



Chestnut Class Newsletter **Autumn 1 2026**

Welcome to Chestnut Class.

We are excited to welcome you back and looking forward to a term packed full of exciting learning opportunities. Through our inquiry-based learning, we will be exploring how animals and humans live alongside each other. Chestnut Class is taught by Mrs. Preece and Mrs. Hector, with the support of Mr. Newland. We are also delighted to welcome our student teacher, Miss Trafford, who will be joining us in September as she begins her teacher training journey. Mrs. Preece works Monday-Wednesday, and Mrs. Hector Wednesday-Friday.

We are looking forward to a fantastic first term in Year 2 and working closely with you and your children. Please do come and speak to us if you have any questions or would like to discuss your child's learning or wellbeing.

Many thanks

Mrs Hector, Mrs. Preece and the Chestnut Class Team

Inquiry Question - How do animals and humans live alongside each other?

Inquiry 1 - How do living things survive?

Inquiry 2 - How can we look after living things?

Learning Skills

Through our inquiry approach to our curriculum, we teach the children learning skills which underpin their learning both in and outside the classroom. The skills children will be introduced to are:

Thinking, research, communication, social and self-management skills.

Writing

We will be focusing on sentence structure and grammar using strong foundation skills.

Narrative - Gorilla by Anthony Browne

Diary - Lots - The Diversity of Life on Earth

Maths

Arithmetic fluency

Time - Time Tellers of the day

Place Value 0-100

Calculations within 20

Addition and Subtraction of 2-digit numbers (Part 1)

Statistics (through Science)

Position and Direction (through Geography)

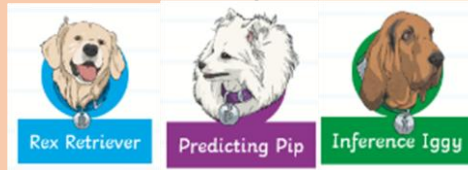
Spellings

Children will have a weekly spelling quiz on **Thursday afternoons**. New spellings will be shared every **Friday morning** in their green spelling books and on ClassDojo. We will also enjoy a daily spelling practise and reinforce new words in class.

We encourage children to practise their spellings regularly at home using their **green spelling practice book**, which should be brought into school **every Friday**. There is plenty of space to practise, and children can have fun trying out the different spelling strategies, which are detailed on the bottom of the spelling list each week.

Reading

The Great Kapok Tree by Lynne Cherry
The Barnabus Project - The Fan Brothers
An Anthology of Intriguing Animals by Ben Hoare
Reading Skills - Twinkl Totally Pawsome Reading Gang



Comprehension - Inquiry based investigation and responses around our inquiry questions
How do animals and humans live alongside each other?

Humanities

Geography: Local map work including creating a map with a key.

RE: My worldview. Festivals - how do they celebrate the natural world?

Science

Plants and Living things and their Habitats

We will also be planting bulbs and observing and recording minibeasts in their habitats.

Art

Skills - Tone and shading.
Observational drawing - self-portraits and drawing bodies.

Artist focus - Henri Rousseau.

PE

Sports Masters
Tag Rugby

Class PE
Team Work Fundamental skills Y2

PE Days will be **Monday** with Sports Masters and **Thursday** with Class Teachers. Please ensure your child wears PE kit on these days. Please ensure all items of clothing are clearly labelled with your child's name.

PSHE

Axbridge Emotions Toolkit
Being Me in My World - JIGSAW unit of work.

Music

Understand what timbre means and identify percussion instruments by their sound. Improvise using question and answer phrases on untuned instruments.

Computing

Computing systems and networks - IT around us
Scratch Jr - Data Handling and Statistics

Further information about reading



Book change

You are already aware that, daily reading is a really important part of your child's education and something we encourage across the school. In Year 2, your child will be given a reading book that is aligned with their reading confidence. When your child has finished reading their books they will need to put it in our reading book box in school, so that it can be changed. Once your child reaches level 6 and above, books will be changed when they have been read once, as the books become longer. As such, children do not need to read a whole book at once, please continue to record how many pages have been read and ensure the reading record is signed by an adult. Furthermore, please discuss their reading with them and ask them questions about what they have read. This helps show their understanding and is a great skill to develop as they move through school. All children should bring their reading book to school **daily** as they are regularly checked and often have the opportunity to read in school.



