



Chestnut Newsletter

Welcome back! We hope you have all had an amazing summer break and are feeling well rested and ready to start the new school year. We are so excited to begin our year in Chestnut and to work with your lovely children.

In this newsletter, you will find information about what we will be covering during the Autumn Term, along with some useful information for the school year ahead.

Our Topics This Term

Our topics for this term are '**Through the Ages**' and '**One Planet, Our World**'.

We will begin the year by ensuring that all children have a positive and exciting start to life in **Chestnut Class**. During the first few weeks, we will spend time getting to know the children, celebrating their individual strengths and interests and identifying any areas where they may need additional support or challenge. Children will become familiar with their new routines and expectations, while developing their confidence, independence and enthusiasm for the year ahead.

Our '**Through the Ages**' topic will take us on an exciting journey through British prehistory, exploring the **Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age**. Children will discover how people lived, including their homes, food, clothing, tools and settlements, and consider how life changed over these periods. We will develop our understanding of chronology by placing important periods and events on timelines and explore a range of historical sources and artefacts to find clues about the past. Children will also have opportunities to compare life in prehistoric Britain with life today.

In '**One Planet, Our World**', children will develop their geographical knowledge of the **United Kingdom and the wider world**. They will use maps, atlases and globes to locate countries, cities and significant places, while developing their understanding of compass directions and grid references. As the topic progresses, children will explore the Equator and hemispheres, climate zones and the structure of the Earth, including an introduction to tectonic plates. We will also develop important fieldwork and observational skills, helping children to become confident young geographers.

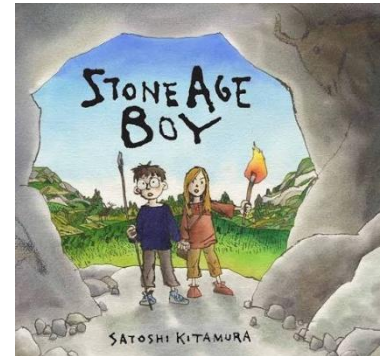
Across both topics, our Year 2 and Year 3 children will be encouraged to ask questions, investigate, discuss their ideas and use increasingly ambitious historical and geographical vocabulary. Activities will be adapted appropriately for each year group, allowing all children to build on their previous learning while developing greater independence and confidence.

Phonics and Spellings

The Year 2 & 3 children will continue to work through our Grammarsaurus spelling scheme, focusing on the morphology and etymology of base words. From this learning, children will explore how prefixes and suffixes affect meaning and spelling, supporting their overall reading and writing development.

English

This term, our reading will link closely to our wider learning about the Stone Age and prehistory. We will enjoy a range of engaging texts, including *Stig of the Dump*, *Stone Age Boy* and *Cave Baby*. Children will develop their fluency and comprehension by discussing new vocabulary, retrieving information, making predictions and using clues from the text to make simple inferences. We will encourage children to talk confidently about what they have read and explain their ideas using evidence from the text.



Throughout the Autumn term, children will explore a range of writing genres, including narratives, instructions, chronological reports and diary entries. They will use our class texts and wider curriculum as inspiration for their writing, developing their ability to plan, write, edit and improve their work. Year 2 children will focus on securing accurate sentence punctuation, conjunctions and expanded noun phrases, while Year 3 children will build upon these skills by developing richer vocabulary, organising their writing into paragraphs and using a wider range of sentence structures. Across both year groups, we will continue to develop spelling, handwriting, grammar and punctuation, encouraging children to become increasingly confident and independent writers.

Maths

In Maths, Year 2 children will begin the Autumn term by developing their understanding of place value within 100. They will practise reading, writing, representing, comparing and ordering two-digit numbers, as well as counting forwards and backwards in steps of 2, 5 and 10. We will then move on to addition and subtraction, where children will use practical resources, number lines and pictorial representations to develop secure calculation strategies. Later in the term, children will explore the properties of 2D and 3D shapes and continue to build their fluency with number facts. Throughout our Maths learning, children will have regular opportunities to solve problems, explain their methods and use mathematical vocabulary confidently.

In Maths, Year 3 children will begin the Autumn term by developing their understanding of place value within 1,000. They will learn to read, write, represent, compare and order three-digit numbers and explore the value of hundreds, tens and ones. We will then focus on addition and subtraction, progressing towards formal written methods and developing confidence when exchanging across place-value columns. Later in the term, children will begin developing their multiplication and division skills, with a particular focus on the 3, 4 and 8 times tables and using related facts to solve problems. Throughout the term, children will be encouraged to develop their fluency, reasoning and problem-solving skills and to explain their mathematical thinking using accurate mathematical vocabulary.

Science

Our Science topic this term is **Animals, Including Humans**. Children will learn about the basic needs of animals and humans for survival, including food, water and air, and explore the importance of exercise, healthy eating and hygiene. We will also look at how animals, including humans, grow and change, before developing our understanding of nutrition, skeletons and muscles.

Children will identify some of the major bones in the human body and learn how our skeleton and muscles help us with support, protection and movement. Throughout the topic, children will take part in practical activities and investigations to develop their scientific enquiry skills, including observing, comparing, asking questions and recording their findings.



Homework

Your child will receive a **weekly spelling list** to learn and practise at home. These words will include a mixture of common exception words and words linked to the spelling rules and patterns being taught in class. Children will have opportunities to practise and explore these spellings throughout the week, before completing a **spelling test every Friday**. These tests are carried out in a relaxed and supportive way, with the focus on encouraging children to recognise spelling patterns, build confidence and apply their learning independently within their writing.

Reading and Reading Records

Your child has been issued with a Reading Record, which will be used to log their reading progress throughout the year. They are expected to bring their reading book home each day. Books will be changed when children are ready to move on. Please note that books are not always changed immediately after they have been read, as we encourage children to develop both fluency and comprehension before progressing to a new text.

Please leave a comment in your child's Reading Record whenever you have listened to them read at home.

Year 2 Assessments

Year 2 children will take part in the Key Stage 1 assessments in May. We aim to ensure that children feel confident and well prepared. The assessments are completed in a calm and supportive environment, and children are generally unaware that they are completing an assessment. Further information will be shared nearer the time.

PE and Forest School

This half term, PE will take place on **Thursday afternoons** with DF Coaching. Children should come to school wearing their PE kit on Thursdays.

After the October half term (Autumn 2), PE will move to **Wednesday afternoons**.

Forest School will take place on **Tuesday afternoons** after the October half-term. Children should come dressed in suitable outdoor clothing that can get muddy and is appropriate for the weather conditions. Please ensure your child brings a pair of wellies, as our supply in school is limited. This will help keep children comfortable and dry and avoid them having to spend the rest of the day in wet or muddy shoes.

We are incredibly excited for the year ahead in Chestnut Class and cannot wait to share all the fantastic learning, experiences and achievements to come! We are looking forward to seeing the children grow in confidence, challenge themselves and, most importantly, enjoy their learning. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch - we are always happy to help.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Woollett & Mrs Wallace

