

Chesnut Lodge

Centre

Of

Excellence!

Chesnut Lodge School has always taken pride in how inclusive it is, not only as a school but as an organisation.

With this in mind it seemed obvious that school should pursue the Inclusion Quality Mark when the opportunity arose.

The Inclusion Quality Mark (IQM) exists to help schools create learning environments where every pupil feels valued, supported and able to thrive and recognises them for their work in creating such environments.

By achieving the IQM Award, schools demonstrate their commitment to embedding inclusive practice at the heart of everything they do. From curriculum planning and behaviour management to staff development and community engagement.

For school leaders, the Inclusion Quality Mark offers both recognition and a practical framework for addressing the challenges of diverse learning needs, growing accountability, and the pressure to provide consistent, high-quality provision.

News

Gaining this sort of recognition is never easy and requires teamwork and cooperation from all of the school partners and stakeholders, with input from Health, Therapies, Local Sports Providers, the wider community, Parents (THANK YOU) and most of all school staff.

While filling in the application form was exhaustive (79 pages) it was a reflection of the excellent work that goes on in school every day so it came as no surprise that the Assessor recommended Chesnut Lodge be recognised as a Centre of Excellence.



Paws, Claws, and Tales from the Zoo!

This half term, Peacock was transformed into a bustling animal kingdom as class dived whiskers-first into the wonderful world of pets. Taking centre stage was the book *Dear Zoo* which served as our guide for exploring which creatures make the best companions. Our young explorers—the "Pulps"—had a fantastic time categorising animals and discovering what it really takes to look after a furry (or scaly) friend. From checking out the essential resources needed for pet care to discussing the daily needs of our favourite animals, it's been a busy few weeks of learning.

After much debate, the results are in! While the zoo sent some impressive candidates, the class decided that an elephant would simply take up too much room in the lounge, and a lion was just a bit too scary for comfort. In the end, the hearts of our students were won over by the classic charm of a puppy or a kitten.

It turns out, you just can't beat a pet that actually fits through the front door!



It's Magic in Peacock

Peacock class had a magical time! The theme was "Magic" and class looked at lots and lots of "Magic spells". In science we explored materials and tested some things to see what would make a good magic wand. We became witches and explored all the weird and wonderful stuff a witch may have in her kitchen such as frog spawn stew and bottle of goblins wee!!

We also had a scientist visit and she shown us lots of cool experiment using dry ice, this looked like a mysterious spell also!

On our final week we celebrated "Easter" with lots of stories, crafts and chocolate cooking!



BRILLIANT BENDRIGG

This March, 13 of our intrepid KS4 pupils headed north to Bendrigg, Kendal for an unforgettable two-night residential. For half the group, it was a chance to build on last year's memories; for the other half, it was a brand-new chapter—and for some, their very first night away from home!

The energy was electric as the students tackled a packed schedule of rock climbing, zip-wiring, canoeing, and the high-speed thrills of tube sliding. While the activities provided a healthy challenge, our pupils rose to the occasion with grit and determination. They were guided by a fantastic team of instructors, including our activity leader, Carl, whose patience and expertise kept everyone motivated.

It wasn't all high-octane action, though! Between adventures, everyone tucked into some seriously tasty food. We were particularly proud of the pupils who stepped up to show their responsible side, helping to serve dinners and tackle the washing up with a smile.

By the time the bus headed home, the staff and students were exhausted, but the sense of achievement was clear. This life-changing trip was made possible thanks to the generous support of 'Activities Away', who partnered with Bendrigg to subsidise the costs.



Reeve April Newsletter



REEVE

Animal Therapy Workshop

As part of Children's Mental Health Week, Reeve Class took part in a very special animal therapy session. The afternoon gave pupils the chance to unwind, build confidence, and connect with a variety of animals in a calm and nurturing environment. Everyone had the opportunity to gently stroke and interact with several chickens, a snake, a skunk and some very friendly rabbits to name a few animals. The experience encouraged pupils to be relaxed, and curious — and there were lots of smiles and moments of calm throughout the session.



