



CHESNUT LODGE SCHOOL

School Newsletter

Autumn (2) 2021

www.chesnutlodge.net

For regular updates, check the school website, or follow us on Twitter@chesnutlodge

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you are all keeping well.

We have been so pleased to welcome our Nursery students back in for three sessions per week using our school hall, whilst we are waiting for the Foundation Stage classroom to be up and running once again. They are now beginning to settle back in and it has been lovely to see them all working together and meeting up with their Reception friends at snack time.

A quick update on the flooring situation in school:

Temporary wooden flooring has been put down in the foyer and the entrance hall to enable the floor below to be dried with air blowers whilst maintaining accessibility for our staff and students, enabling the school to remain open.

Other areas of the school affected by the flooding have had large heaters installed to clear the moisture before new flooring can be laid.

A number of areas are currently being issued with 'dry' certificates which then means that we are able to move forward with the refurbishment of these areas when safe and practical to do so eg: corridors and toilets can only be done out of the school day.

The Foundation Stage classroom requires a porous surface to be laid before the new flooring and it is hoped that this will be done in the next few weeks.

The multi-sensory room is still being dried and unfortunately is going to take some time to sort, as much of the equipment was damaged and will have to be replaced. We will keep you updated on our progress with this.

The hall floor will require further work on it at some point and these works will be booked in for weekends and holidays so as not to cause any disruption to our students' education.

I would like to thank all of the staff and students who are coping so well with all of the disruption and are remaining positive in what has been a very challenging time.

Covid-19 update:

Thank you to you all for being so supportive in terms of doing the twice weekly Lateral Flow tests with your children, taking them for PCR tests when requested and keeping them off school when they are clearly unwell. So far, we have managed not to have any transmissions in school which is excellent and this has only been possible with yours and the staff's meticulous care and respect for the whole school community. All students of secondary age (12 to 15) who had not already had a covid-19 vaccination were invited by the NHS to get their vaccination in school. A number of parents took up this offer which is great. If you missed out on this opportunity and would like your child to be vaccinated, please look on the NHS covid-19 website for details.

All classrooms have a CO2 detector so that we are able to monitor and open windows when necessary. Please remember to ensure that your child is dressed appropriately so that if windows and doors have to be open in the cold weather, they do not get too cold.

We are slowly allowing more activities to take place in school following risk assessments and careful planning and are hoping that we will be able to invite our Foundation Stage parents in for a Nativity in the school hall and everyone to our Christmas Carols and Songs on the last day in the school playground. These activities will be subject to the covid-19 rates in school on the day and of course the weather for the Carols in the playground. We will send out a message on Parent app on the day to confirm.

Any parents requiring further Lateral Flow Test Kits to use with their children, please contact the school office and we will make sure these get sent home.

Communication with school:

We fully appreciate that it has been almost two years since we have been able to welcome parents into school as regularly as we had done in the past due to the covid-19 restrictions and for some parents this lack of face to face communication has been difficult. This has now been compounded by the fact that our meeting room is one of the rooms that were affected in the flood and with other rooms also out of action, we physically do not have the space to hold face to face meeting with you all. If however, you feel that a face to face meeting is required, we are happy to arrange for you to visit the school in person. Please contact the school office to arrange a convenient date and time.

Below, each class has outlined their plans for this half term. Please sit down with a coffee and read through the wonderful activities so that you are aware of what is being covered, and able to support the learning going on by doing similar activities at home. If you have any questions about your child's curriculum or ways in which you can offer further support to aid your child's progress, please contact the class teacher through Seesaw.

Kind regards

Mrs H Austin and Governors

Secondary 2

On Friday 5th November we had our first class assembly. Our class assembly was all about how to stay safe on Bonfire night, we learnt the sign for fireworks and sparklers. After our assembly the whole school went outside and got to use sparklers; they put the safety we taught them into practice ☺

This term our topic is 'The Arts'. In literacy we will be learning about narrative poetry and stories, before trying to write our own short Christmas stories. We have started to look at different sculptures in art and we can't believe how many amazing sculptures have been made. It will be exciting to make

Secondary 4

This half term Secondary 4 class are planning a Christmas event in their English lessons. They are already really looking forward to hosting our event and have lots of excellent ideas for ways to make this a fun celebration for all the secondary pupils. They are developing their presentation skills, letter writing and instruction writing as part of planning this. We are also concentrating on spelling High and Medium Frequency words correctly.

In Maths we are learning about Statistics. We will be collecting data, representing data and analysing it. We will be using Carroll diagrams, tally charts, pictograms and bar charts. We will do an Entry test paper at the end of the unit.

sculptures of our own, using different materials. We have been using purple mash on the computers to create pictures. In RE we have started to look at Diwali and how it is celebrated.

Secondary 2 and other classes will be continuing with dance sessions to improve our mental health each Wednesday and have started to learn some Christmas dance moves.



Our science topic is an AQA unit called Separating Materials. We will be learning about separating by using sieves, magnets, filtration, evaporation and chromatography through lots of experiments.

Our other topics include designing Christmas decorations in Design Technology, Tag Rugby and Football skills in PE, Christian festivals in RE and using an Atlas in Geography.

Please remember that weekly homework is set on Seesaw on Fridays to be completed by Wednesday. Any issues accessing this then please let me know. Thank you for your support with this.

Mrs Colville

Sensory Base

This term Sensory Base will be exploring The Arts throughout the world. The children will be researching different artists from the past 100 years as well as recreating their own version of the famous sculptures. This week the children created the Weeping Window poppy sculpture for the class door. One of the sculptures will be the two horse head sculpture that will link into communication and language. Along with continuing to work on their speech and language targets, the children will also be listening to different animal sounds and matching them up to the correct animal pictures. The children began by (virtually) visiting the park and the farm and will soon be exploring pet shops, zoo's even the seaside! Finally the children will be exploring different 2D shapes in maths, exploring different textures with some children recognising shapes and being able to match them.

