



Chestnuts Primary School

NEWSLETTER



Friday 19th January 2024

Dear families,

Welcome back to the Spring term. The first 2 weeks have been wonderful, children have returned calm and ready for learning.

It was such a fantastic experience at the beginning of the week to take our Year 5 children to the O2 to sing at Young Voices. I was so impressed with the quality of their singing and their attitudes. It was a pleasure to be a part of and I look forward to going again next year!

With the cold weather we've had, please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Horwood



Be Safe
Be Engaged
Be Respectful
Be Ready

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 23rd January—EYFS Workshop—5pm –6pm

Friday 2nd February—Ahlberg Class Assembly 9am - 10am

Thursday 8th February -Children's Yoga 3.30pm —4.30pm

Friday 9th February—Reception Trip to London Transport Museum
9am—1pm

Monday 26th February —EYFS Communication & Language
Workshop 9am

Nursery

Our focus book this week has been 'The Three Little Pigs'. The children have been making their own brick houses using empty boxes and brown tissue paper.



What we have done this week

Ahlberg

On Monday Reception found a bus in the story door. Then on Tuesday we came



into school to an ENORMOUS mess in both classrooms! There were tyre marks over the classes and baked

beans thrown over the tables! We shared our ideas about who might have made the mess. On Wednesday we came into

an even bigger mess in Ahlberg Class and the book Naughty Bus appeared behind the story door.



We read the story and spoke about our favourite parts. Children also took the Naughty Bus on adventures around the setting including the mid kitchen, grass hill and home corner.

Donaldson

This week we have enjoyed taking Naughty Bus on some new adventures. On Wednesday Naughty Bus went



on a journey around the classroom, outside and around the rest of the school. We then drew a map showing key features

of the journey. On Thursday we imagined what Naughty Bus might see if he went through the school gates and went on a journey through Haringey. We thought of all the places we liked to visit and enjoyed looking at them on Google Earth. We then drew a class map of the journey. Other ideas for future adventures involve the beach and the jungle!

Mozart

This week in Mozart Class we have been looking at the story 'Not Now, Bernard' we have been exploring the emotions that the characters may be feeling and have been starting to write a letter from the mother's point of view. We have been exploring the layout of formal and informal letters and making comparison and exploring what we are going to include in our upcoming hotwrite.



Hadid

Hadid Class LOVED learning all about Shakespeare last week. The children engaged in a workshop and impressed the visitor with how much knowledge they had about A Midsummer Night's Dream. Here are some pictures of the children retelling the play in freeze frames. We all had lots of fun :)



Seacole

Rashford

Rashford and Benjamin Classes loved Shakespeare week! They loved learning about the different characters and being able to act out different parts of the story. We looked at the different themes within 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' and the children designed their own magical flower, similar to the one used within the story. They have also sequenced the story and created storyboards of the play.

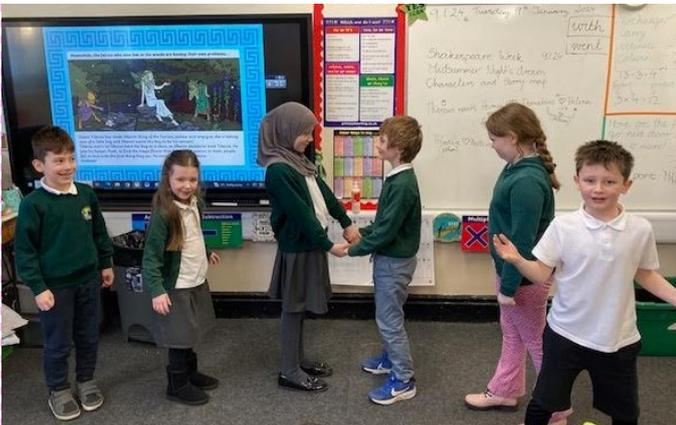


Attenboough

Benjamin

Attenborough class have really enjoyed our Shakespeare themed week as they got to explore one of his most fascinating plays, The Midsummer Night's dream. After retelling the story the children developed the characters and the plot through drama activities and created very impressive and humorous scenes.

As you know Benjamin went to see the Lion King last week at the Lyceum Theatre in the heart of Covent Garden. It was an amazing occasion, wild costumes, incredible music and awe inspiring singing. You would think that nothing could top the imaginations of the designers and performers in front of us - but I have to be honest, the unadulterated joy on the faces of the children was the greatest part of the room!



