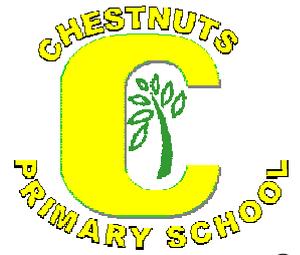


# Chestnuts Primary Newsletter



Founder Member of the Green Lanes Co-Operative Trust ([www.greenlanescooperativetrust.com](http://www.greenlanescooperativetrust.com))

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a lovely start to the year and all the children have settled into their new classes very well.

As usual we have a lot going on at school so please keep an eye on the newsletter and also our website to make sure you are fully informed. We also send out text messages and emails so if you are not receiving any of these please check your details in the school office.

Have a lovely weekend

Cal Shaw (Head Teacher)

## **NURSERY CLOSED FOR POLLING DAY Thursday 6th October**

Chestnuts Nursery ONLY will be closed on Thursday 6th October as it is being used as a polling station for the by-elections.

The main school will be open as usual.

We apologise for the inconvenience this may cause

## **International Evening Thursday 27th October**

Calling all International Performers!

We are looking for International Groups who can sing, dance or play instruments to perform at our International Evening.

If you are interested or know of someone

who would be, please contact Ms Marianna or leave the details in the school office.



## **Reception & Year 2 Tapestry Meeting**

**Thursday 6th  
October**

**9.00am and repeated at  
5.30pm**

Please come along to school and find out about how we use the on-line learning journal Tapestry to provide you with an ongoing record of your child's experiences at school.



## **School Photographer**

The photographer is coming to school on **Wednesday 5th October** to take individual photos of your children. Please make sure they are smartly dressed as these photos make excellent Christmas prezzies for family members!



# BOOK WEEK

Week Commencing Monday 3rd October



The first week of October is our school's Book Week. During Book Week, throughout the school, we celebrate books, illustration and **READING**. We have a range of activities and visitors aimed to inspire your children's love of reading. They may be introduced to a new type of book, a new author or a new way of thinking about books.

On Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October, we start the week with our Dress Up Day. We invite your children to think of book characters and come dressed as someone – or something – from a book. We are asking for £1 each for this, which will go towards the costs of our visitors.

Our guest visitors across the week include

- **Paul Lyalls, poet, former Poet in Residence for the Roald Dahl Museum and many schools**
- **Cas Lester, children's author and former producer for CBBC**
- **Piers Torday, celebrating the launch of his fourth book with us**
- **Chitra Soundar, storyteller and author**
- **Spike Gerrell, illustrator**
- And, of course, our Pet Author (Patron of Reading): **Karen McCombie**

All of the visitors are happy to undertake book signings and we have arranged for books sales on the days of their visits. We have managed to arrange a small discount for all books sold, thanks to the generosity of the authors, publishers and our two local independent bookshops, BIG Green Bookshop and Pickled Pepper Books.

For any book signings, please arrange for your child(ren) to bring in money in a sealed envelope, with the child's name and class marked. Please also label them Book Signings and indicate which authors' books they may buy. Envelopes of money brought in advance can be stored in the school office and our librarian, Ms Efthymiou, will ensure that books are kept for your child(ren).

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PSA

We would firstly like to say a massive hello to all the NEW parents and carers joining us this year. All parents, carers and staff at Chestnuts Primary are members of the PSA. You are part of a fantastic community of people and we hope that you will support the events that are held over the year to raise money for the school and for our children. We love to hear from you so let us know your fundraising ideas, or ways you can support events, or whether you have any specific skills that could help us raise money for our school and children. There are monthly meetings to discuss ideas and go through requests for funding or you can drop us a line on the e-mail address - [psa@chestnutsprimary.com](mailto:psa@chestnutsprimary.com) .

### IMPORTANT DATES FOR DIARY:

PSA Social Evening: Friday 30<sup>th</sup> Sept from 8pm @ Salisbury pub

*Please come and meet other parents and carers from the school or just enjoy a pint with some nibbles!!*

PSA monthly Meeting: Thurs 27<sup>th</sup> Sept @ 7.30pm in the Parents room

*Discuss new fundraising ideas and start winter fair planning. All ideas welcomed*

Lastly, If you are not receiving PSA information and would like to, please contact us on our new address [psa@chestnutsprimary.com](mailto:psa@chestnutsprimary.com) and we will add you to the mailing list.

