

# Chestnut Class – Spring Term 2024

## Class Newsletter

Dear Parents

Happy New Year! Welcome back to school and the start of the Spring term. We hope that you all had a very happy Christmas with your families. Many thanks for all the cards, gifts and kind wishes at the end of term – your kindness and generosity is hugely appreciated.

Miss Creegan has now returned from her maternity leave to resume her role as our classroom teaching assistant. In addition, we are fortunate that Mrs Charles will continue to work with us in Chestnut class for 3 mornings a week.

We are writing to give you an outline of our learning for the Spring term. This term our Explore Project is a Geography-based one and is called '**Changes**' with our key concepts being: **Change, Stewardship and Morality**. Initially, we will be focusing on weather and climate and how this impacts our daily lives. We will also be looking at climate change and natural phenomenon including El Nino, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. We are sure that the children will find it an interesting subject and will enjoy finding out about ways that we can all make changes to help our planet in the future.

### **HOMEWORK**

As with the rest of the school, the expectations for homework in Chestnut Class consist of:

**Reading:** reading to an adult at least 3 times per week and recording this in their reading record book (these must then be handed in on Monday morning for checking) Please note, that unless the book is signed by an adult, it will be assumed that your child has not completed this homework.

**Spelling:** every Friday, each child will bring home a list of weekly spellings to learn. These will also be posted on MarvellousMe, just in case they don't make it home! A list of different strategies to use to support your child with spelling is available on our school website (in the 'learning links' section under the 'children' tab)

**Times Tables:** a set of weekly times tables to learn including associated division facts. We will be encouraging all children who have not yet achieved their Gold badge to work on this, and for those who have already gained their Gold Badge, we will encourage them to work on gaining their Platinum and Diamond badges. It is important to practise the skills to ensure rapid recall of multiplication and division facts in any order. Please encourage your child to use their Times Tables Rockstars account to build up their speed of recall which forms an essential part of the KS2 Maths curriculum. This is especially important for children in Year 4 who will be completing their statutory national Multiplication Check in June.

**Termly Project Task:** This term, we are giving the children a choice of 3 different tasks and ask them to complete one of them to complement their learning in class. We would like these to be brought into school during the week of **18<sup>th</sup> March**. The options for the project homework tasks are:

**Task 1:** Compose and perform a song or rap that champions what we can do to slow down climate change. This can be performed in class or recorded and played in class.

**Task 2:** Create a resource to educate others by making a model of the water cycle that explains the water cycle to other people. This also ties in with our Yr 4 Science work on materials as well as our project work on weather and climate. Here are some ideas that children and parents might want to use as inspiration:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=bzdqgT\\_pi3o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=bzdqgT_pi3o)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P-cvAoqjKJ4>

**Task 3:** Write a formal and detailed letter to a leader – either Mrs Daniels or a political leader – suggesting what they feel people can do either in school, or the community to help the plan further such as more recycling, using less electricity, encouraging people to donate or recycle clothing rather than throwing it away.

## **P.E.**

As with last term, our P.E. lessons will be on **Tuesday** and **Friday** afternoons and will be taught by a coach from Premier Sport. As previously, we are asking children to come into school dressed in their kit on the days that they have PE. Please check the school website to ensure that your child has the correct kit:

<https://www.holytrinityeightashgreen.co.uk/uniform-information/>

All children whose hair is past shoulder length must have it tied back on P.E. days. Please remember that earrings **must be removed** for any P.E. lessons.

If your child cannot take part in P.E. for whatever reason, then this must be put in writing via email to the school office.

## **COATS AND WATER BOTTLES**

All children should have their own water bottle in school. All children should also have a coat, preferably a waterproof one for wet weather. Both of these must please be named.

## **HEALTHY SNACKS**

Please ensure that the snack you give your child for break time is a healthy one. Examples include:

fruit	dried fruit	plain crackers	rice cakes
vegetable sticks	plain popcorn	dry breakfast cereal e.g. Cheerios	cereal bars

## **KEEPING IN TOUCH, ASSESSMENT AND IMPORTANT DATES FOR THIS TERM:**

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February** – Wellbeing week in school

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February** – wear yellow day to raise awareness of the importance of mental health

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March** – Ellie Irving author visit

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March** – World Book Day (more information on this will be sent in due course)

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 3.40 – 5.40pm** – Parents Evening

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 5.00 – 7.00pm** – Parents Evening

Other dates, including the date of our whole school Easter Service, will be added to our school calendar in due course so please continue to check our school website and Twitter page (now known as X). Regular important messages will also be sent home via MarvellousMe, along with photos of what we have been up to in class so please do ensure your sign up to this, if you haven't already done so.

In the meantime, if you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch or speak to either of us on the gate.

Kind regards

Mrs Welsh & Mrs Lee