

Chestnuts Primary School Newsletter



Friday 13th February 2026



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Monday 16th – 20th
February- Half Term
Holiday

Monday 23rd February –
All children return back
to school

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's hard to believe how quickly this half term has flown by. The school has been buzzing with energy, and it's been a joy to see our children throwing themselves into every opportunity with such enthusiasm.

Our sporting teams have had a particularly impressive few weeks. Both the football and netball squads have represented the school brilliantly, showing real teamwork, determination, and sportsmanship. Their success on the pitch and court has made us all incredibly proud, and they've set a wonderful example for the rest of the school.

Inside the classroom, the hard work has been just as inspiring. Teachers have been delighted by the progress they're seeing in books across all year groups. The children's effort, focus, and growing confidence shine through on every page, and it's clear that their commitment is paying off.

I'm also very pleased to introduce two new parent governors who will be joining our governing board. Zoe Gannon, a specialist barrister and mum to a child in Reception, brings valuable expertise and a fresh perspective to our team. Alongside her, Victoria Wilson, whose son is in Year 4, joins us with a strong background in finance that will be a real asset to the board's work. We are grateful to both Zoe and Victoria for putting themselves forward and for their willingness to support the school in this important role.

Kind regards,
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**

KEY STORY WINNERS

The Key Story

We had an amazing amount of fantastic stories! It was incredible and especially difficult to choose the winners- well done everyone who took part!

Key story winners:

Key stage 1

- 1st Florence In Hadid
- 2nd Sophia from Rashford
- 3rd Idris from Hadid

Key stage 2

Due to the number of amazing entries we had to pair up winners and have 6!

- 1st - Ada Millner Diski and Greta Cook
- 2nd Joshua Gill and Orla May
- 3rd Lola Browne and Brandon Carr

MUSIC

Would you like to come into school to share some music?

Can you spare a little time to either come into your child's class or into an Assembly with several classes?

What can I do?

Bring in an instrument to share with the children, explaining the different parts, how it is played, etc.

Perform a song or 2 for the children in English or another language

Teach the children a song

Or perhaps you have an idea of your own!

If you are interested or would like to know more, please contact your class teacher or Ms Yong at myong@chestnutsprimary.com

YOUNG ARTS SUMMER EXHIBITION

If your child would like to enter this year's Young Arts Summer Exhibition please follow the link on this poster. We will be submitting a 'whole school' collaborative piece, but encourage all children to enter their own individual creations. Over the years children from Chestnuts have entered and shown their art in one of London's most prestigious art galleries in the world.



The poster features a large, bold 'RA' logo in black on a green diagonal band. The main title 'Young Artists' Summer Show' is in large white text on a purple diagonal band, with '2026' in purple below it. The Royal Academy of Arts logo is at the bottom left, and a 'Call for entries' section is on the right.

Call for entries

An exciting opportunity for students aged 4–18, who are living and studying in the UK, to exhibit their artwork on site or online at the Royal Academy of Arts.

Open for submissions
5 January–4 March 2026

Find out more and enter
royac/youngartists
@royalacademyarts

**Young
Artists'
Summer
Show
2026**

Royal
Academy
of Arts

Made possible by Robin Hambro

What we have done this week

NURSERY

The nursery had a brilliant time exploring magnets! What amazing little minds we have! Our children were able to identify metal, wood and plastic objects, and most predicted that our metal items would be magnetic. After much testing of our theory, the children discovered that not ALL metal is magnetic when the magnets could not pick up one of our metal bowls, and that wood and plastic are not magnetic. Afterwards followed much independent exploration, including discoveries around polarity (attracting and repelling) and picking up non-magnetic items by sandwiching them between the magnet and a magnetic object. Our Nursery children are superstars!



DONALDSON CLASS

This week, Reception have enjoyed putting all of their new woodwork skills into practise. The children chose their resources and everyone has demonstrated that they can safely use the tools. The children will continue to develop their competency in using the hammer, bradawl, screwdriver and Japanese pull saw. Well done Reception!



AHLBERG CLASS

This Friday, Reception has learned all about Lunar New Year. We looked at the story of the Chinese Zodiac, we got to do a dragon dance, we learned how to write numbers in Mandarin and we tried different fruits such as pomelo, pomegranate, pineapple, mandarin, grapes and bean sprouts. What an exciting day!



