



# Chestnuts Primary School



## NEWSLETTER

Friday 1st December 2023

Dear Families,

We are finally in December and I know the next few weeks are very busy in school. Please make sure you take some time to look at the dates in the newsletter. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the EYFS performances, the KS1 performances and the KS2 carol concert.

Thank you to the families who responded to the parent survey. As ever, it is important we hear your views and act on any feedback we are given.

It was wonderful to hear so many positive things about the school and how happy children are. As always there are points to consider and I wish to outline some common threads here.

- 94% of parents believe their child is happy at Chestnuts. Whilst this is fantastic we always strive for this to be 100%. Please speak to your child's class teacher or a member of SLT if your child is unhappy.
- 84% of parents believe pupils at Chestnuts are well behaved, with 11% not knowing. We have worked even harder this year to further embed our Chestnuts values throughout the culture of the school and have seen a real impact on pupil behaviour. We will continue to inform parents whose children's behaviour falls short of our expectations and support the children so that they can follow the school Behaviour Policy successfully
- The biggest area we would like to work on is to ensure that parents are aware of what their children are learning and the progress they make. The number of parents who felt informed was lower than we would expect and in the free text box there were comments around this. We are looking at better systems for communication to parents from the school, which we feel would help improve these areas. Our curriculum plans for each year group can be found [here](#). Each half term you should also receive a curriculum newsletter for that half term. Parents evenings happen twice a year with a report at the end of the year. We are looking into how we can share progress with you more frequently.
- School lunches are a big area for improvement from the parent survey. Our kitchen team is working hard with the school council to ensure that our lunches are nutritious, financially sustainable and enjoyable for the children, as well as meeting the school food standards. There will be some changes in January.
- Admin issues have been a real frustration for parents and the school. We are hoping to have the office fully staffed which will enable communication, parent pay and other admin functions to work smoother. We are also looking at new IT systems to support processes such as bookings for after school club.

Should you wish to discuss anything further, please feel free to email me.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Horwood

# Dates for your Diary

**Monday 4th December** - Y1 trip to Chicken shed Theatre

**Tuesday 5th December 3.30pm -4.30pm** - Festive Cartoon Illustration (Y4 -6)

**Tuesday 5th December**— Y3 trip to The British Museum

**Wednesday 6th December 2.45pm**— Trumpet and Clarinet concert

**Thursday 7th December 3.30pm—4.30pm**— Festive Children's Yoga (Y1—6)

**Thursday 7th December 7pm– 8.30pm**— Festive wreath making (**ADULTS ONLY**)

**Sunday 10th December 11am-3pm** -Winter Fair

## Winter Show Dates :

### EYFS Christmas show:

- 12.12.23— 9:30am
- 13.12.23—1:30pm

### KS1 Christmas show:

- 14.12.23 - 2pm
- 15.12.23 -9.30am

**Tuesday 19th December**- Christmas parties in school

**Wednesday 20th December** -School finishes at **1:30pm**

**Monday 8th January** — Back to school

**Tuesday 9th January** - Back to Nursery

## Nursery

The children made hot chocolate and squirted whipped cream on top. It was delicious!



# What we have done this week

Ahlberg

Reception celebrated Cultural Appreciation Day. The children dressed up and spoke about their culture. We tried foods that families brought in including apples, madeleines, challah and plantain kebabs! We also had parents and grandparents in class. We learnt an Igbo Culture dance and a Peruvian song! Ms Junior also taught us a dance from Madeira. We had a fantastic day!



Donaldson

Reception had a wonderful first trip to the Little Angel Theatre to see 'Wow said the Owl, it's night-time.' An owl had a magical time meeting creatures at night, foxes, moles, rabbits and bats. There was lots of laughter and the children really enjoyed the show.

Thank you so much to all of the parents who came along to help and made this trip possible. Many thanks also to the PSA for funding the trip.



Hadid

In Geography this half term Year 1 has been comparing life in Cities and life on a Farm. The children in Hadid class worked in pairs to design and make their own Diarama's. The children used various materials and resources to show their understanding of what they would find in the countryside.



Mozart

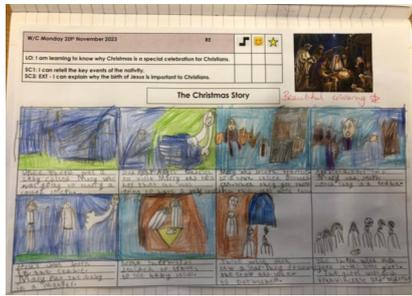
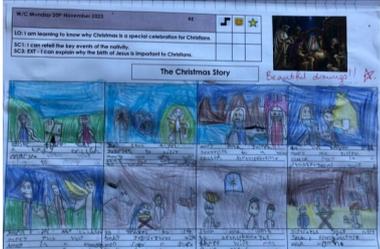
In Mozart class we have been creating posters in aid of Anti-Bullying week. We stand together to support one another, especially our friends.

We stand against bullying and we love and care for each other.



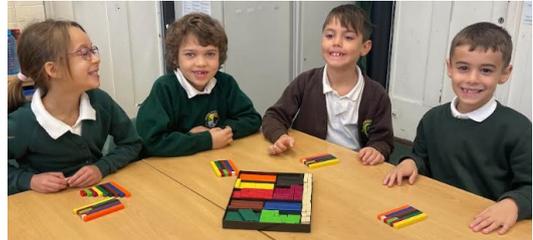
## Seacole

This term, in RE, Seacole Class have been learning about Christianity and why the birth of Jesus is important to Christians. They have created beautiful storyboards to show the nativity and discussed why Christmas is a special celebration



## Rashford

Rashford class has been learning about bar models. The children worked collaboratively to solve mathematical problems using cuisenaire rods.



