

Happy New Year and welcome to the new families who have joined us. I cannot believe it is the end of January already, and another month has flown by. We have been really busy in school, sharing lots of new information with everyone. We appreciate everybody's patience and cooperation, and we hope you are excited as we are about the new projects we are developing.

**Mrs Gemma Rehal**

## EVENTS

Brazilian Dance Workshop— Reception & Yr 1	7 Feb
CLESA Meeting 8pm (virtual)	9 Feb
Children's Mental Health Week	7-11 Feb
Virtual Parent Consultations (Reception, Silver & SENCo)	14 Feb
Virtual Parent Consultations (Orange, Year 2 & SENCo)	15 Feb
Telephone Consultations (Little Chestnuts)	16 Feb
Face-to-face Parent Consultations (All Classes & SENCo)	16 Feb
999 Cenotaph - Emergency Services Dressing up Day	18 Feb
School Closes at 3.05pm	18 Feb
School Starts at 8.40am	28 Feb
World Book Day	3 Mar
Drama Workshops	4 Mar
Perform Jungle Workshops	18 Mar
Bucks Mind Parent Workshop	25 Mar

# Chestnut Lane School

JANUARY 2022

## Spring Term News

### Christmas Thanks

Although it feels like a distance memory already, we would like to thank everyone for their kind comments about the Christmas performances and events. We were really glad that we were able to see these go ahead in person, and that the children had the opportunity to perform in front of a live audience after all of their hard work preparing. It was a pleasure to see them on stage, and made the festive period in school extra special.

Thank you too to everyone who purchased Christmas postcards from the Environment Club sale. Another long-standing tradition that we were glad to see go ahead. Thank you to the Year 2 children and Mrs Tyler, who raised a brilliant £63.32 for Shelter.

### Great Fire of London Workshop

On Friday 21st January Year 2 enjoyed a wonderful Great Fire of London workshop. They were immersed into history through music and role-play. The children explored how life was different in 1666 and discovered why the fire is a significant event in British history.



We were really impressed with One Day Creative and are hoping to invite them into school again for future topics. This workshop was



funded using the School Fund.

### Successful Ventilation

We are really pleased that the rollout of CO2 monitors has been



successful in our school, and the readings are indicating that our spaces are well ventilated. This has provided reassurance for the staff, and hopefully to parents as well. We would like to say a special thanks to Mr Burrridge for offering us lots of support and advice. In case you missed us, you can find out more about CO2 monitors here: [ITV London News](https://www.itv.com/news/london)



## Focus on Wellbeing

Our work towards the Wellbeing Award for Schools has been ongoing, and we are looking forward to our support day from AwardPlace later in March.

As part of our work with Bucks Mind, and their mental health project for Early Years and Key Stage 1, we will be hosting a parent workshop on 25th March at 9:15am. Further details about this will be available after the half term break. The Key Stage 1 children have already enjoyed a Bucks Mind assembly this term, focusing on feelings, and they will be returning to work with the children again in March.

Soon, we will be making changes to our school website to introduce a wellbeing section. In this space you will be able to find resources to use with your children towards achieving the 5 Ways to Wellbeing: connect, be active, take notice, keep learning and give. We will let everyone know when the section is live.

# Upcoming Events & Workshops

## Early Years Vehicle Visit

In the coming weeks Little Chestnuts and Reception pupils plan to have a brilliant time exploring real-life vehicles in the playground. They will be able to observe different types of cars and look under the bonnets to see how they work. They will also explore motorbikes and bicycles up close and learn about how they work. The children will learn about how to keep safe around vehicles as well as comparing different safety features each vehicle has. The children will have opportunities to ask questions and compare the different vehicles they have explored.

## Parent Consultations—14th-16th February

Parent and guardian consultations will be taking place from 14th–16th February. We will be offering both virtual and in-person consultations as we did in the Autumn term, as we received positive feedback regarding the flexibility this offers to families. You will have received a ParentMail communication where you can list your time slot 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 that you would like to discuss. The children's classrooms and work books will also be available to view across these dates.

## Children's Mental Health Week – 7th–11th February



During the w.b. 7th February we will be celebrating Children's Mental Health week in school. During this time we will be building on our established wellbeing work and engaging the children in a number of wellbeing sessions. This year's theme is Growing Together, with a focus on encouraging the children to consider how they have grown, and how they can help others to grow. You can find out more at:

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/parents-and-carers/>

## Reception and Year 1 Brazilian Dance Workshop – Monday 7th February

On Monday 7th February Reception and Year 1 classes will be taking part in an exciting Brazilian Capoeira Dance Workshop from Schools Workshops. We are looking forward to learning a little about the culture behind the dance, and getting the children active at the same time! This workshop will be funded using the School Fund.

