

## Meet the teacher – Information for parents Chestnut Class 2020-2021

Dear Parents,

Here are a few notes about class routines and some helpful pointers and information.

We encourage the children to be independent learners, to be responsible for themselves and their belongings and to be considerate of others.

The doors currently open at 8.45am. Pick up at the end of the day is at 2.50pm. We will bring the children out through the front door, so we ask you to wait for them in the car park, behind the yellow keep clear box.

### **Belongings**

Please ensure that ALL your child's belongings are clearly named; in particular coats, jumpers/cardigans, PE kit, lunch boxes and drink containers. It is especially helpful for your child if their PE bag is labelled on the outside. We have provided a plastic wallet for reading books – please try to send either a book bag or back pack. No large keyrings please.

### **How our day works**

In Year 1, the children will work in a similar format to their Reception learning for this first term. They will begin to learn through a series of daily challenges, some of which are adult led and others are completed independently. The independent challenges allow them to consolidate, apply and extend their learning. There are daily stand-alone sessions for phonics, literacy and maths. They also have one session of RE per week and two PE sessions.

### **Adults in our classroom**

Mrs Ravenscroft - Monday and Tuesday

Miss Greenfield – Wednesday to Friday

Mrs Fairweather – All Week

### **PE**

Chestnut class have their PE lessons on a Tuesday and Friday. For PE your child needs a named t-shirt, shorts and plimsolls. If you would like to provide your child with a track suit or jogging bottoms when the weather gets colder please put them in their PE bag. We will be outside for PE as much as possible. PE kits will be sent home every Friday for washing, please ensure they are returned every Monday.

### **Library**

Due to COVID, we are currently not using the library. We will let you know when this is back in action.

### **Absence**

If your child is away from school due to illness, please telephone and leave an answer phone message or email the class teachers. This is a Local Education Authority regulation. If your child has been sick or has had an upset stomach they must be clear of symptoms for at least 48 hours before returning to school. Please specify what their illness is so that we can monitor any COVID symptoms. Please refer to the NHS website if you are concerned your child is presenting with a new continuous cough, a high temperature (above 37.8) or a change in their sense of taste or smell. They will need to isolate as a family for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result.

### **Reading**

In Year 1, we build up to reading in a weekly guided reading session. These sessions focus on developing their understanding of texts. We will also aim to hear your child read 1:1 as much as possible.

We ask that children read at home daily. They will be encouraged to change their reading book independently each day. We will be benchmarking all children as we are aware many have not been assessed for a while. It will take time to get through all children so please bear with us. We will then continue to benchmark as and when we feel children are ready. We will record when we have read with your child in their reading record – this will be using a stamp and possibly an additional comment however we are trying to avoid cross-contamination between books.

### **Contact book**

We will not be using these currently. If you have messages for the class team, please contact using the class email address:

[chestnutclass@st-james.kent.sch.uk](mailto:chestnutclass@st-james.kent.sch.uk)

This will be checked each morning and at the end of the day. If you have urgent messages during the day (change of collection etc) please ring the office.

### **Topics**

Our topic for the Autumn term is “Knowing Me, Knowing You”. We will be focusing on ourselves and settling back into the school routines.

### **Outdoor learning**

We are very fortunate to have extensive outdoor space at our school and are very enthusiastic about outdoor learning opportunities. In order to make the best use of our woodland areas, please can your child keep a pair of wellington boots and a rain coat at school at **all times**.

### **Forest School**

All children will get a term (6 sessions) of Forest School in Year 1. Our slot for Term 1 is currently on a Wednesday and you will receive a letter when it is your child’s turn. Please make sure your child comes in **wearing** their forest school clothes if they are participating (morning and afternoon session). Their uniform should be in their bag should they get muddy and need to change. Please note the next groups may not be until Term 3.

### **Medication**

It is very important that we are kept up-to-date with any allergies your child may have. Please make sure this information is given in writing directly to the class teacher. Appointed members of staff are able to give children any **prescription** medicines they may need. If your child needs to have medication, please ask for a permission slip from the main office.

Hopefully this information has been helpful and will enable you and your child to have an enjoyable year at school. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to email.

The Chestnut Class Team