## Benjamin

Although at first this may not look like it, it is a science lesson. The children in Benjamin class were re-enacting how fossils are produced. Some of them performed the dying of creatures (quite dramatically on occasion); others lay sediment over the top of those creatures; then gentle pressure was applied for thousands of years (well 1 minute). It really helped them understand how a fossil is created.



## Attenborough

Attenborough class has been learning about using persuasive language in their writing and presentation. The children competed with each other to sell a simple pencil to Ms Agnes using convincing vocabulary and now they are planning to write a letter to Mrs Horwood to allow them to get a dragon and keep it as a school pet. (inspired by our class book, The boy who grew dragons by Andy Shepherd).



## Fibonacci

This term we are looking at animals in Art. This week, the children got to practise their skill at using clay. We looked at different techniques and tricks on how to mould clay. Next week we are going to use those skills to make their own versions of a Bankura terracotta horse.



## Gandhi

In Gandhi class, we have been researching information about sound and hearing. Then in English we organised our writing under sub-headings for our non-chronological report. We had to ensure we included technical vocabulary and all the other features that make a fantastic report. Did you know, if we didn't have ears we wouldn't be able to balance?



## Pankhurst

In Pankhurst class last week we designed stained glass windows as part of our learning about Anglo Saxons. We learnt how Canterbury Cathedral was one of the first Christian churches and King Aethelberht was the first Anglo Saxon king to convert to Christianity. We also learnt about Hilda of Whitby and Bede the monk. We used felt tip pens on acetate to create the translucent designs.



## Thompson

Children in Thompson Class investigated squared and cubed numbers using cuisenaire rods. They worked cooperatively and showed great teamwork. It was great to see their amazing enthusiasm for learning.



This term, Year 6 children have created some rich and vibrant outcomes in their writing:

- A character-driven narrative based on the The Highwayman - where we focused on how characters' words and actions can impact the trajectory of a story;
- A news-report - where the use of evocative, biased and persuasive language, can manipulate the thoughts and emotions of a reader; and
- A play script - where children will use one of our classic poems taught this term (The Highwayman, Annabel Lee, or The Lady of Shalott) as source material to create a two-scene play script - full of tragedy, love, and the supernatural.



## Art Classes

Year 3 have been looking at the Fibonacci sequence and produced some excellent oil pastel studies of natural forms.



## Scary Story Competition Winners :

### Ks1

1st place Eddie (Seacole class)  
Bibi (Seacole)  
Lola (Mozart)

### KS2

1st place Ada (Gandhi class)  
2nd Clara (Fibonacci)  
3rd Mimiko (Malala)

Special certificate to Dash in Malala for sustained writing and great effort.

Special certificate to Maria and Polly from Thompson for great collaborative writing.

## Lost Property Box

The new lost property box is now located outside the school office.



# London Youth Choir

London Youth Choirs are inviting **children in years 3-6** at Chestnuts Primary School to come to LYC's FUN, FRIENDLY and FREE auditions on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024** at Bernie Grant Arts Centre, Town Hall Approach Rd, Tottenham Green, London N15 4RX.

**Sign up for free auditions here:** [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdp9e\\_kchrB6AgavGsLvAyMcJWtFdBVU4ey8y5LvX59ufXYPg/viewform?usp=send\\_form](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdp9e_kchrB6AgavGsLvAyMcJWtFdBVU4ey8y5LvX59ufXYPg/viewform?usp=send_form)



**HELLO LONDON YOU'RE INVITED!**

LONDON YOUTH CHOIRS

Find out all about **LONDON YOUTH CHOIRS**

**THIS WAY!**

If you love singing, or want to give it a go, then we think you'll love London Youth Choirs!

-  **You get to be in amazing concerts** in venues across London, and on radio, TV and online.
-  **You get brilliant musical training** to take your voice and your skills to the next level.
-  **You get to make new friends** who all love singing just like you.
-  **You get the support you need** with pastoral care, financial support, and friendly staff.
-  **You get to be part of something bigger** as a member of the LYC family of over 450 young Londoners.

**See for yourself!**

Take a video tour of LYC from a member's point of view. Scan the QR code to watch, or search online for: **LYC day in the life**



**WHAT NOW?** Please show this booklet to your parent, carer or guardian, and tell them to read the back page too!



**These are our choirs for your age group**

 <p><b>LYC Junior Boys</b> Based in central London. Meet 4.45-5.55pm every <b>Monday</b> in term-time.</p>	 <p><b>LYC Junior Girls</b> Based in central London. Meet 4.45-5.55pm every <b>Monday</b> in term-time.</p>
 <p><b>LYC West</b> Based in Ealing. Meet 4.30-5.30pm every <b>Thursday</b> in term-time.</p>	 <p><b>NEW!</b> <b>LYC North East</b> Based in Tottenham. Meet 4.30-5.30pm every <b>Thursday</b> in term-time.</p>
 <p><b>LYC South West</b> Based in Streatham. Meet 4.30-5.30pm every <b>Wednesday</b> in term-time.</p>	 <p><b>LYC South East</b> Based in Berrymansley. Meet 4.30-5.30pm every <b>Thursday</b> in term-time.</p>
 <p><b>LYC Cambiata Boys</b> For boys in years 7-11.</p>	 <p><b>LYC Cambiata Girls</b> For girls in years 7-11.</p>

## After School Club & Breakfast Club Reminder

**Reminders:** Breakfast Club closes its doors at 8.30am.

After School Club finishes at 5.45pm .

After School Club Charges: **any late pick ups will be charged an additional £10 for collections after 5.45pm.**

Last minute booking or booking made on the same day as ASC is required will cost £16 (instead of £13).