.com).**

## '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 Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> March, in a box to take home to eat. Please look out for the separate ParentMail message.