

## Chestnut Class Newsletter: Autumn 2020



Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome to our Year 5/6 class. Mrs Goacher and I are delighted to be back in Chestnut Class and have been so impressed with the way that the children have settled into the new school year so quickly after what has been a truly confusing and worrying time for everyone. I would like to reassure you all that we have had a really lovely first week learning together and establishing appropriate routines to keep everyone safe, and we are looking forward to lots of exciting and stimulating learning experiences this year 😊

This newsletter outlines some of the routines and procedures that will be in place in your child's/children's class, as well as some of the areas of learning we will focus on this term.

### Curriculum

#### Autumn Term Topic

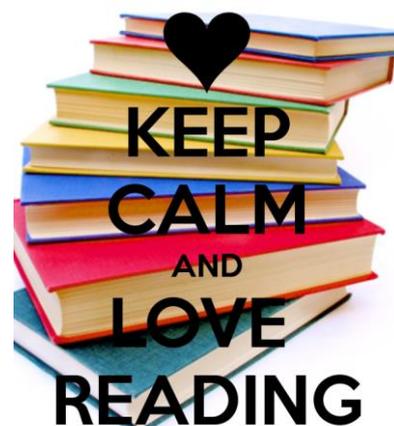


The book '**Here We Are**' by Oliver Jeffers provides the focus for a whole school learning experience for the first half of the autumn term this year.

This is a thought-provoking book, which has already provided the inspiration for some of our learning in the classroom and outdoors this week. The aim of our initial learning experiences is to support the children to re-establish positive learning behaviours and relationships in school.

### Reading

Reading regularly for pleasure and growing into life-long readers is something that we encourage. In Year 5/6, children are expected to read at home for **at least 20 minutes five times a week**, immersing themselves in the texts and practising to read with fluency. This should be a mix of independent reading and reading aloud to an adult.



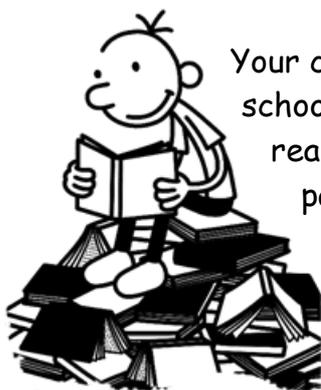
The more that you read,  
the more things you will know.  
The more that you learn,  
the more places you'll go.

-Dr. Seuss

Research shows that reading with your child is the single most important thing you can do to help your child's education.

When your child reads to you, please take the time to ask questions about the text to develop their comprehension skills. Understanding and using more complex language is also an expectation of Year 5/6 and therefore, children are expected to find the definitions of unknown or 'ambitious' vocabulary in their reading.

### Reading Records



Your child's **home reading diary** and **independent reading book** should be in school every day. In their reading diary, children should share what they have read and how much they have read, which in turn should be signed by a parent/guardian on three occasions each week.

The reading diary will be collected and checked each **Friday** by Mrs Goacher - if there are three signed entries in the diary, your child will receive a raffle ticket, which will be entered into a weekly reading raffle giving the winner the opportunity to receive a new book.

The home reading diary is an important way of monitoring pupils' reading habits and preferences and I hope that you will encourage your child to record their regular home reading as in the example below.

Date	Title	Pages Read	Parent's signature	Teacher's signature
9 <sup>th</sup> September	Holes by Louis Sachar	P12 to p34	Mrs J Smith	K Prudence/ S Goacher
12 <sup>th</sup> September	Holes by Louis Sachar	P34 to p56	Mr M Jones	K Prudence/ S Goacher

## Spelling

Most of the English language spelling follows rules and conventions. Learning about these rules means that pupils will be able to apply this knowledge to the spelling of words they have not met in print before. Spelling tests can ensure that spelling words are learned but it is essential that pupils understand, remember and use them confidently in their writing.



*Therefore, rather than a weekly test, in Chestnut Class the emphasis is on an investigative approach to learning spelling rules - pupils learn to identify the rules and patterns enabling them to apply their learning independently.*

Developing appropriate spelling strategies is something that will also be encouraged. At home, children are expected to learn how to spell the words, which are examples of the rule or pattern taught, using whatever strategy they find the most effective.

Following their homework investigation, pupils take part in a collaborative spelling test, which allows for further discussion and learning of how to apply the spelling rule/pattern correctly.



## Spelling Homework

**Spelling workbooks** should be in school every day. Pupils will be required to carry out a weekly spelling investigation. Pupils will receive feedback in their spelling books and will be expected to respond to comments and make improvements as necessary. Spelling is also assessed in class through a variety of activities.

## Year 5/6 Spelling Word Lists

A copy of the **statutory wordlist for Year 5/6** is stuck into each pupil's spelling book and homework diary. (Further copies can be provided if required.)



Mathematics



During mathematics, children will be encouraged to develop speed and accuracy when solving written calculations using the four operations. To help with speed and quick recall of number bonds and times table facts, pupils will complete a timed **Maths Matters Challenge** in class. Pupils must achieve accuracy on at least three occasions to progress to the next level. To support this, children are encouraged to learn and practise their multiplication and division facts regularly. (The **Topmarks** website is useful for practising selected skills.)

## Homework



**Literacy and mathematics homework** to consolidate or extend pupils' learning will be set when appropriate. I would be grateful for your support to ensure that homework is completed and, is therefore, effective in helping your child reach the next steps in their learning.



## Topic Home Learning

Pupils may also be expected to complete a home learning task that is related to the term's topic. These tasks normally involve a range of activities allowing pupils to choose those that appeal most closely to their interests. Information about expectations and deadlines will be shared with the children in school as necessary.

## French

During the autumn term, Mrs. Rogers will teach French each Friday afternoon.

## P.E.

Mr. Johnson of AAA Coaching will continue to teach P.E. to Year 5/6 on Friday afternoons (beginning Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September). I will teach P.E. every Tuesday afternoon.

## Chestnut Class Weekly Overview

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
P.E. kit (to be kept in school all week)	P.E. kit	P.E. kit	P.E. kit	P.E. kit
Trainers required all week.	Trainers required all week.	Trainers required all week.	Trainers required all week.	Trainers required all week.
Reading diary/Independent reading book	Reading diary/Independent reading book	Reading diary/Independent reading book	Reading diary/Independent reading book	Reading diary/Independent reading
Spelling homework handed out				Reading diaries checked.
Spelling workbook	Spelling workbook	Spelling workbook	Spelling workbook	Completed spelling homework handed in
Maths Matters workbook	Maths Matters workbook	Maths Matters workbook	Maths Matters workbook	Maths Matters workbook

Please feel free to speak to me at any time if there is something you wish to discuss: I greatly value your comments and support. Although visitor access to the school is currently restricted, I am happy to chat to you on the school playground at the end of the day.

I hope to speak with many of you during our **Zoom Chestnut Information Session on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September between 4.30pm and 5pm.** Details enabling you to access the meeting will be shared in due course.

Many thanks,

Karen Prudence  
Chestnut Class Teacher☺