Science Week – A Spectacular Workshop

Science Week was a huge hit this term! We welcomed a visiting science specialist who led us through a wide range of exciting, hands-on experiments that filled the classroom with wonder. Pupils listened eagerly as mixtures fizzed, popped, and made unexpected noises. One of the standout moments was seeing the famous "elephant toothpaste" experiment erupt into a colourful, bubbly explosion. The workshop was a fantastic way to bring learning to life and inspire curiosity about how the world works.



Food for Thought Workshop

We rounded off our term with another fantastic visit from *Food for Thought*, a company that regularly runs engaging workshops in school. Pupils rolled up their sleeves to prepare tasty food from scratch, learning about ingredients, cooking skills, and healthy choices. They also planted seeds to grow in class, giving everyone the chance to watch their plants develop over time. It was a perfect blend of creativity, teamwork, and hands-on learning

Cookie the Dog Comes to Visit

During our David Attenborough Week, Reeve Class focused on nature, wildlife, and caring for the environment. As part of the week, we tidied our outdoor area and created homemade bird feeders to attract local birds. To top off the week, we had a wonderful visit from Cookie the dog, who quickly became everyone's favourite furry guest. Cookie brought a joyful energy to the class and helped reinforce our themes of kindness, responsibility, and connecting with the natural world.



Green Bank Sports Day

Carter and Jax represented Reeve Class superbly at the New Age Curling competition during Green Bank Sports Day. They demonstrated great focus, teamwork, and sportsmanship throughout the event. We are very proud of their efforts and the way they showcased Reeve's positive spirit.



World Book Day Celebrations

World Book Day gave pupils the opportunity to explore books in a fun and creative way. Reeve Class visited a variety of secondary classes throughout the day, joining in with book-themed activities, and crafts. Pupils were introduced to different authors, genres, and storytelling styles and sensory stories. Of course, Mr Freeman's session had a musical twist!



Bendrigg Residential Adventure

Rebecca, Alfie, and Luca, our enthusiastic Year 10 and Year 11 pupils, set off for an exciting residential at Bendrigg Trust. Their trip was packed full of adventure as they took part in canoeing on the lake, explored caves, and challenged themselves with abseiling. They also enjoyed evenings together, making memories, and bonding with their groups. It was a wonderful opportunity for them to grow in independence, resilience, and teamwork. They all returned full of stories and very tired.



Work Experience Day

Our Work Experience Day offered pupils a brilliant taste of the working world. After choosing different roles that interested them, pupils spent the day taking part in hands-on, real-life tasks. Some helped in a café, learning about customer service and food preparation. Others tried their hand at chocolate making, gardening, and office work. This practical experience helped pupils explore jobs and gain confidence, and learn valuable skills they can build on in the future.



Litter Picking with Halton Borough Council

Reeve Class took part in a community litter-picking session organised by Halton Borough Council in school. Armed with grabbers and bin bags, pupils spent time walking around the school grounds, collecting litter and helping improve the environment. Their hard work made a noticeable difference and helped teach the importance of community pride, responsibility, and caring for the spaces we share.



INDUSTRIOUS INVENTORS

The pupils in Fox class took a step back in time to explore the fascinating era of the Industrial Revolution. Their journey into the past revealed how monumental inventions—from high-speed cotton-spinning machines to the steam trains that criss-crossed the countryside—transformed the world forever. The class discovered that many of these Victorian breakthroughs continue to shape the way we live today.

Inspired by these historical pioneers, the students turned their attention to Design Technology, where they set out to "invent" their very own functional desk tidies. The creative process began with detailed research into existing pencil pots, followed by the pupils drafting their own unique blueprints.



Quarry Bank Mill

As part of learning about the industrial revolution, Fox class took a trip to Quarry Bank Mill. There they experienced the various machines, with all the sights smells and sounds. They enjoyed various demonstrations of different machinery that was developed over the time, and started to get a sense of impact that these machines would have had on production in the period.



Kahlo

Spring newsletter

Another amazing busy term for Kahlo class!

Spring 1 was all about castles. We looked at what castles are made of, the parts of castles and what they were used for. In Art we creating structures including castles out of recycled materials.



In English we looked at adventure stories. We enjoyed reading and analyzing existing stories. We then wrote and edited our own!