Reading awards

The Reading awards continue to be used to reward the children for their great effort when reading. Children start from Bronze in September and work towards the awards through the school year. **Please continue to sign your child's book** and send them into school on a daily basis to allow them to be checked.

Bronze - 50 reads

Silver - 100 reads

Gold - 150 reads

Platinum - 200 reads



Reading for pleasure

We love reading in Chestnut Class and have lots of great books for children to read during the week in our class library. We enjoy share a book together during snack time which includes some exciting new read alouds linked to our inquiry. We always love to hear your recommendations, so please encourage children to let us know any books they would like to see added to our class library. We are also looking forward to using our new learning hub during snack time weekly.

Reading Comprehension

To support our reading comprehension, we use the Totally Pawsome Gang from Twinkl Reading Detectives. Each character has a role in helping children understand and interpret what they read.

As you can see reading continues to be an important part of everything we do so it is essential that your child continues to read and expand their sight vocabulary and understanding of words. For confident readers, regular reading at home and discussions around the text is really important and helps develop greater understanding of the book.

Life in Chestnut Class

Moving into Year 2 can be a big step. We look forward to supporting your child to become more independent in their learning and organisation and begin to take more responsibility within the classroom. Below is some information you might find useful to help ease the transition.



Fruit for Snack Time: Fruit is available at snack time. If your child prefers to bring in fruit from home, please can you ensure this is in **a labelled container** so we can easily identify it. If you would like to order milk for your child, please contact the school office for an order form.



Water bottles: It is really important that children stay hydrated as it helps with their concentration. Please make sure your child has a water bottle with them each day. These can be accessed regularly during the school day.



Happy Helpers: Each day we will choose two children to 'help' us with important tasks in the classroom. This helps to create a classroom environment whereby children take responsibility and ownership of their classroom environment and help it to run smoothly.

Table Captains: Each week we select different table captains who help to support the giving out of classroom resources and ensure their table spaces are neat and tidy.

Homework and Learning Conversations

To support your child's learning we would like you to try a few activities at home with your child. Please don't panic, they are things you have done before and they are fun!!!



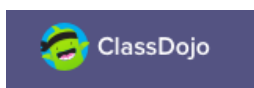
Reading: We would like your child to read **daily** to maintain their fluency and continue to develop their vocabulary.



Spellings: Please can you ensure reading books and green spelling books are kept in your child's reading folder as this helps us to access it quickly throughout the week. When practising their weekly spellings using their green spelling books, record each spelling 3 times. If you would like further activities, these are given on your child's spelling sheet. These activities can be done on a separate piece of paper and can help your child to recall these spelling and common exception words.



Weekly learning conversations: The Learning Conversation will be posted via Class Dojo on a Friday and sent home in their Learning Conversation Book. All tasks can be completed in this book.



We will use Class Dojo to share Chestnut Class information, letters, learning conversations and messages. You can also send messages to us. We do our best to check these daily but please be patient if we do not respond immediately. Any urgent messages should be phoned through to the school office. Please do not use ClassDojo to alert the school of an absence, but contact the office who will pass on any messages.



Speaker of the Week: Each week, children will have the opportunity to bring in an item to show to the class, speak about it and answer questions. This will help develop their confidence in speaking and listening and will allow them to share something about themselves with their peers. Two children will be chosen each week and your child's name will be displayed in the window, so please look out for this each week.



Library time: On a Friday, children will have the opportunity to 'check out' a book from our class library. They will have their own library card to record each book and select from a range of genres. Children are also responsible for bringing these books back each Friday, whereby they can change it for a new library book.