

Chestnuts Primary School Newsletter



Friday 19th December 2025



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Monday 5th January (SCHOOL
IS CLOSED)

Tuesday 6th January - Y1 -6
RETURN BACK TO SCHOOL

Wednesday 7th January -
Nursery Children return back
to school

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of a wonderfully successful term, I want to take a moment to reflect on what a joy it has been to see our children grow, flourish, and shine. The recent performances were a true highlight—watching the children bloom with such confidence and enthusiasm was a reminder of everything that makes our school community so special. With the festive season upon us, I wish all our families a peaceful and joyful break. As I said to the children, this is one of my favourite times of the year because I get to celebrate with my whole family and spend precious time with loved ones. I hope each of you finds time for rest, connection, and togetherness too.

We also have some lovely news to share: Ms Ward welcomed her baby boy, Conrad, on 8 December. Warm congratulations to her and her family. We wish Ms Milstein all the very best as she begins her maternity leave—please refer to our previous correspondence for details of the cover arrangements in place.

This term we also say a very fond farewell to Ms Rock, who is retiring after an incredible 25 years of dedicated service to the school. She will be so deeply missed by staff, children, and families alike. We wish her every happiness in her retirement and look forward to her popping back to visit us—hopefully with cake in hand!

Thank you all for your continued support throughout the term. I wish you a wonderful break and look forward to welcoming you back in January.

Warmest wishes,
Mrs Horwood



Attendance

If your child is absent please could you call/email or leave a voicemail on the school office number :



02088002362 or email

office@chestnutsprimary.com

School opens back to **Reception - Y6 on Tuesday 6th January**

Nursery children come back on Wednesday 7th January

As a dog friendly school, we enjoy welcoming our furry visitors each morning. Thank you Ms Roberts for providing dog treats.



What we have done this week

NURSERY

What a fantastic Christmas show from our Early Years! Both Nursery and Reception worked wonderfully together to put on an amazing performance! Our little Nursery stars shone brightly in The Gingerbread Man, sharing their part of the story on stage and singing with such enthusiasm. We are so proud of them for being so courageous in front of so many people, and we know that they are so proud of themselves too for putting on such a lovely show for their families! A huge thank you to our families for your support and encouragement!



DONALDSON CLASS

In Reception, we have been reading the book 'The Jolly Christmas Postman' and we have been looking at how to write letters. We thought about how nice it is to get a letter and all wrote a letter to our mums and dads thanking them for something that they do for us. Reception parents.. You will be receiving this soon!



AHLBERG CLASS

Reception did two amazing performances of The Gingerbread Man! We really enjoyed dressing up in our costumes and singing all the songs! What an excellent show! Well done everybody! We are so proud of you all!



HADID CLASS

In geography, we have been learning to compare rural and urban areas, exploring differences in landscapes, jobs, housing, transport, and daily life. This week, we have been making a 3D model of the countryside, adding animals and features of the landscape that we would expect to see there.



MOZART CLASS

Mozart Class have loved exploring Oi Frog! in English this term. Inspired by the book's playful rhymes, the children wrote and illustrated their own imaginative rhyming books, creating lots of funny word pairs and sharing their stories with pride.



SEACOLE CLASS

Dear Parents,

What an incredible term it has been! I am so proud of the amazing progress your children have made. It has truly been a joy to watch them grow, learn, and shine.

From putting on a fantastic Nativity performance, remembering all their lines and cues so beautifully, to our exciting trip to The Moment, this term has been filled with memorable experiences and achievements.

We also enjoyed a wonderful Shakespeare workshop, where the children explored drama and creativity by acting out scenes and scenarios. This linked beautifully with our PSHE lessons on friendships, helping them develop empathy, teamwork, and confidence in expressing themselves.

Thank you for your continued support throughout the term. It makes such a difference, and we couldn't do it without you.

In addition, we have continued our journey as a Rights Respecting School, focusing on the importance of respect, kindness, and understanding everyone's rights. The children have engaged in thoughtful discussions and activities that promote fairness and equality, which has been inspiring to see.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with joy and laughter. I look forward to another fantastic term ahead!

