

Chestnuts Chronicle



Edition 4 December 2017

A World Class School

**Encourage, Enable, Empower
The Chestnuts Way!**

This Issue

**Heads message
Growth Mindsets and
Learning Skills
Mandarin
Sports Review
Local Events
Governors update
Friends of Chestnuts update
Trips and Visitors
Diary Dates
Marvellous Me
Wonder Work
The month in photos**

A note from the Headteacher...

Well, it has been another very busy half term with lots happening for all the children.

We have had visits to the zoo, our first enterprise event, a sleepover and all the activities associated with Christmas celebrations. Thanks has to be given to the amazing team of staff at Chestnuts who go above and beyond, giving up their precious time to ensure these things can happen for the children. You will be able to read about many of these things in the rest of The Chronicle.

FOC have continued to support us with teas and coffees at each and every performance, a raffle and selling the goods from the enterprise day. We thank them for their hard work and dedication.

There will be some staffing changes after the Christmas break. Mrs Khalil and Mrs Aldrich are both moving on to pastures new, as are Mr Carpenter-White and Mrs Milson. Mrs Louise Smith will be joining the team to teach in Year 3, Mrs Sarah Filip will be joining Year 2, and Mrs Robins will be moving over to Year 4. We also look forward to welcoming Mrs Ellison back from her maternity leave.

All that is left is for me to do is to wish each and every one of our families a very Merry Christmas and a happy new year. Please stay safe and enjoy the break!

Curriculum News



Noticing



Ask questions

Growth Mindsets and Learning Skills



Collaboration



Managing Distractions

These are the learning skills that the children have been introduced to over the half term. We hope that you are beginning to hear the children talking about these at home.

We currently have an active survey to allow us to capture any of these comments that the children may be making at home. If you would spare a few minutes to complete it, we would be very grateful.

Your feedback is very important to us.

Thank you

Reindeer

Seedlings and Saplings had some special visitors on the last day of term. Santa and his reindeer came to school. The children were all very excited to meet them! They were able to ask questions and even came away with a small gift. It was a great day!



Sports News

Sport

The Chestnuts Girls Football Team played their first match against Rickley Park Primary on the 6th December. Everyone who took part, showed great sportsmanship and amazing determination. The game kicked off with Rickley scoring two goals against Chestnuts but the girls didn't give up. They pushed and pushed and eventually, Chloe M scored their first goal. This was well deserved due to the effort shown by the team. The game ended 2-1. A huge well done to the girls, they all played amazingly!!

The Korfball team played in a tournament on the 13th December. Two teams were entered who came 1st and 3rd. Both teams played amazingly and lots of shots were made and scored. Special well dones go to Kiera in Year 5 who played her first game and showed great skill throughout and Ryan in Year 6 who scored some outstanding shots! Well done to everyone who took part, it was great to watch!



Santa Dash



Willen Hospice is organising a Santa Dash in it's grounds on 17th December 2017 at 10.30am. Everyone is welcome to join in and walk, run, jog, hop, skip or jump the 1.2 miles route.

For more information and to book, please have a look at their website; <https://www.willen-hospice.org.uk/get-involved/events/willen-hospice-santa-dash/> or email; events@willen-hospice.org.uk

A message from Thames Valley Police

Operation Darknight launched to target winter burglaries – Milton Keynes

Thames Valley Police in Milton Keynes started its three-month winter burglary operation on Tuesday 31 October to combat dwelling burglaries and target offenders during the darker winter months.

Operation Darknight has run four times in recent years in Milton Keynes and has helped to significantly reduce the numbers of dwelling burglaries over the winter period. During the operation the Milton Keynes Neighbourhood teams will be running crime prevention activities on estates offering general crime prevention advice and SmartWater; an international crime prevention company with a track record for deterring criminal activity.

Residents are advised that, with the clocks having gone back, now is an important time to check that your home is not vulnerable to burglary.

If you have any concerns, or just want some crime prevention advice and information, feel free to approach your local neighbourhood officers who will be able to assist you.

We would urge residents to get in touch with any information they may have in relation to criminal activity occurring in their neighbourhood. We require the help of the public and will treat any information with the strictest of confidentiality.”