HADID CLASS

This half term in art, the children have been exploring motifs, focusing particularly on symbols linked to different types of weather. After studying how artists use repeated imagery to create pattern and meaning, the children designed their own weather motif and transformed it into a collagraph printing block. They loved experimenting with the printing process, using their blocks to create bold, repetitive patterns. We had a lot of fun and very inky hands!



MOZART CLASS

This week Mozart class have been busy learning about the UNCRC children's rights as part of our journey as a Rights Respecting School. The children explored what these rights mean in their everyday lives and worked together to choose the ones that matter most to them in the classroom.

These have now been added to their Class Charter display, proudly showing the promises they've made to help everyone feel safe, respected, and ready to learn. It's been wonderful to see how confidently they talk about their rights and the rights of others.



SEACOLE CLASS

This week for our computing day, we began exploring how spreadsheets work using 2Calculate on Purple Mash. We learned new vocabulary linked to spreadsheets such as cells, columns, rows, and formulas, and discussed how these tools help us organise and analyse information. The children then used a spreadsheet to practise and strengthen their times-tables knowledge, entering numbers into cells and using simple formulas to work out answers. This helped them see how digital tools can support their maths and make calculations quicker and more efficient.

As a Rights-Respecting School, we also talked about every child's right to learn and develop (Article 29) and how using technology responsibly supports this right.



RASHFORD CLASS

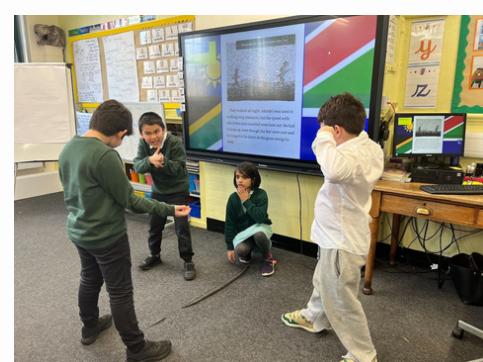
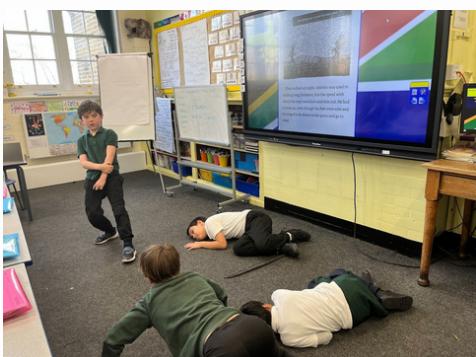
This week Year 2 undertook an Environmental Quality Analysis of the local area. We went on a walk around the local area and the children assessed the noise level, smell, vandalism, litter, appearance and condition of buildings. We then spoke about the different ways we can look after our local area. As a rights respecting school, this links to articles number 24,12,6.



BENJAMIN CLASS

ATTENBOROUGH CLASS

Y3 stepped into the world of The Akimbo Adventures by performing a dramatic scene from the story. They experimented with freeze frames to capture the emotions of the characters at key moments, thinking carefully about body language, expression, and perspective. Alongside their drama work, the class also explored the real-world issues behind the book, discussing conservation, the impact of poaching, and the importance of protecting endangered species. Their thoughtful reflections and creative performances were a memorable learning experience! This learning links closely to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, particularly Article 12, which highlights every child's right to express their views, and Article 29, which emphasises education that helps children understand and respect the natural world.



FIBONACCI CLASS

Year 4 had a brilliant time this week exploring the world of artificial intelligence for Fibonacci's ICT day. The children learned about both the exciting possibilities AI can offer and some of the challenges that come with using it responsibly.

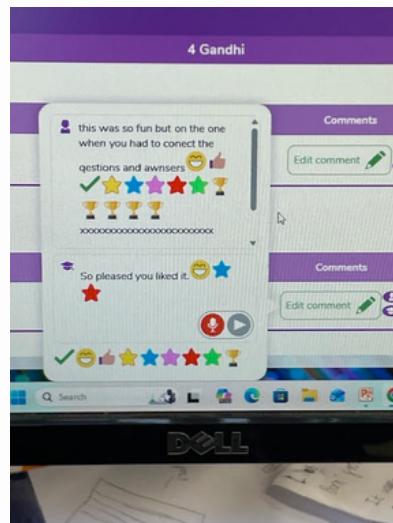
Many of the children were eager to share how they already use tools like Siri and Alexa at home, which sparked some lively discussions. One of the highlights was a fun activity where the class tried to work out which images were created by AI and which were made by humans – a challenge that sparked lots of excitement, debate, and laughter. It was a wonderful way to help them think critically about the technology they use every day.