Look forward to meeting with you very soon

Clare, Sonya and Becky

Co-chairs

JOIN US ON: Twitter: [twitter@chestnutsPSA](https://twitter.com/chestnutsPSA) Facebook: [www.facebook.com/chestnutspsa](https://www.facebook.com/chestnutspsa)

# **ELECTION OF PARENT GOVERNORS**

We have two vacancies for parent governors on the governing body. Every parent/carer of a pupil is entitled to stand for election.

## **What does the governing body do?**

Working in partnership with the head and other staff, governors are responsible for:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school;
- Holding the Head Teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff; and
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

## **What are we looking for in a parent governor?**

Parent governors do not need to have any background in education. Rather, we are looking for people who have:

- An active interest in the education of our pupils.
- A commitment to quality and raising standards within our school.
- An aptitude to work collaboratively with others and to contribute as a member of a team.
- A willingness to promote the school within the community it serves.
- The ability to support and challenge the Head Teacher and her leadership team.
- The time to prepare for and attend Governors' meetings.

**In particular, for the current vacancies we are looking for individuals with experience of adoption/attachment issues and for individuals that ensure the governing body reflects the unique diversity of our school.**

## **What is the time commitment?**

There are approximately six full governors meetings a year with meetings usually running from about 6.30pm on a Thursday. Governors are also asked to join one of the committees that meet around six times a year and/or to take on a "link" role with special responsibility for an area such as safeguarding. You will need to spend time getting to know the school well and preparing for meetings by reading paperwork beforehand. Governors are expected to attend induction training and other training depending on their needs. Once elected, your term of office will be four years.

## **What's in it for me?**

It is not a role to be taken on lightly but a committed governor will find it very rewarding, with opportunities for personal and professional development and a chance to influence the direction of the school. As well as the available training you will be supported by other governors and the clerk to the governing body.

## **Will I be involved in the recruitment of the new head teacher?**

The governing body is responsible for recruiting the new head teacher. A selection panel made up of governors will be appointed to conduct the recruitment process with the final appointment decision taken by the full governing body. Due to timing, new parent governors will not be asked to serve on the selection panel, but should be in place before the final appointment decision is made.

## **What are the next steps if I am interested?**

If you are interested but would like more information or simply to chat about what is involved, please contact Hugh Merritt, Chair of Governors by email at [Governors@chestnutsprimary.com](mailto:Governors@chestnutsprimary.com).

If you wish to put yourself forward please pick up an application form from the school office and return it by 7th October.

If there are more than two names put forward then there will be a ballot of parents. In this case candidates will be asked to write a short description of themselves to circulate with the ballot paper.

## After School Activity Clubs

As you may be aware we have been experiencing some difficulties with our after school activity clubs. There are less clubs this half term as the teachers and support staff who run them have other priorities.

We only have a limited number of spaces in each club in order to maintain safety. We have tried to allocate places in as fair a way as we can but we are sorry that some of you are disappointed. We will be registering for clubs again next half term where we will be reviewing our procedures and also evaluating the number of clubs on offer.

**PLEASE NOTE:** You should not rely on our activity clubs for childcare purposes. If you have issues regarding after school child care please book a place in our After School Club or Woodlands Park Children's Centre for KS1 or an alternative child care provider.

Please do not approach staff individually as club places are now full and if we exceed our numbers it will effect the safety of the children in the club.

## Lunch Time Clubs

All our lunch time clubs start again next week. We have a full range of activities planned including knitting, art, games and sports. As usual our library is also open.

Please be aware that these clubs are available to all children who choose to attend. We do not book places or expect them to attend every day. They are operated on a self selection basis only, meaning that a child only attends if they want to.

## Assembly Rota

### Infants (Fridays)

7th Oct	Yellow Class
21st Oct	Orange Class
11th Nov	Purple Class
25th Nov	Red Class
2nd Dec	Green Class
9th Dec	Blue Class

### Juniors (Wednesdays)

21st Sept	Willow Class
5th Oct	Cedar Class
12th Oct	Palm Class
19th Oct	Beech Class
16th Nov	Sequoia Class
23rd Nov	Oak Class
30th Nov	Elm Class
7th Dec	Maple Class

### Morning Playground Routine

Please can all parents in both infant and junior playgrounds assist the teachers in the morning by having their children in the class line and ready to go into school as soon as the morning buzzer sounds.

Thank you

### FREE SCHOOL MEALS

If you think you are entitled to Free School Meals please come to the office and get a form as soon as possible.

