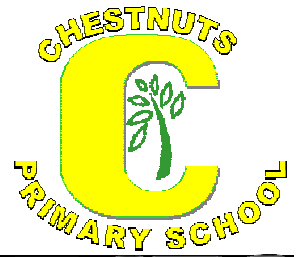


Chestnuts Primary Newsletter



Founder Member of the Green Lanes Co-Operative Trust (www.greenlanescooperativetrust.com)

Dear Parents,

As you have noticed the weather has turned really cold! Please can you make sure that all your children are wearing appropriate clothing for the weather as, unless it is raining, the children always go outside at break time and lunch time. Hats, gloves and warm coats are essential.

We do try to keep the playgrounds free of ice but please keep your children away from the patches of ice that have not yet thawed first thing in the morning for their own safety.

Have a lovely weekend,

Ms Duncan & Ms Newton
Executive Head Teacher & Acting Head Teacher



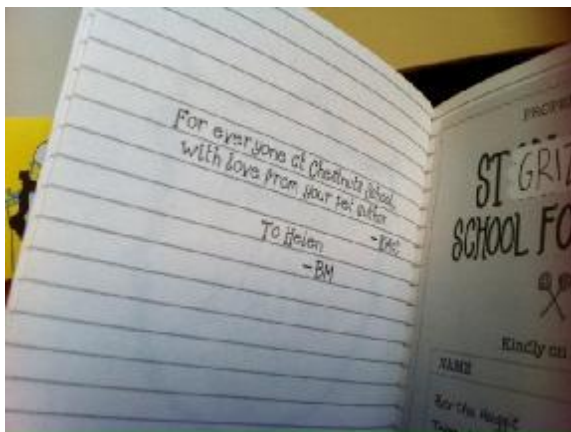
Pet Author Visit

This Monday, I had a great return visit to Chestnuts, starting with reading aloud a new and very funny picture book I've come across called '*Alphonse, That Is NOT OK To Do!*'. Purple Class laughed their socks off at the antics of a little girl monster and her baby brother monster.

Next, it was a whole school assembly, where my talk was 'How A Book Is Made', from the first noodlings in an author's mind to the finished novel hitting the shops! I used 'St Grizzle's School For Girls, Goats & Random Boys' – my latest book – to illustrate, and the children were pretty excited to see who the dedication was for in this particular book!

After that, there was a fast, fun session on writing suspense with Year 5. In very little time they came up with REALLY inventive and gripping mini-stories. Well done, guys. Looking forward to my next visit already!

Karen McCombie, Patron of Reading/Pet Author



Karen will be back with us to celebrate World Book Day in our pyjamas on Wednesday 1st March.

FABULOUS SCHOOL TRIPS

There have been some fantastic trips so far this term. Years 3, 4 & 6 have been to the Science Museum . Years 3 & 6 experienced the new Wonderlab which is an interactive gallery revealing how science and mathematics shape our lives. They also watched Legend of the Apollo in the Discovery Motion Theatre.



Year 4 experienced a workshop about the workings of the human digestive system where they followed the journey of food from the mouth, through the bath of the stomach, along meters of pulsating guts and then out the other end!

Reception Classes visited Wolves Lane Horticultural and Garden Centre where they experienced a variety of small animals including rabbits, guinea pigs, ducks, chickens, birds, fish and terrapins and also houses tropical attractions such as the Palm House, Cactus House and 'rainforest'.



Year 4 also joined up with North Harringay Primary School to sing French songs which the children have been learning. This was about keeping up the links between our two schools.

ASSEMBLY ROTA

Key Stage 1 (Fridays)

Feb 3rd	Orange Class
March 3rd	Red Class
March 10th	Blue Class
March 17th	Yellow Class
March 24th	Purple Class
March 31st	Green Class

Key Stage 2 (Wednesdays)

Feb 1st	Oak Class
Feb 8th	Elm Class
March 1st	Palm Class
March 8th	Beech Class
March 15th	Cedar Class
March 22nd	Sequoia Class

We have had two fantastic assemblies this half term, one from Maple Class on Internet safety and one from Willow Class on Apartheid. Here are some of the comments made by the parents who saw the assemblies;

Maple Class

Lovely stuff and an important message. Thank you Maple Class.

Interesting and informative assembly. We learned a lot about internet safety.

Another totally awesome assembly Maple Class. You guys are so SMART!

Very interesting—really good presentation skills! Would be interesting to broaden the focus to include cyber bullying.

Great assembly. Loved the costumes and song!

Willow Class

Brilliant singing and an even better message about freedom and equality. Thank you Willow Class.

That was great. Love the dance.

Great singing and proud dancing! Strong emotions on an important topic we can all learn from.

Thank you to all the parents and carers who came along to support the class.



Harry Potter Book Night

To celebrate Harry Potter Book Night on Thursday 2nd February, we are holding a small celebration from 4.45 until 5.50.

Enthusiasts of the books and films from Years 4 to 6 are welcome to dress as they wish and join in themed quizzes, 'duelling' and games.

Interested children should see Ms Efthymiou in the library. As places are limited to 40, we may ask questions before issuing a ticket.

Tickets are £1 each and include a glass of 'Butterbeer' and some 'HoneyDukes' sweets.

Any extra income will be used to buy more Harry Potter books for the library.



Meet the Heads

Come along to a informal coffee morning on Thursday 9th February from 9.00am until 9.45am to meet Ms Duncan and Ms Newton, our new Head Teachers.



Headteacher Recruitment Update

I promised to keep you updated on the headteacher recruitment process. As planned, we advertised over the Christmas holidays with the intention of holding interviews this week. Unfortunately, we only received two applications in response to our advert and one of those wasn't a strong enough candidate to take forward to interview. We therefore decided to re-advertise immediately, with the hope of attracting a wider pool of applicants the second time around. The new closing date for applications will be just after the half term holidays, with interviews taking place immediately after that.

While the response to our initial advert is obviously disappointing, we have always been aware that recruiting a headteacher is a difficult task and the number of applicants is typically quite low. The most important thing is to find the right person, even if that takes a little longer than initially hoped. We are still hoping to have a new headteacher in place at Easter. In the meantime, we are lucky to have a great interim senior leadership team and staff team in place to keep the ship steady.

I will continue to keep you updated as and when there is any news, but please do contact me at governors@chestnutsprimary.com if you have any questions.

Hugh Merritt - Chair of Governors