



Chestnut Newsletter Autumn Term 2022

Welcome back! We hope you have all had an amazing summer break and are feeling well-rested and ready to start our new year. We are so excited to begin our school year in Chestnut, and to work with your lovely children again. In this letter, you will find information about what we will be covering during the Autumn Term and some useful information for the school year.

Firstly, we would like to take a moment to celebrate the life and service of Her Majesty, The Queen. She has been the longest reigning monarch and stood as a symbol of Britain for 70 years. We have all been saddened by her passing. We send our deepest condolences to The Royal Family and our thoughts are with our families.



Our themes for this term are:

'Movers and Shakers', 'Remarkable Recipes' and 'Let's Explore the World'

We will start the year by making sure the children have a smooth transition from Year 2 or Year 3, to their new year group. We will use this time to get to know the children; we will learn about what their strengths and interests are, as well as identify any areas in which your child may need support. During this time, the children will get to know their new learning environment, new teachers and reflect on their goals for the year.

Our Movers and Shakers theme will teach the children about historically significant people who have had a major impact on the world. They will learn to use timelines, stories and historical sources to find out about diverse significant people and use historical models to explore and judge their significance. In Geography, the children will learn to use an atlas and read world maps to discover geographical information. They will learn about the characteristics of the four countries of the United Kingdom and find out why there are hot, temperate and cold places around the world. The children will also compare England to Somalia. Within this theme, they will also conduct fieldwork, collecting primary data in their locality to answer geographical questions.

Phonics

As a school, we follow the Little Wandle Phonics Programme. All children will be re-assessed in the first couple of weeks to determine if they require additional phonics practice. Phonics lessons provide children with opportunities to learn new tricky words and practice oral blending, sentence

reading and spelling. For children in Year 2 who are secure with their phonics knowledge, they will use this time to develop joined handwriting, participate in spelling, grammar and punctuation activities or reading skills for their appropriate year group.

English

Throughout Autumn term, we will be exploring some books from the 'Little People, Big Dreams' collection by Maria Isabel Sanchez Vejera, which tell the life stories of inspirational people such as Rosa Parks. We will also explore other genres such as poetry and non-fiction books. The children will use class novels, such as *A Squash and A Squeeze* and *The Firework Maker's Daughter*, to write their own narratives of others and themselves, both real and fictional. They will also examine the organisational features of narrative and non-narrative texts and will apply their knowledge when writing in either genre.

Our handwriting sessions will focus on how to form letters correctly, sit letters on the line and to write with good pace. When the children are ready, they will begin to use the diagonal and horizontal strokes needed to join their handwriting. At Kirklevington Primary School we follow the cursive handwriting style.

We will also use a variety of texts to develop our 'VIPERS' reading skills - vocabulary, inference, prediction, explanation, retrieval and sequencing.

Maths

In Maths, the children will learn fluency, reasoning and/or problem solving within each lesson. We encourage creative mathematical thinking, asking the children to use maths vocabulary in their discussions and explanations. We will begin the year by exploring place value which involves counting, writing and ordering numbers correctly. The children will learn place value for the hundreds, tens and ones/units. Year 2's focus will be on the place value of 3-digit numbers up to 200 whilst Y3 will learn up to 1,000. Children will use concrete models (such as base ten and place value counters), as well as pictorial models (such as place value charts, part whole models and bar models) to support their knowledge acquisition. Year 2 children will learn to count in 2s, 5s, 10s and 3s, Year 3 children will revise counting in 2s 5s and 3s and learn how to count in 50s.

Once children are secure with place value, we will teach mental and written addition and subtraction, using the same concrete resources and pictorial images, to support and extend our learning. The children will apply place value, addition and subtraction knowledge to money, too.

The children will also learn multiplication. Year 2 will be introduced to the multiplication symbol and use arrays to begin to learn their 2, 5 and 10 times tables. Year 3 will begin to learn their 3, 4 and 8 times tables as well as associated division facts. Please practice the age-appropriate times tables (and division facts for Y3) at home during Autumn 2 to support your child's knowledge and confidence in this area of Maths.

Science

Our Science topics for this half term include 'Humans' and 'Everyday Materials'. The children will learn new scientific knowledge and practise working scientifically skills, such as generating scientific questions, classifying, carrying out comparative tests, drawing scientific models and displaying data in graphs. In the topic of 'Humans' the children will learn about life cycles and stages, basic needs for survival, the importance of exercise, balanced diets and hygiene, as well as the needs of pets. In the

topic of 'Everyday Materials' the children will consider suitability of materials for specific uses, learn how some materials can be shaped in different ways and learn how to live more sustainably.

Homework

We use the Seesaw App to issue our weekly homework tasks. Homework will be uploaded to Seesaw on a Friday and should be completed, and submitted for marking, by the following Thursday. If you don't have access to Seesaw yet, you will be sent the login details for your child as soon as an account has been set up for them.

Your child will also be given a weekly spelling list to learn on a Friday, which they should practice at home. These spelling words are matched to National Curriculum expectations for your child's year group.

Please practice times tables on the Time Tables Rock Stars app every week.

Reading and Reading Records

Your child will be issued with a new Reading Record at the beginning of the year and this will be used to log your child's reading progress throughout the year. They will bring home a reading book each day, and books will be changed once your child has finished them. We encourage children reading short stories to read their books three times before changing them, following Little Wandle guidance. This ensures they can practise reading fluency, prosody and comprehension so that they are confident readers and leave them feeling 'ready' to move on to their next book. Please leave a comment in your child's Reading Record, when you have listened to them read at home.

Year 2 SATs

All Year 2 children will take part in the Statutory Key Stage 1 SATs in May. We aim for children to be as prepared as possible for these so that they feel confident. We try to ensure the KS1 SATs are as 'low key' as possible so the children will not be aware that they are taking a test, to ensure that they do not feel any pressure. More information will follow, closer to the time.

PE

In Autumn 1 (before October half term), Chestnut will have their PE lesson on a Tuesday and Thursday afternoon. Your child can bring their PE kit in to school on a Monday and it will be returned on a Thursday for washing. The PE kit should consist of black or navy joggers, a white t-shirt, a black or navy sweatshirt / jacket and suitable trainers. You will find our uniform policy on our website for more information on this. Children should not wear any jewellery on PE days.

We are thoroughly looking forward to working with your children and, as always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Thank you for your support,

Miss Horsley and Mrs Pederson