We enjoyed walking to the shop to buy ingredients for our cooking session. Cooking in Spring 1 was healthy eating so we made fruit kebabs.



Science was rocks, and we enjoyed exploring them, looking where we found them and talking about what we can find in the environment that is living and not-living.





In ICT, we explored bee-bots, learning how to give them instructions to do what we wanted them to do.



Spring 2, although it's the shortest of the half terms, we have packed in so much.

We thoroughly enjoyed World book day, dressing up as our favourite characters and exploring magical books and activities.



Our topic has been endangered animals and we primarily focused on endangered animals of the UK. We looked at endangered and extinct animals, how we can help animals, and habitats that animals live in.



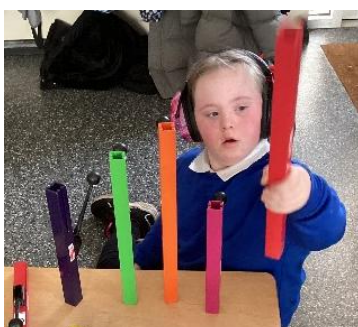
We have enjoyed Forest school every Monday, and have explored how we can help hedgehogs. This week we made a hedgehog house with the help of caretaker Mark which we have then left in our forest area.



In English we looked at both fictional stories on bats and non-fiction books. We have just finished creating our own non-fiction books about bats.



Tennis has been a fun topic in P.E. and the children have loved it.



Music has been lovely, we enjoyed listening to, and recreating our own music based on animals.



A fantastic term, we are excited for the next one! Happy Easter to all our wonderful children and families from Kahlo class!

Golden Dancers!

In PE, Fox Class Joined Up with Reeve and Tubman to make up their own dance.



We all worked really hard picking a song (Golden from KPop Demon Hunters) and working together as a team to make a dance routine that everyone could join in with! At the end of term we performed it in front of the whole school and the audience loved it!

Food for Thought

This term, Chesnut Lodge's School Meal providers, Food for Thought came in to do some fun activities with Classes.

Fox decorated and built their own bird feeders using cups, string and lollipop sticks.

Next, they were taught how to prepare and cook a healthy meal.

Class made a lovely pasta dish using orzo, courgette, carrots and garlic. It was delicious!



Your School Needs You!



As you may know School has for many years relied upon Halton Community Transport to support children with getting to and from events and activities in the region.

What you may not know is that Halton Community Transport is an **entirely voluntary** scheme and at the moment does not have enough volunteers to keep up the level of support it has shown in the past.

As a result Chesnut Lodge School is unable to access the community or sporting events as much as it has done in the past.

If you or anyone else would like to help out by volunteering with HCT please call them on 0151 257 2410 and let them know you were directed there by the team at Chesnut Lodge.

For more information and an idea of the role, you can visit the website at <https://haltoncommunitytransport.co.uk/> to see the fantastic work they do in the community.

A Message From Tubman

We were delighted to welcome a new pupil to Tubman Class this half term. Everyone has shown such kindness and support, helping them settle in quickly. We're excited to see new friendships being created over the coming weeks.

One of our older pupils had a fantastic opportunity to attend the school residential at Bendrigg. During the trip, they developed their independence skills and took part in a wide range of indoor and outdoor activities, including archery, canoeing, and climbing. We all enjoyed looking at the pictures and videos of all his exciting activities.

Careers Week was a huge success. Pupils explored an impressive variety of professions through hands-on workshops such as outdoor maintenance, cake decorating, floristry, running a cafe, and even a beauty workshop. They loved getting stuck into so many different career paths.

We also celebrated British Science Week, with this year's theme: "Curiosity: what's your question?" Tubman Class took part in lots of exciting experiments— we even made raisins dance. A visiting scientist led more amazing activities linked to the theme, and it was wonderful to see pupils thinking like scientists and asking brilliant questions.

World Book Day was another highlight. Throughout the day, pupils enjoyed reading activities inspired by the theme Book-To-Screen. They became detectives like Sherlock Holmes, made potions like Harry Potter, and even created their band with each pupil taking a role in the band. The class had so much fun practicing the song 'Mustang Sally' and couldn't stop singing their masterpiece afterwards.

