

Chestnut Class Newsletter

Summer 2026

Welcome to Summer Term! I am thrilled to welcome Year 2 back for a hopefully sunny last term before Year 3!

Teachers in Chestnuts:

- **Miss Challis** – Class Teacher- Monday- Friday
- **Mrs Hynard**- Monday afternoons

If you need to contact us about anything (no question is too silly), you can catch us at the door after school with any quick queries, or you can email us.

Drop off and collection

Drop off – between 8.35am and 8.45am, at the side gate. Children walk through to their classroom. Please try to be on time, because we have times table practice or handwriting first thing in the morning. Collection – at 3.15pm, from the Y2 classroom door.

Lunches and Snacks

Each morning, children choose between red (meat), green (vegetarian), blue (sandwich) and yellow (jacket potato) options, or packed lunch from home. A fruit snack is provided from the Government. Children may bring in their own snack for the morning, but this must be a piece of fruit.

What to bring each day

- Water bottle (named)
- Book bag (no rucksacks)
- Reading folder (record and book)
- Coat, sun hat (weather dependent)

Library

Children will be able to choose a book from the library on a Friday to take home, share and enjoy. Please ensure that this is back in their bookbag each week so they can swap it for a new book. If they would like to keep it for longer than one week, they have the option to do this.

Optional homework grid

Please read through this with your child to see if they'd like to complete any of the activities. We encourage children to bring these into school, so we can put them on our display and they can share their work with other pupils.

Home learning

We can't emphasise enough the importance of reading.

Please aim to do the following every day:

- Listen to your child read and record this each time in the reading.
- Record so we can see what they have been reading. A detailed comment each time is not necessary.
- Read to/with your child every day. This could be picture or chapter books, but could also include recipes, comics, letters, magazines, newspapers, etc, whatever they enjoy!
- Please make sure children bring in their reading folders every day, or they might miss their reading slot.

In their reading diaries, there are spelling lists that show which words they know. Please focus on the words that have not been highlighted.

Continue to practise times tables regularly to improve fluency.

There are also other websites you could use to practice such as:

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/time/teaching-clock>

<https://www.timestables.co.uk/games/>

Class reading book

This half term we are reading **The Unlikely Tale of Chase and Finnegan** which is a new book I am excited to start! We will then move onto **The Wild Robot** if we have time. We are also using guided reading as a way of introducing the children to new 'books of the week'. We will study each book for the week, and the children will have to retrieve, interpret and explain the text within a range of questions. This will help prepare the class for Year 3.

RE

In Year Two, pupils will explore "Stories of God" through key Bible narratives, including the story of Jonah and the Whale. They will learn to retell these stories and reflect on the messages they convey about God's nature, such as compassion, forgiveness and guidance. Pupils will begin to make connections between the stories and their own lives, considering how these teachings can influence the way people behave.

Science

Year Two will develop a strong understanding of plant growth and environmental responsibility. They will learn how seeds germinate and grow, including the conditions needed for healthy development, and will be able to sequence the stages of a plant's life cycle. They will also explore the impact humans have on plants and the importance of caring for the environment.

English

This term, we will be developing a range of writing skills across different genres. We will begin with a narrative based on ***The Rabbit Belongs to Emily Brown***, focusing on character descriptions, story structure, and sequencing events.

Then, we will be moving onto writing a narrative piece on **The Lost Homework** with the focus on sentence structure and vocabulary.

We will also write a recount titled '**Here I Am**', which will help children practise writing in the past tense and organising events in chronological order.

Finally, we will create a narrative based on ***Traction Man***, encouraging creativity, expanded noun phrases, and descriptive language. Across all units, children will continue to develop their handwriting, spelling, punctuation, and grammar in line with Year 2 National Curriculum expectations.

Maths

In the summer term, Year 2 pupils will focus on building their understanding of multiplication and division by working with equal groups, arrays, and counting in 2s, 5s and 10s, helping them see patterns and repeated addition. Alongside this, they will apply maths to real-life contexts through measurement, learning to measure and compare length, mass, capacity and temperature using standard units. They will also continue to develop their understanding of time, telling it to the nearest 5 minutes and comparing durations.

In geometry, the children will explore 2D and 3D shapes, describing their properties and identifying lines of symmetry, while also learning about position and direction, including turns and movement.

Art – Sculpture and Clay Models

In Art, children will explore sculpture through the use of clay. They will learn techniques such as rolling, shaping, carving, and joining materials to create their own models.

Children will experiment with creating texture and form, and will look at examples of sculpture for inspiration. They will also evaluate their work, discussing what they like and how it could be improved.

Computing – ScratchJr

In Computing, children will use ScratchJr to develop their programming skills. They will create simple animations and interactive stories by selecting and sequencing commands.

Children will learn how to debug simple programs and understand the importance of clear instructions (algorithms).

Geography – What is it like to live by the coast?

In Geography, children will explore coastal environments and learn about what it is like to live by the sea. They will identify physical features such as beaches, cliffs, and the sea, and begin to understand how these are formed.

Children will compare coastal locations with our local area, identifying similarities and differences. They will also consider how people use the coast for tourism, work, and leisure, and how these environments can be protected.

History- What is a Monarch

In History, we will learn about monarchs and their importance in British history. The children will explore what a monarch is and the roles and responsibilities associated with this position.

They will learn about significant British monarchs and begin to place them on a simple timeline. Year 2 will also explore how the monarchy has changed over time and how it has influenced life in Britain.

Music – Myths and Legends

In Music, our topic is **Myths and Legends**. Children will explore rhythm, pitch, and tempo through singing and playing instruments.

They will listen to a range of music and discuss how it can represent different stories and moods.

PSHE – Citizenship & Economic Wellbeing

In PSHE, children will learn about citizenship and economic wellbeing. They will explore what it means to be part of a community and how they can contribute positively.

Children will learn about rules, responsibilities, and making good choices. They will also begin to understand money, including saving and spending, and the difference between needs and wants.

Design & Technology – Textiles: Pouches

In Design and Technology, children will design and make a textile pouch. They will begin by exploring existing products and identifying their purpose and features.

Children will design their own pouch, selecting appropriate materials and thinking about how it will be used. They will learn simple sewing techniques such as running stitch to join fabric.

Finally, they will evaluate their finished product, considering how well it meets their design.