Residents can follow the crime prevention tips below:

- keep front and back doors locked, even when you're at home
 - install a burglar alarm with a visible alarm box
 - fit a door chain and spyhole for extra security
 - keep all valuables and keys out of sight and out of reach of doors and windows
 - store high value items in a hidden safe
 - mark your belongings and register them for free with [Immobilise](#)
 - fit energy efficient security lighting
 - don't leave spare keys in obvious places such as under doormats or plant pots
 - keep items that could be used to break into your property such as ladders, tools and wheelie bins stored safely away
 - lock side gates to prevent easy access to the rear of the property
 - check fencing regularly to keep it in good repair
 - use pea shingle on driveways or under windows, as it crunches loudly when stepped on
 - trim overgrown hedges and plants to remove hiding places and improve surveillance
 - use a timer switch to make your house look occupied, even when it isn't
- consider joining or forming a Neighbourhood Watch scheme

Residents in Milton Keynes can obtain localised information by following the Milton Keynes Twitter account @TVP_MK and looking out for #Op_Darknight.

For regular updates on crime and disorder in your area you can sign up to Thames Valley Alert, and you can call the non-emergency number 101 and ask to speak to a Crime Reduction Advisor.



FOC Update



Hallowe'en Disco

FOC are pleased to announce that the Hallowe'en disco raised the fantastic amount of £576.33. Thank you for all of your support. All of the money raised is used to buy equipment for the children to use.

How we support school:

FOC will be helping to supply some new equipment for the children to use on the playground at lunchtimes. This is going to include: chalks, for drawing; skipping ropes; scooters; cars and lots of other games.

Are you having a clear out? Do you have toys you no longer need? Then we need you!

If anyone has any unwanted toy cars, Velcro throwing and catching games, skipping ropes, buckets, bubble equipment or any other games that our children may like to use outside at lunchtimes, we would love to put them to good use. If this applies to you, please either contact the office who can put you in touch with an FOC member or send in donations directly to the office.



Thank you in advance for any support you can give.



Dates for your diary

3rd January – All children back to school

5th January – Whole school pantomime for children

9th January – Oak Class Victorian Day at St John Museum

9th January – Birch Class Victorian Day at St John Museum

18th January—Y5 residential parents meeting

19th January – Year 5 and 6 book night

24th January – Year 6 to Kidzania

26th January – Year 5 and 6 Holocaust Day

Marvellous Me

We have had a really positive response from parents signing up to Marvellous Me and we really hope that you are enjoying finding out what your children are up to.

If you have not managed to sign up yet, you have not lost the opportunity! Your unique code will still allow you to access the site.

You can share this code with grandparents, aunts, uncles and anyone who you would like to get the updates.

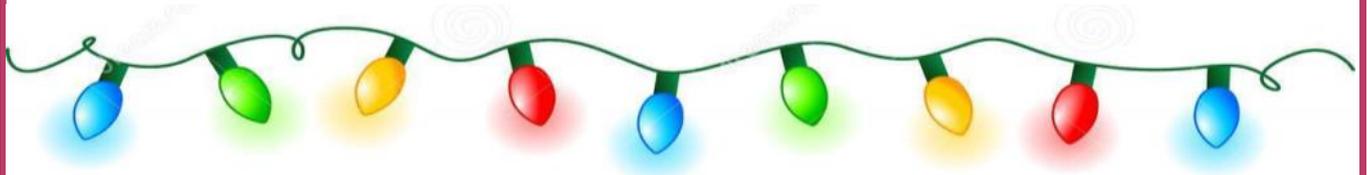
If you have misplaced this code, please see the office who will be able to assist you with this.

Thank you



Leadership Tea Party and Celebration Event

We have had our second leadership tea party of the year and our first termly celebration event. The children who were chosen to take part in both of these events were selected because of their excellent choices with behaviour and learning and for being great role models to others. We are excited to see who will be joining us next term!



