

Chestnut class Curriculum news Autumn term 2026

Once
upon a
time

Festivals
of light

Communication and Language

In this exciting first term, children will be encouraged to listen attentively at story times. Through language rich interactions with the children, and by modelling correct use of the English language, adults will extend, support and model vocabulary and language skills. We will read regularly and engage children in a range of stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems relating to our topics. Children will be encouraged to practise their speaking and listening skills through circle time, carpet sessions and through play.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Every child is unique and we celebrate the differences between us all. Our theme this term begins with 'one kind word'. The children will be listening and looking out for children who are being kind and helpful. We will also follow the whole school PSHE scheme and talk about the topics 'me and my relationships' and 'valuing difference'.

Understanding the World

We will explore the natural world by using all senses – with a visit to Old Priory Gardens to look for signs of autumn. We will name and describe plants and animals found in the autumn and make observational drawings. We will explore natural processes, e.g. ice melting, sounds causing vibration and floating and sinking. We will learn about special places in the community by visiting our local church and vicar. We will find out about religious and cultural festivals which may include Diwali, Hanukkah, Christmas, bonfire night and Armistice day.

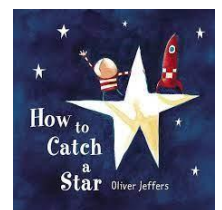
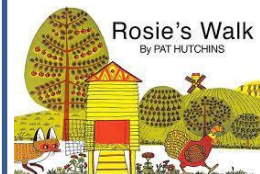
Mathematics

This term we will begin our maths mastery approach to number. We will: count objects, actions and sounds; subitise (recognise the number of objects in a small group without the need to count them); compare numbers; link the number symbol (numeral) with its cardinal number value; understand 'one more than/one less than'. We will learn numerals 0-10 and begin to count forward and back beyond 10, and count objects to 10 accurately. We will explore maths through play, for example with the sand and water – measuring capacity; through using construction toys – estimating, measuring length, exploring 2D and 3D shape, counting, sorting and continuing patterns.

Literacy

Children will experience a wide range of fiction and non-fiction books relating to our topics. These might include animal encyclopaedias, atlases, cookery books, Bible stories, traditional stories from other countries, fairy tales, nursery rhymes, poems and rhyming books. Children experience stories from many different backgrounds unlike, or similar to their own, to give them a rich knowledge of the world and people around them.

Children will have mark making opportunities in response to role-play stimulus. We follow the Read, Write Inc. phonics scheme where children will have a daily lesson in pure phonics and how to form letters correctly.



Physical Development

In this area we focus on both gross and fine motor skills. Gross - weekly yoga/dance sessions and bikes and trikes will develop core strength, stability, balance, spatial awareness, co-ordination and agility. Daily fine – motor skill activities will build strength and hand-eye coordination. As well as using a range of small tools for play dough, paper and arts and crafts. We will also be digging, mixing and exploring utensils in the outside kitchen.

Expressive Arts and Design

There will be opportunities to be creative with junk modelling, clay, collage, colour mixing, printing, mark making patterns, drawing, joining materials (adhesive tape and glue), loose art with natural materials, shape, pattern, texture and colour outside, leaf art and bark rubbings. Small- and large-scale construction which involve a variety of materials. We will sing regularly, dance and have musical sessions. Exciting role play areas will spark children's imaginations. We will perform in the nativity play with KS1 in December.