



Chestnuts Primary School

'Encourage, Enable, Empower'

Tel: 01908 373748
email: office@chestnuts.milton-keynes.sch.uk
www.chestnutsprimaryschool.co.uk

Headteacher: Miss Becky Skillings
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Katie Robins Assistant Headteacher: Mrs Sam Sear

4th September, 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Chestnuts after what I hope was a happy and fun filled holiday. We have lots of information to share with you relating to the new school year so please look out for further letters in relation to some of the content of this letter.

Staff changes

Various members of staff left us over the holiday and therefore we have some new staff that have joined us.

Please join me in welcoming to school:

Year 5 – Mrs Wetherall and Mrs Montgomery

Year 4 – Mrs King and Mrs Gopaul

Year 2 – Miss James

Year 1 – Miss Tank and Mrs Philips

Orchard – Mrs Nicholas

Blossom - Mrs Hornett

HLTAs - Mrs Thompson and Mrs Garratt

In addition, I'm sure you will join me in congratulating Miss Jones and her partner Vic on the safe arrival of baby Arlo in August.

Fun Friday/Enrichment Afternoon

Having sought the view of many of the pupils last year, it was agreed that Fun Friday wasn't fun for all pupils and therefore a change needed to happen. Friday afternoons will be changing to Enrichment Afternoons, beginning on Friday 20th September, with a wide range of activities taking place which will hopefully meet the needs and wishes of all pupils. More information will be issued in due course but in the meantime, please note that children need to come to school in their usual uniform (not PE kit) on Fridays from now on.

Reading Books

I'm sure you have heard on the news over the last year or two that schools are struggling financially and that there have been huge cuts in real terms in our budget. This, we are experiencing more than ever here at Chestnuts.

Over the course of last year over £10,000 worth of books went missing from our reading corridor. We have replaced and replenished our reading corridor this summer but cannot afford to keep doing so. Therefore, staff will now change children's reading books and track which books each child has. Parents will therefore no



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longer do this at the end of the day. Your child will need to return their previous book in order to receive a new one. If books are lost or damaged, then we will unfortunately have to pass on the cost of a replacement to yourselves. We hope this won't happen often but will help to teach our children to be responsible for their property.

The new reading corridor (complete with new storage) and the revamped and redesigned library are part of our big push on reading this year. Miss Seagrave (our reading leader) will be writing to you shortly about our big reading launch on 18th September! Children have begun to be issued with their new reading books today and their excitement is great to see and hear – one reluctant reader was overheard saying "Oh my word, it's like book heaven – I'm going to read at home now!". Long may this enthusiasm continue!

Trips and Visitors

Our intention has always been to ensure that our children have a broad and balanced curriculum. Trips out of school and visitors into school really do add to the value of your children's learning. The costs attached to these however are often quite high when paying for a whole year group. Sadly, 128 children did not have any contributions made last year for them and additionally, others did not cover the full £30, meaning that these costs had to come out of the school's limited budget. School will not be subsidising trips and visitors to this extent this year and therefore it is highly likely that these events will need to be cancelled if we do not receive sufficient contributions.

As you may be aware, we plan either a trip or an internal visitor for each year group every half term. To enable us to continue to provide these exciting and beneficial opportunities – some of which are more costly than others – we need your continued support in helping us to finance these through our annual contribution of £30. Contributions can be made weekly, monthly, termly or annually to make this as easy as possible for you and will be added to your school money account shortly.

We would like to be able to book the annual pantomime for January however we will need to see how many contributions have been received before doing so. Thank you for your understanding and support.

I look forward to seeing you all throughout the coming weeks and urge you to get in touch with your child's class teacher if you have any worries or concerns.

Yours faithfully

Becky Skillings
Headteacher



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