



Welcome back to the new school year, we hope you have had a restful and enjoyable summer holiday.

Autumn Term 2026 in Chestnut Class from Mrs Diwan.

I hope you have had a great summer holiday and that the children are refreshed and ready for their new school year.

Mrs Diwan will be teaching Chestnut Class Monday-Friday and Mrs Duff will teach the class on Monday afternoons. Mrs Taylor will support the class on some mornings and afternoons during the week.

Chestnut Class will be in the forest every Wednesday afternoon of this term. They will have PE on Friday afternoons.

I look forward to working with the children and yourselves this term.

Thank you for your continued support.

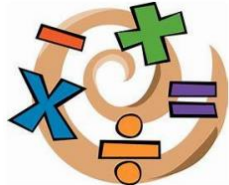
Take a look at the 'Latest News' tab on the school website and the school's Facebook page to see regular updates of what Chestnut Class have been learning this term.

Reading remains a high priority, both in school and at home. Our class reader this term is 'Arthur- High King of Britain' by Michael Morpurgo. I look forward to sharing this books with the class. As well as our class book, the children will experience quality books from our reading spine (which can be found on our school website). Children will continue to bring home a book from our reading scheme or a free reader book, plus a choice of their own book from the library.

Children should read at home a minimum of 3 times a week. Answering questions and talking about the book is as important as reading the words. Please make sure reading at home is recorded in their reading records as this counts towards our whole school 'Reading Challenge'. We encourage wider reading too, e.g. comics, newspapers, non-fiction, recipes and books from home. We want to foster a love of reading!

After extensive research, we are taking a different approach to spelling this year. The children will be using the morphology of words to learn how to spell them. They will be breaking words down into meaningful parts like base words, prefixes, and suffixes, alongside word origins and clear suffix rules. There will be no weekly spelling tests linked to this approach, all spellings will be learnt and practised in school.

Maths homework is given out on a Monday and is due back in on the following Monday. Please practise times tables at home each week too. Some good websites to use are www.timestables.co.uk and www.topmarks.co.uk. Hit the Button is a particularly good game on the first website. This term's KIRFs are available on the school website alongside the knowledge organisers for this term's topics

English	Maths
Reading is taught with the 3 big ideas of fluency, comprehension and pleasure. Our guided reading focus for the first half term will be 'The Unforgotten Coat' by Frank Cottrell Boyce. During the second half term our focus will be 'The Song from Somewhere Else.' By A. F. Harrold. Writing is taught with the three big ideas of composition, communication and ambition. English, including guided reading, writing, spelling and punctuation and grammar, is taught through a range of different genres and texts throughout the year. We use a five-step approach of: plan it, draft it, revise it, edit it and publish it. This allows the children to see that writing is a process and we can support them through each stage to reflect the features expected in the different genres of writing. We will begin this term with a focus on grammar and punctuation. This will be an important base for all of our writing over the course of the year. Later in the term we will be writing a range of different genres, linking to our topics in other subjects where possible. Alongside this, we will continue to work on our reading skills, spelling pattern knowledge and our presentation/ handwriting.	Maths is taught within the three big ideas of fluency, problem solving and reasoning. In Years 5 and 6 this term our areas of study will be: Place value Addition and subtraction Multiplication and division Fractions Alongside this, we will be learning and practising our times tables and key instant recall facts (KIRFs). 
Science	History/Geography
Science is taught within the three big ideas of curiosity, investigation and explanation. Autumn 1: Life Cycles Children will learn about and compare the key stages of the life cycle of reptiles, birds, mammals and amphibians. They will investigate and identify key phenomena in the life process of plants and compare the life cycle of different plants. They will also be given the opportunity to ask questions and research their answers. Autumn 2: Evolution and inheritance. Children will explore the work of Charles Darwin and his theories of evolution. They will identify the key principles of both natural selection and human evolution. They will investigate how offspring can vary and discover what we can learn from fossils. They will apply Charles Darwin's theories when investigating plant and animal adaptation.	History is taught within the three big ideas of chronology, equality and change. Autumn 1: The Anglo-Saxons Was the Anglo-Saxon period really a Dark Age? Geography is taught within the three big ideas of location, diversity and environment. Autumn 2: South America- The Amazon How is life lived in the Amazon?

Art/DT	Computing
Art is taught through the three big ideas of inspiration, experimentation and Expression. Autumn 1: Art – Drawing The children will develop their drawing skills using sketching pencils and oil pastel. They will delve deeper into cubism with a focus on Francis Bacon's portraits. Autumn 2: DT- Electrical systems The children will explore a range of light up signs. They will design and make their own light up box evaluating its effectiveness and reflecting upon how they could improve their design.	Computing is taught through the three big ideas of coding, communication and e-safety. Autumn 1: Systems and Searching The children will develop their understanding of computer systems and how information is transferred between systems and devices Autumn 2: Video production The children will learn how to create short videos in groups. As they progress through this unit, they will be exposed to topic-based language and develop the skills of capturing, editing, and manipulating video
Music	R.E.
Music is taught within the three big ideas of appraisal, practice and performance. Autumn 1: Focus song 'Hey Mr Miller' The children will explore and appraise a range of swing jazz music. They will learn to sing their focus song and explore its off beat syncopated rhythm. Autumn 2: The children will learn how to play an ocarina. They will learn how to play the different notes on the ocarina as well as reading basic musical notation.	R.E. is taught within the three big ideas of faith, understanding and acceptance. Big question - <i>Where do people look for answers to life and living?</i> Autumn 1: Christianity – gospel The children will explore the question, <i>Why is the gospel such good news for Christians?</i> Autumn 2: Hinduism – Moksha The children will explore the question, <i>What spiritual pathways to Moksha are written about in Hindu scriptures?</i>

French	P.S.H.E
French is taught within the three big ideas of culture, understanding and fluency. In French this term, we will be learning about 'Un monstre aimable.' The children will learn to read, write and say sentences that describe different parts of the body. They will learn how to tell the difference between feminine and masculine articles and be given the opportunity to experience the French language in an authentic source.	PSHE is taught within the three big ideas of responsibility, choice and identity. Being me in my world: Children will learn how to face challenges positively, to set personal goals, understand their rights and responsibilities as a citizen of England, make choices about their behaviour, describe how consequences and praise feel, explain how an individual's behaviour can impact a group and understand how democracy and having a voice benefits the school community
P.E	

P.E. is taught within the three big ideas of activity, collaboration and challenge.

Autumn 1: Team building

The children will develop their communication skills by working on various team building activities which will challenge them to work together and develop a sense of healthy competition.

Autumn 2: Tag rugby

The children will develop an understanding of the rules and skills involved with tag rugby. They will gradually work towards playing competitive games where they can use their skills within a competitive context.

A few reminders...

Water Bottles and Snacks

We encourage children to have a plastic water bottle on their tables (with a non-spill lid). Bottles will be taken home at the end of each day to be washed and refilled. Squash and juice are only allowed at lunchtimes.

Fruit is not provided for children in Key Stage Two, your child can bring in a piece of fruit or vegetable from home for a snack to be eaten at morning break.

We are here to help!

If you have any concerns, worries or questions please do not hesitate to contact us as soon as these arise.

The best way to do this is to speak to the teacher in person at the end of the school day. If this is not possible, or you need to make contact at any other time, please call/email the main office or the teacher directly and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.