Fibonacci

At Chestnuts last week, it was Shakespeare week and Fibonacci class loved looking into who Shakespeare is, acting out and learning about The Tempest and having a Shakespeare workshop with an actor who has worked for the Royal Shakespeare Company who taught the class about the play Macbeth.



Gandhi

Last week in Gandhi Class, it was Shakespeare week. In groups we acted out the Tempest and made freeze frames to show the different parts. We had so much fun and put lots of effort into recreating the poem



Pankhurst

Year 5 had the most amazing opportunity this week to perform in the biggest children's choir in the world. Over 8,000 children performed in the O2 arena on Monday night, alongside Natalie Williams, MC Grammar and 13 year old drummer Nandi Bushell!! We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and we know our Chestnuts parents in the audience did too! Can you spot us through the binoculars?!



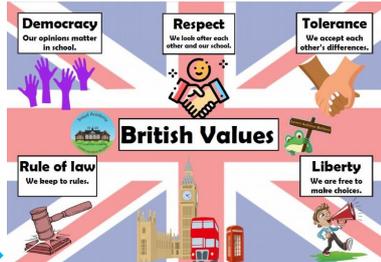
Thompson

Mandela

Malala

To start this term, Year 6 discussed British Values, and what makes our British Heritage and Identity so incredible. Naturally, William Shakespeare was a focus, and to conclude Shakespeare Week, Year 6 have been given carte blanche to celebrate his rich play Hamlet and showcase what we have learnt this week, through writing outcomes of our own choosing.

We have discussed the numerous themes present in the eponymous play (such as madness and histrionics, theatricality and performance, as well as murder and revenge). We've looked at poison as a motif, and how the power of words - lies and deceit - can have particularly devastating effects. We've watched the tragic events unfold before our eyes - yet could do nothing - such dramatic irony! If only they'd have done things differently?



Art Classes



Just before the Winter break Chestnuts children enjoyed some whole school creative time looking at the work of Frank Bowling, Angela Harding, Gees Bend, Derrick Adam's, Rosanna Jones, Georgia O'Keefe, and Lucy Mingo. They then produced pieces based on the artists methods . The children used a wide variety of materials and techniques.



What's happening in English at Chestnuts?

At Chestnuts, the children's English work is based around a core texts and additional texts that link to the core text. This terms core Texts are:

Year group	Texts
Reception	Naughty Bus, The Hundred Decker Bus The Little Red Hen (Talk4Writing)
Year 1	The Great Fire of London: Anniversary Edition of the Great Fire of 1666 by Emma Adams Amazing! By Steve Antony TE
Year 2	The Tear Thief By Carol Ann Duffy African & Caribbean Folktales, Myths & Legends By Wendy Shearer
Year3	The Akimbo Adventures Alexander McCall Smith Greek Beasts and Heroes Lucy Coates
Year 4	Spring one the children are taking part in Imagine a Story at the Southbank Centre- collaborative writing The boy at the back of the Class by Onjali Q. Raúf
Year 5	There's a boy in the girls' bathroom by Louis Sachar Macbeth (Shakespeare) By Jon Mayhew
Year 6	No Ballet shoes in Syria By Katherine Bruton The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind By William Kamkwamba

Letter Join

We have introduced Letter Join as a scheme to follow to improve our children's handwriting. If you feel like your child needs extra support at home please ask your child's teacher about additional letter join resources to use at home.

Spellings

We have decided to utilise our professional resources and draw focus to teaching spelling patterns outlined in the national curriculum and give teachers more ownership on how this is done.

Your child will no longer have access to the Spelling shed and instead will receive a number of spellings from the teacher in which to practice and learn about the spelling the spelling pattern in school. They are also expected to use these spellings for handwriting practice.

In KS1 the children will receive 10 spellings to practice and be tested on 12 with two unknown that use the spelling pattern taught .

Lower KS2 will be given 10 spellings to practice and tested on 15 (5 unknown)

Read Theory :

This half term we have launched a comprehension reading programme across the school. Read Theory allows children to read and be questioned on texts that are suitable to their reading ability. The questions and texts are set to their ability so please don't be tempted to help your children or the extracts and question styles will become very difficult.

The programme does use American terminology but overall promotes high expectations of vocabulary and encourages the children to think carefully about what they have read.

The expectation is that the children read 30 minutes per evening- this can be on read theory or a physical bok recorded in their reading diary.