Alongside all our special events, pupils have also been working incredibly hard across all subjects in class. Their focus, effort and enthusiasm have been wonderful to see and we are all excited for the summer term ahead.



SEN SWIMMING LESSONS

FULLY SUPPORTED 1-2-1 SWIMMING LESSONS FOR CHILDREN WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS

TEACHING ESSENTIAL WATER SAFETY AND LIFE-SAVING SKILLS AND BUILDING CONFIDENCE IN A SAFE, SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT



SUNDAYS 4:00PM-6:30PM, HALF HOUR SESSIONS, £7.50 PER LESSON
1-2-1 FUNDED BY DISABLED CHILDREN'S SERVICES

TO BOOK PLEASE EMAIL JEN.PERRY@TURTLETOTS.COM

ANGELOU

Culinary Skills and Creative Design: A Term of Hands-On Learning

This term has been a whirlwind of activity, defined by a shared passion for two distinct but equally rewarding disciplines: the culinary arts and creative design. From the enticing aromas of the kitchen to the focused craftsmanship of the art studio, students have fully immersed themselves in practical learning.

Our cookery lessons quickly established themselves as a firm favourite this term. Beyond the technical aspects of food preparation, these sessions provided a joyful opportunity for students to explore a diverse menu of flavours. The curriculum focused on versatile classics that allowed for both precision and personal flair.

Highlights from the kitchen included:

Artisanal Pizzas and Toasties: Mastering the balance of savoury toppings and perfectly crisp textures.

Indulgent Desserts: Crafting Cheesecakes—unanimously voted a term-time favourite—alongside delicate pancakes featuring a variety of sweet and savoury fillings.

Wholesome Snacks: Preparing vibrant fruit wraps, emphasizing the importance of fresh, seasonal ingredients.

The true success of these lessons lay in the tasting; there is perhaps no greater reward for a budding chef than enjoying the fruits of their labour.

The creative momentum extended into our design studio, where students undertook a multi-stage project using Modroc (plaster-impregnated gauze). This exercise was more than just a craft project; it was a comprehensive lesson in the design process.

Students began by sketching initial concepts, carefully selecting colour palettes and decorative motifs that reflected their personal styles. Once the design phase was complete, they moved into the construction of bespoke pencil pots. The transition from a flat design to a functional 3D object was a significant achievement for the group.

These pots are not merely decorative items; they have become essential daily tools in, serving as a reminder of what can be achieved through thoughtful design and dedicated effort.



Hawking News

Hawking class have had a busy term. Highlights have included music lessons with Mr Freeman as part of our Mixed Creative Arts work, growing and cooking work with Food for Thought and Forest schools. In Forest schools we have been busy planting, had camp fires, played games and done weaving with natural materials. We really enjoyed Science week especially the workshops by our visitor from Science Boffins. We joined in careers week and some of us were lucky enough to go on a residential trip to Bendrigg. Next term will also be busy as it is the Year 11s last term. It is really important that all pupils are on time for school and have good attendance to complete remaining work.



CAREERS NEWS

HAWKING, TUBMAN, ANGELOU, FOX AND REEVE HAVE ALL HAD VARIOUS CAREERS OPPORTUNITIES THIS TERM. IN JANUARY THESE CLASSES COMPLETED A VIRTUAL REALITY WORK EXPERIENCE USING VR HEADSETS WHERE THEY EXPERIENCED AN ENGINEERING COMPANY AND PUPILS HAD A TRANSITION TALK WITH NEIL OUR CAREERS ADVISER WHO HELPED THEM THINK ABOUT WHAT THEY MIGHT LIKE TO DO AFTER CHESNUT LODGE. IN MARCH WE HAD OUR EXPERIENCE OF WORK WEEK WHERE PUPILS CHOSE WHICH WORKSHOPS THEY WANTED TO ATTEND AND THEN TOOK PART IN FOUR WORKSHOPS TO DEVELOP THEIR SKILLS. THESE WORKSHOPS INCLUDED JET WASHING, FLORISTRY, CAKE DECORATING, CHOCOLATIER, BEAUTY, CAFE SKILLS, OFFICE SKILLS AND FACIALS. PUPILS REALLY ENJOYED THE WORKSHOPS THEY CHOSE AND LEARNT LOTS OF NEW SKILLS. PUPILS FROM HAWKING CLASS HAVE ALSO BEEN HELPING MICHELLE IN THE SCHOOL KITCHEN AS PART OF THEIR WORK EXPERIENCE AND THERE ARE PLANS FOR PUPILS IN OTHER CLASSES TO HELP NEXT TERM.