## 999 Cenotaph – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February

On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February we are inviting the children to dress up as one of the emergency services, or simply wear red, blue, green or orange to raise money for the 999 cenotaph. Further information can be found on the attached flyer. We look forward to seeing all of the children's outfits!



## World Book Day – Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March

When we return after the half term break it will be time to celebrate World Book Day once again. On Thursday 3<sup>rd</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.

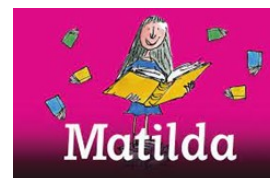


On Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March we will be welcoming back West



End in Schools, who will be working with all of the children throughout the day. Early Years children will be taking part in workshops based on 'Stick Man' by Julia Donaldson and Key Stage 1's focus will

be 'Matilda' by Roald Dahl. We are looking forward to having them back in school with us in-person following last year's virtual workshops. These workshops are being funded using the School Fund.



## Perform Jungle Workshops – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March

As a partner school with Perform we are lucky to benefit from Perform workshops for all of our children throughout the year. On 18<sup>th</sup> March they will be visiting us to share their jungle themed workshops with the children.



Perform will also be taking a brand new musical called Jungle Rumble to the West End, at The Fortune Theatre in Covent Garden on 19th-20th February. Tickets start at £15.00. Please click on the link for further details:

<https://www.atgtickets.com/shows/jungle-rumble/fortune-theatre/>

## Important Information

### Parent Video Guides

Due to the pandemic restrictions over the past two years we haven't been able to conduct in-person parent and guardian workshops, or information evenings, with everyone together in the school hall. We have been looking into further ways that we can support parents and guardians with how we teach aspects of the curriculum in school, in addition to the resources and guides already available on our school website.

We are very excited to shortly be sharing a range of videos created by the teachers and children, which demonstrate how the children approach their learning in school. These will 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 will be uploaded to the Vimeo platform and shared with everybody when they are in place. We hope that you will find them a useful reference when supporting your child at home.

### Chilterns Landscape Art Competition

KSI children still have time to submit their landscape entries for the Chilterns Landscape Art Competition run by The Wycombe Museum. All entries must be handed into school by Monday 7th February, so that we have time to enter them into the competition for you. The winners of the competition will have a chance for their work to be showcased in the Wycombe Museum as part of The Spring Chilterns Celebration. Please see attached flyer for more details.

### Parent View

We would like to encourage all parents to share their views on the school via the Ofsted Parent View Site: <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/> This provides us with useful information but we are unable to see the responses until the minimum number of replies is reached. We understand that by having the Ofsted label this may seem daunting, however it is a useful tool for the school as we work towards our next inspection.

### Extracurricular Clubs

We are pleased to welcome a new tennis club on



a Friday afterschool which is available for children in Year 1 and 2. Full details and a flyer were sent out to all parents at the beginning of term.

### Recycling in School

We would like to remind parents that you may 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.

### Wall Mounted Touch Screen Devices

Last week saw the installation of six wall mounted touch-screen devices for the children in Little Chestnuts and Reception, to replace their old workstations which needed upgrading. The children and staff are really looking forward to exploring them over the coming weeks, and we would like to say a huge thank you to CLESA for funding the project.

### Voluntary Donations to the School Fund

Thank you to all parents who have made contributions towards our school fund so far. We appreciate these donations as they really enhance the children's educational experiences. If you would like to make a donation please contact the school office.

### Local Learning Area consent

Thank you to all parents who have returned the Local Learning Area Consent Forms. If you haven't already done so, please could you complete and return them to the school office.

### Cake Sales

The COVID-19 restrictions and the introduction of the new Natasha Law, have caused a delay in bringing back cake sales. We will be in contact with class reps about reintroducing cake sales as soon as possible.

### Thank you

A big thank you to Mr Bater for kindly nominating our school in his company's charity competition. We were the lucky winners of £250 which will be used to purchase a series of books for the school.

## CLESA Update



It was wonderful to be able to hold the CLESA Christmas Fair again in November. Thank you to Jo Rees and Sally Hardcastle and everyone who helped organise and volunteer on the day. Seeing all the happy children's faces on the day certainly made the hard work worthwhile. We also raised a significant amount of money for our schools—£3,790.

### Summer Fair Organising Team Needed

We are now looking for a team of 4-5 people to organise the CLESA Summer Fair to be held in July 2022 (date TBC). If you are interested, please email Sophie & Nicola at: [clesacochair@gmail.com](mailto:clesacochair@gmail.com).

### Dates for the Diary

CLESA Committee Meeting (virtual) —Wednesday

9th February at 8pm

Tea in a Box—Friday 8th April / Wednesday 20th July

Summer Camp Out—TBC June 2022

Summer Fair—TBC July 2022