As a Rights-Respecting School, we also spent time thinking about every child's right to learn and develop (Article 29). The children discussed how using technology responsibly helps protect this right and ensures that AI can be a positive tool in their learning. It was lovely to see them making thoughtful connections between their digital lives and the values we promote at Chestnuts Primary School.



GANDHI CLASS

Another successful ICT day in Gandhi class. We were finding out all about AI, what it is, where it is used and how to use it. The children had fun on quizzes at the beginning and end of the day. They also had the chance to use AI and finally finished the day by creating posters telling people how to stay safe online using AI. You can see in the pictures here, not only a picture of the computers being used and some of the posters, but feedback from a student (and there were many), on just how much they were loving the lessons!



PANKHURST CLASS

THOMPSON CLASS

To complete our science unit on Properties of Materials, we needed to become Problem Solvers and Environmentalists. On our tables, we had some heavily polluted water that required sanitation.

As we are Global Citizens, it is our responsibility to look after our oceans and maintain a sustainable environment for ourselves and future generations.

The outcome: We needed to completely remove our solute (salt) from the mixture.

Remove the materials from the mixture – e.g. sand, dirt, plastic;

Remove the iron filings;

Separate the oil.

Finally, how will we separate the salt?

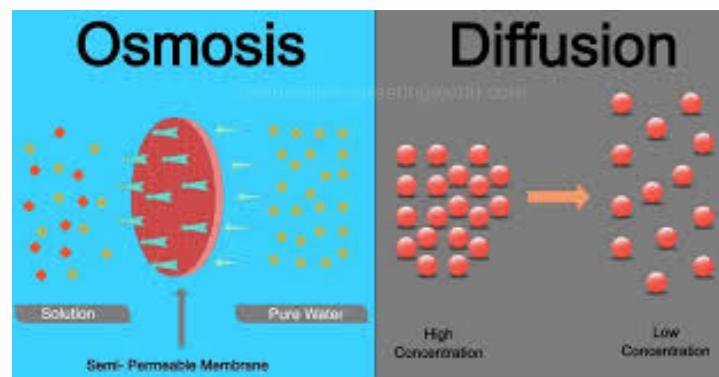
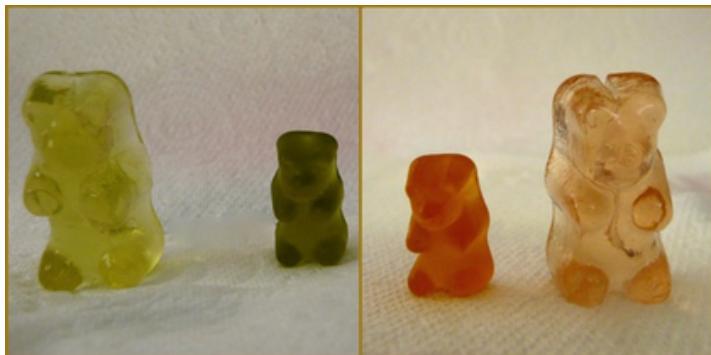
The children were tasked with devising a systematic method whereby all the above materials were removed.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



This term, students are diving into the fascinating world of the circulatory system! To better understand how water and nutrients travel throughout the body, they explored the concept of osmosis through a fun, hands-on gummy bear experiment. By placing gummies in different liquids and observing how they changed size, students discovered how water moves in and out of cells. This helped them connect their experiment to how nutrients, oxygen, and water move through the bloodstream and into our body's cells, building a strong foundation for understanding how the circulatory system keeps us healthy and energized.



SCHOOL COUNCIL

Year 5 started their cycling training this term!.

Chestnuts Cheers received in the school council this week:

Rashford class enjoyed their trip to the Little Angel Theatre to see The Storm Whale. Malala class are grateful for the really nice school lunches; for the Enrichment clubs and the free clubs; for ICT days; amazing Spanish lessons, and Diversity & Inclusion.

Pankhurst class like the curriculum spot in their classroom and want to celebrate Mark! Mr. Bloom likes our guests and school trips

