



St. Nicolas' CE Combined School Taplow

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Welcome to Chestnut Class, EYFS - autumn term 2026

We have had a lovely first week with the children and we hope they have enjoyed it too! They have been very busy making friends, learning many new routines and exploring their classroom and the wider school environment.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum is split into 7 areas of learning and we have detailed some of the learning opportunities for this term in the curriculum news (see attached). If you would like to look at the year in more detail, you can see the EYFS curriculum here <https://www.stnicolastaplow.com/eyfs-2/>



Our first topic will be **Once upon a time** followed after half term with **Festivals of light**. As well as finding out all about each other and celebrating our similarities and differences, we will also base our activities around traditional tales, nursery rhymes and books relating to nature and animals that are found in the autumn. We will have a nature table to display any interesting objects you find outdoors, so please bring them to school.



Reading and phonics

Learning to read – please view the PowerPoint about how we teach reading in Chestnut class. This can be found in the phonics section of the class page <https://www.stnicolastaplow.com/phonics-5/>

Phonics – after watching the above PowerPoint, there are videos to show you how to say the sounds. A 'Read, Write Inc.' practice booklet will be given out and the phonics page will be updated to allow you to keep up to date with the learning taking place in class.

Storytime - we recommend sharing stories daily. These can be from home, school, or libraries, as they will enable your child to learn new story language, vocabulary and develop a love for reading. Books with pictures are a great start, to challenge your child to describe a scene and its characters, making the story different each time they share the book.

Book changing day – All books will be changed on Wednesdays. Each child will be able to choose a 'reading for pleasure' book from our school library, in addition to the books we would like them to read. Please ensure that all books are inside bookbags on Wednesdays



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along with the yellow reading record book. Please write the book title and date of when it was read. We cannot change books on any other day, due to staffing, so if you do happen to forget, the books will be changed the following week.



PE kit

PE will be on a Friday, and we will be doing some mindfulness yoga this term. On Wednesdays, we will have a bikes and trikes session on the big playground, alongside some other gross motor activities (your child/children do not need their PE kits for this).

PE kits need to be in school ready for Friday 11th September.



Proud Clouds

You will find a template on our class page for little clouds that you can write on and share those special moments that make your child/children (and you) very proud! These can be anything from learning how to swim, catching a ball, helping at home, achieving a badge at Rainbows / Beavers, being kind to a new pet, writing their name...etc. We will celebrate these on a Friday.



Home learning

We would expect all children to read to an adult daily (minimum of 10 mins), to improve fluency and consolidate what is being taught in school. This might be in the form of phonics practice (phonics book/ word blending sheets) or reading books which are levelled to your child's reading ability.

Daily story time (as mentioned above) is also classed as home learning.



Website

Please look at our class page for any information about what's happening in Chestnut class [St Nicolas' Church of England Combined School - EYFS - Chestnut](#) If, after checking the website, you have any questions, please speak to a staff member.



Photos

Please remember to bring in a family photo or two. This will be very useful for a speaking and listening activity. We will also use the photos for a display called 'Our special people'.

Lastly, please remember to always label all your children's clothing and send in a water bottle with your child - no juice please –

We are very much looking forward to sharing a fun and enjoyable learning journey with the children this year and also working in a supportive partnership with you. Please do always speak to us if you have any queries.

Kind regards,

Miss Dennis, Mrs Hudson, Mrs Morgan and Miss Neal