Secondary 1

This half term the theme in S1 is The Arts. We will be creating some impressionist artwork using ICT in our computing lessons and we will be making sculptures inspired by Henry Moore in Art and DT.

In English we will be studying narrative poetry, and as we have so many jokers in our class we have decided to read and create some funny limericks. In Maths we are starting with 'Time' and 'My Day', moving on to adding and subtracting later in the term. So any added emphasis on the time during specific activities at home (such as meal times, teeth cleaning, bed time etc.) would be really helpful for the students.

We also have some lovely Christmas-themed activities coming up and will be studying Christmas number 1s in Music.

Primary 1

In Autumn 2 our topic is 'Transport' and we are going to explore lots of different types of transport toys and how they move by pulling, pushing, pressing buttons, digging and scooping with them and making them float. We are going to create prints of wheels in different mediums such as paint, clay and playdough and see what marks we can make. We will be enjoying our weekly instalments of our sensory story 'The journey home from Grandpa' and some transport songs. In RE we will be exploring the Christmas story and of course making lots of lovely Christmassy things to bring home. We will continue to work hard on our Communication, Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy targets too.

Hello from Primary 2.

This half term our topic is 'Wonders of the world'.

We boarded a plane with our boarding passes and headed off to India to visit the Taj Mahal.



We listened and danced to Indian music while we are building a junk model of this famous Wonder.



We are going to make some Indian foods in our cookery lessons too.

We have also learnt about DIWALI in our RE lessons and have made Rangoli patterns with coloured sand.



Bonfire night was celebrated in school with hot chocolate and sparklers and the children had a lovely time outside all wrapped up.

We are getting ready for the most exciting time of the year CHRISTMAS (and that's just the staff!!!) and have lots of lovely activities planned for the next few weeks

Dates for your diary

Monday 15th November - Boccia

Tournament

Friday 3rd December - 'mop up' for anyone who missed the Flu immunisations.

Friday 10th December - 'Christmas Care Day'

Wednesday 15th December - Christmas Dinner

Friday 17th December - Foundation Stage Nativity 'I Spy Christmas' in the hall.

Foundation Stage parents only.

Monday 20th December pm - Christmas Parties in classes. All students can come to school in their party clothes.

Tuesday 21st December 2.30pm -

Christmas songs and carols in the playground, weather permitting.

All invited provided covid-19 situation is stable in school on the date of the event.

(Message will be sent out on Parent app. on the day to confirm)

Drama after school club

We have made puppets, some using socks and others wooden spoons.

The group are now working on giving their puppets personalities then they will work on scenery and shorts scripts. They will end on performing a short sketch using their puppets which will be filmed and sent on to parents. During this the group will be

<p>Looking forward to lots of exciting adventures ahead. Primary 2 staff.</p>	<p>building confidence working as a group and develop their creative skill through making puppets, painting scenery, writing and performing. Gaynor</p>
<p><u>Boccia Tournament</u> Covid permitting, eight secondary pupils will be representing our school at a boccia tournament between schools in the local area. Hopefully we will be able to improve on the previous tournament and make it out of the group stage and into the knockout rounds.</p> <p><u>'Christmas Care Day'</u> Continuing the work that Chesnut Lodge does to support people in our local community, for our charity fund raising activity this term, we have decided to have a 'Christmas Care Day' where staff and students will be invited to come to school in their favourite Christmas outfit for a 'fee' of £1. The money raised will be spent on gifts for residents of a local Residential Home. Students will be involved in choosing what types of gifts should be purchased, wrapping the gifts and covid permitting a group of students will deliver the presents over the festive period. <u>The date chosen for this is Friday 10th December.</u></p>	
<p><i>Foundation Stage</i> This term we are looking at the topic of "Super Me!" We are looking at ourselves and how we are all different, our families and friends and also our very favourite things. We will be celebrating and sharing all the wonderful things we are super at whilst learning new skills too. We will be looking at the changing seasons and exploring the wonderful colours of autumn through lots of learning outside of the classroom opportunities. Lots of play, craft and learning whilst having opportunities to make lots of new friends.</p>	<p><i>Secondary 3</i> This half term Secondary 3 will be learning around the topic of 'The Arts'. This will include learning about at how arts and entertainment developed around the Tudor period, as well as studying a range of artistic movements, and producing work inspired by them. We will be learning about different sculptors and attempting to produce our own using different mediums in design and technology. The class will also study Charles Dicken's The Signalman in English, learning about the author as well as the themes of the story. After this they will attempt to write their own chapter where there signalman gets another visit from a spirit.</p>

Primary 3

This half term in P3, our topic is Reduce, Reuse and Recycle! We will be learning all about how to keep our planet and our community clean and safe, whilst looking at things we could cut back on to help save our planet. In art, we are excited to use recycled objects to make models and of course, Christmas decorations! In class, we are currently making an interactive display, where children can sort recyclable objects into plastic, glass, paper and cardboard.

In Literacy, we will be listening to and reading a variety of fictional and non-fictional books, making some chronological reports and describing in steps how we complete processes, such as making toast. In maths, we are working on comparing groups, re-visiting addition and subtraction and learning to tell the time using digital and analogue clocks.

We are extremely excited for all of the Christmas activities and fun we are going to have, making a Santa map, using fieldwork to find the reindeer in the playground and even using ICT to email Santa!