Warm regards,
Mr. Nisbett



RASHFORD CLASS

In Rashford Class we have been creating a real 'love for reading'. The children have brought in their favourite books from home and have been sharing these with the class. We have been speaking about the importance of reading and how reading can impact our vocabulary, spellings and sentence structure.

We would love for parents to join us to read a book to the class. This can be in your home language or English. Please email Ms Arkin to arrange this



BENJAMIN CLASS

ATTENBOROUGH CLASS

This week, Benjamin Class had a fantastic, inspiring and fun-filled visit to the Natural History Museum for the Dino Dig workshop! The children learned all about what fossils are, how they are formed over millions of years, and why they are so important for understanding life in the past.

They explored interactive exhibits where they could handle replica fossils, examine real specimens up close, and investigate different tools used by palaeontologists. Pupils loved sharing their knowledge about fossils and taking part in hands-on digging activities, carefully uncovering "hidden" bones just like real scientists. The excitement continued as the class wandered through the dinosaur galleries and even watched a festive T-Rex move and roar. It was an engaging, memorable day that brought their learning to life in the most dynamic way!



FIBONACCI CLASS

As we wrap up this term and head into the festive season, Fibonacci Class have been busy little scientists! Our classroom has been buzzing with excitement as the children investigated insulation and sound – all while exploring which materials might make the best ear defenders.

The children loved testing different everyday materials, comparing how well they blocked or reflected sound. There were lots of giggles as they imagined themselves designing the ultimate pair of ear defenders – perfect for a noisy Christmas party!

We're so proud of their curiosity, teamwork, and the way they've learned to think like real scientists. It's been a joyful way to end the term, and we hope they'll be sharing their new knowledge with you at home. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year – we can't wait to see what more we'll discover together in 2026! 🎅🎁🌟



GANDHI CLASS

For their second computer day of the year the children began to learn how to touch type – which they loved. They excelled at placing their hands over the home keys of the keyboard and learned where the fingers should be going. It's harder than it sounds! They were so proud when they were able to hit letters, even the odd word without looking. It will take time to master the skill, but they have certainly hit the ground running. Just another day in which your children have demonstrated how talented they are and how hard they work at every new challenge thrown at them.

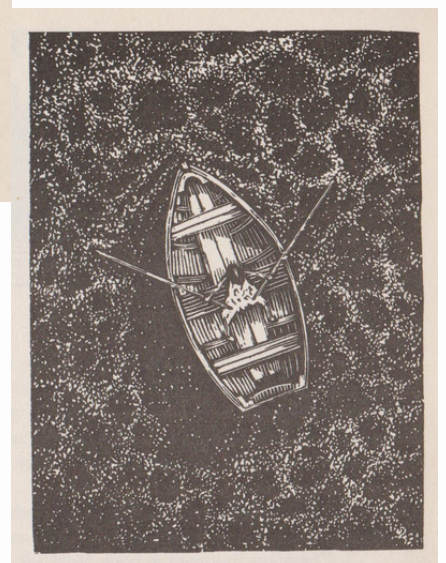


Floodland WOW Lesson

Imagine your home being slowly swallowed by the sea – each day the water levels rise higher and higher – eating away at the land until nothing is left. On Monday, that was a reality for Year 5!

To celebrate the closing of our English unit and our core text (Marcus Sedgwick's Floodland), Year 5 immersed ourselves in water and whilst trying to stay afloat in groups, we had to scavenge for resources. All-the-while we could lose everything if one of our group was separated. So we had to make a choice: do we stay together or go at it alone?

Through Floodland, we have explored various themes – such as survival, friendship and storytelling within a narrative – culminating in the children writing their own story with a moral dilemma. The book has allowed us to discuss other articles within UNICEF's RRS and how the protagonists' rights were not met: Right to Life, Keeping Families Together, Protecting Children from Violence, the Right to a Healthy Environment, and the Right to a Safe Home. In real world contexts, we are aware that even today, many children's rights are not met, and some are even revoked or rescinded.