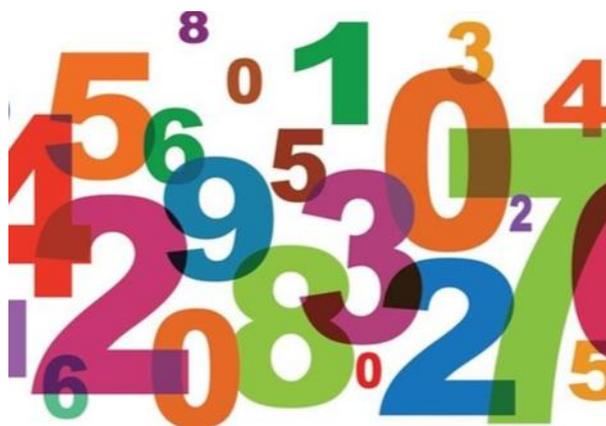
Christmas Activities

Reception and Orchard children both put on an afternoon of singing and signing for their parents. KS1 children performed their Nativity “What a Star!” and they were all stars! KS2 children visited St Mary’s Church in Bletchley for a morning of carols and performances. We thank all the parents that have joined us in supporting the children. A lot of hard work has gone in to each performance and we are all immensely proud of them!

Merry Christmas!

Year 3/4 Maths Day

Some children from Years 3 and 4 visited another school to take part in a Maths day. They had to collaborate to solve many complicated puzzles and problems. They followed the Chestnuts Way as they were challenging themselves while having fun!



Year 3 Stone Age Visitor

Year 3 had a visitor for the day from Portals from the Past, who immersed us in Stone Age life. The children were able to touch real bones and learned lots about the Stone Age way of life.

They had the option to dress up for the day in Stone Age clothes and have fun. Some of us even held a real shooting star!



Year 1 at Chiki Ceramiki

Year 1 had a fantastic morning at Chiki Ceramiki. They used special paints to create a Christmas ornament. They are going to be fired in the kiln in time to go home for the Christmas holidays.



Year 2 Whipsnade Trip

Year 2 had a great time at Whipsnade Zoo, visiting all the animals! We got to see gorillas, giraffes, elephants and lemurs. Oak Class even thought they had found Paddington! It was a long day but everyone loved it!



Year 3/4 Sleepover

Years 3 and 4 were all invited to attend 'I'm a Chestnutter Get Me Out Of Here.' The children had a fantastic time and participated in various trials and bug challenges. Some of these involved bowls of slime and being brave enough to put their hands in boxes when they had no idea what would be lurking inside. After a fun filled evening, the children settled down to watch a film before lights out. All the children were well behaved and had a fantastic time. A big thank you goes to all those that gave up their time to help make the sleepover possible.

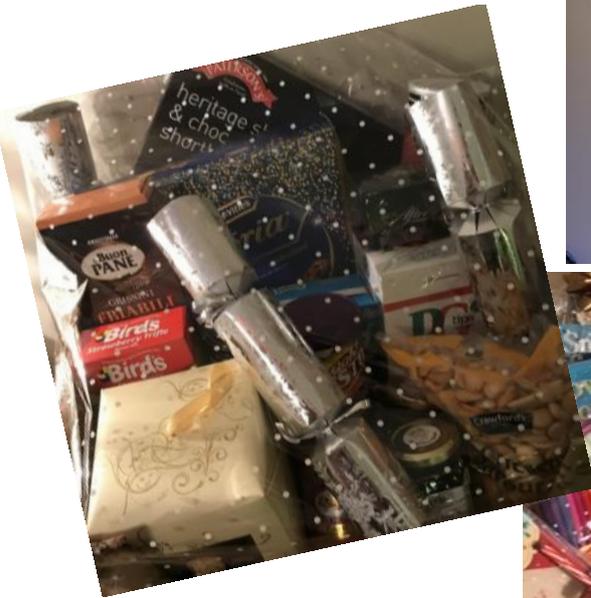
December 2017 in photos...



Year 5 Space Centre



Writing in our corridor



FOC Christmas Raffle



Year 1 Chiki Ceramiki





Year 2 Whipsnade



**Year 3/4
Maths Day**



**Girls Football
Team**



**Year 5
Writing**