FOX'S FAMOUS FACES

Famous faces was our topic for Spring 2. For this we have learnt about a range of people from different parts of history. We looked at the books Little People Big Dreams and learnt about Vivienne Westwood, Muhammed Ali, and Emmeline Pankhurst.

We enjoyed the time line of their lives hearing about them as children was fun.

We spoke about how what happened in their lives shapes who they become, and how people can change the world.

We looked at how a biography was put together and how it was written about the person and not by the person.

ANGELOU CAREERS

Towards the end of term all the children had the opportunity to join in Careers day. There was lots of 'jobs' for the children to experience for example, working in a café, jet washing, office work, hair and beauty, cake decorating and floristry. It was a great day and the children really enjoyed all the activities.





Children's Mental Health Week

We had the best Children's Mental Health week yet! All the school got involved with activities and sessions that benefit our mental and physical wellbeing and of course lots of fun.

The theme this year from the Place2 Be Charity was "This is our place" the children in class did lots of celebrating who they are as individuals, their homes and who they are in the world.

We had visitors to see Keller and Reeve class from our friends in Ashley school, the Animal husbandry students arrived with their teacher to do some animal therapy, we saw chickens, Snakes, Guinea Pigs, rabbits and even a Skunk! Everyone loved this.

We had Rhiannon from Wriggly wellness to see Lower school and Katie from Sunshine Yoga and Mindfulness in to do some yoga and activities to help us relax and take time for us, and have lots of fun. Our children really enjoyed this and Yoga is a hit with our Students.



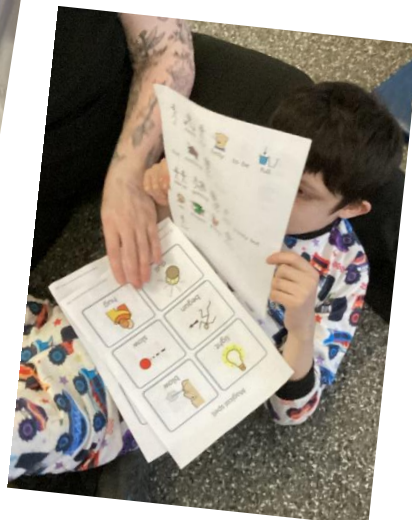
Incredible Keller

Animal Encounters

For Mental Health week, our classroom turned into a mini-zoo. The children were delighted to meet and interact with a range of friendly creatures, including: A gentle tortoise, lively chickens who loved to flap about, a skunk who didn't smell out of the classroom (the adults were very grateful) along with a huge slivery snake and the cute fluffy guinea pigs who we found can squeak really loudly!

These encounters encouraged the children to communicate, explore textures, and build confidence as they engaged with each animal. They thoroughly enjoyed it.





NON STOP KELLER

It has been an incredibly busy and rewarding few weeks in the classroom! While there has been plenty of extra-curricular excitement, we are so proud of how the children have stayed focused on their individual cognition and communication targets. Their steady progress and enthusiasm in every task is truly heart-warming to see.

Magic on World Book Day

World Book Day was a highlight, bringing stories to life through sensory exploration. The children didn't just listen to stories; they felt them, heard them, and moved through them! Using a variety of textures and sounds, every child had the opportunity to participate and engage with characters in their own unique way. The smiles and giggles throughout the day said it all.

Science Week Exploration

For Science Week, we were thrilled to welcome a special guest who led a hands-on workshop on the states of matter. Our young scientists explored the world of solids, liquids, and gases through playful, interactive experiments. It was a fantastic way to spark curiosity and blend scientific discovery with sensory fun.



Many thanks to our friends from Amplified Media who kindly donated Easter Presents (mainly eggs) to our children.



Don't forget to come back to school on Monday 13th April!