MALALA CLASS

MANDELA CLASS

This week, our students brought poetry to life by creating freeze frames inspired by Alfred Lord Tennyson's *The Lady of Shalott*. Working in groups, the children used still images to capture key moments and emotions from the poem, deepening their understanding of its themes and language. Through this creative activity, they explored the isolation of the Lady, the vibrancy of Camelot, and the tension between imagination and reality. The freeze frames encouraged teamwork, interpretation, and empathy, helping the children connect more meaningfully with the text while expressing their ideas in a visual and engaging way.

Alongside this, year 6's have been exploring the legacy of "Band Aid" and its impact on Africa. Rather than accepting the charity single at face value, they are thinking critically about how it shaped global perceptions of poverty of "Africa" and aid. Each child is considering the perspectives of all people, asking whose voices were amplified, whose were missing, and how narratives of need versus empowerment were constructed. This reflection helps them understand not only the intentions behind Band Aid, but also the importance of representation, agency, and dignity in humanitarian efforts.



TURING GROUP

This term, Turing Group has been on a fascinating journey into the world of dinosaurs.

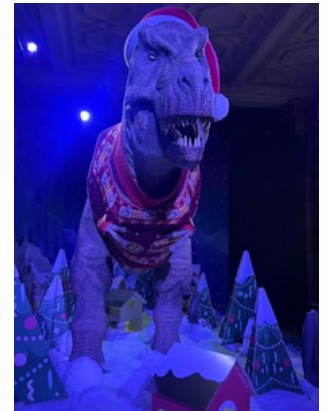
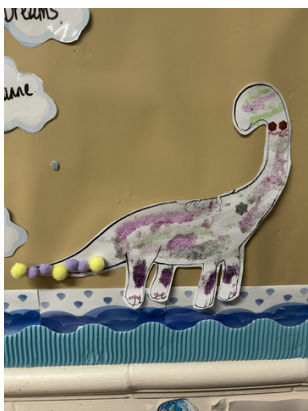
From creating a magical "wish dinosaur" who flies you to dreamland, to learning about Mary Anning and her incredible fossil discoveries, the children have explored history in creative and hands-on ways.

They even made their own fossils, bringing science and imagination together.

We rounded off the term with an unforgettable trip to the Natural History Museum, where the group had the chance to dig for fossils themselves and come face-to-face with the mighty T-Rex.

It's been a term full of discovery, creativity, and excitement!

Turing Group have truly become experts in dinosaurs and prehistoric life!



ART CLASSES

Moving on from their beautiful ammonite illustrations a few weeks ago , year 3 have developed motifs , carved into foam sheets and used acrylic paints to print multiple copies.... Brilliant!



NETBALL

We're incredibly proud to share that our school came 4th in a table tennis tournament involving ten schools! Our team showed amazing determination, putting in hours of hard work and practice, and it truly paid off on the day. They represented our school with skill, teamwork, and brilliant sportsmanship. Congratulations to all involved you've done us proud. 🎉🏓





Creative Writing Competition



**Deadline is the 9th January and entries should be emailed to
AHT@chestnutsprimary.com with the title "Key to the story competition" as
the subject line
Or handed in to Miss West**



**THE
KEY TO THE
STORY**

**What does your
key unlock?**

**Creative Writing
Competition**

No rules!
It just has to
include your key

**Creative Writing
Competition**

Prizes

- Winners and runners-up will be published in newsletter
- Read out in assembly

HAND IN OR EMAIL YOUR ENTRY BY

ADHD WORKSHOPS

ADHD support and resources

ADHD and Support in School Workshop

Date: Tuesday, December 16 from 10am to 11:30am

Location: Chestnuts Community Centre, N15 5BN

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/adhd-workshop-for-haringey-parents-support-in-school-tickets-1765856296719?aff=oddtcreator>

ADHD Workshop – Diagnosis and Beyond

Date: Tuesday, 20 January from 10am to 11:30am

Location: Chestnuts Community Centre, N15 5BN

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/adhd-workshop-for-haringey-parents-diagnosis-and-beyond-tickets-1977276831229>

New ADHD & Autism Support Website

A new website is live with information, services, and support for children and young people under 18 with ADHD or autism-related needs. It includes NHS referral details, local events, and resources for families and professionals.

<https://londonwaitingroom.nhs.uk/autism-adhd-support-ncl/neurodevelopmental-support-haringey>