



## Welcome to Chestnut Class September 2020



Welcome to Chestnut Class! We wanted to share some information about our daily routines to help you settle into school.

With our new Reception children joining us next week we will be focusing on getting to know each other and building friendships. It has been a long time since Year 1 have been in school together too so they will also benefit from this time to familiarise themselves with the classroom, routines and each other. I know they will be great role models to the new children joining us.

We are pleased to welcome Miss Freeman to Chestnut Class team who will be supporting us as an additional teaching assistant. Mrs Wells (EYFS/KS1 teacher) teaches Chestnut Class on a Thursday morning and all day Friday. She works closely with Mrs Cullingworth to plan activities and assess children to ensure continuity and will work alongside Mrs Smith, Mrs Pain and Miss Freeman. We are a fantastic team!

Our Chestnut Class **daily routine** consists of short whole class sessions on the carpet, group or adult focused activities alongside child initiated learning through play. We use our outside area for learning all year round so please make sure your child has a jumper (named) and coat in school every day.

Our **curious curriculum** is carefully planned to support the Foundation Stage for Reception and the National Curriculum expectations for Year 1. The children have the opportunity to select their own activities to consolidate and extend their learning through play. They are encouraged to challenge themselves and will be expected to take part in adult led activities when asked. Tapestry (e-journal) is used to keep a record of your child's learning.

**Tuesday** will be Chestnut's **PE day**; your child will need to come to school in their **outdoor PE kit**.

We will use **Numberblocks** this term to strengthen and deepen our understanding of number as well as practical resources and visual images to develop our skills as mathematicians. All children will have a maths journal to show their ideas.

As readers and writers, we build **phonic skills** to support our independence. Daily phonic sessions focus on developing reading and writing skills. **Mark making and writing/reading** opportunities are encouraged throughout the environment and across the curriculum. Writing books and whiteboards are used to practise focused writing skills and handwriting.

Phonic sounds will be sent home to practise with your child once we have learned them in school. When children are able to blend sounds together to read simple words they will be ready for a reading book with words. Prior to this, children will have **reading scheme books** without words. Please support your child by encouraging them to talk about the story from

the pictures. This is an important early reading skill. As children develop their reading skills, encourage them to sound out and blend words independently. They may begin to recognise familiar words by sight. They won't have to sound out these words if they can remember them. This is another reading skill. You can support your child's understanding further by asking simple questions about the pictures and what they have read.

We cannot emphasise enough the impact regular practise of sounds and **reading at home** has on your child's progress across the curriculum. We advise you read with your child as often as possible at home - both school books and own books. Children will have their reading books changed on a Monday and Thursday. Please **keep books safely at home** until book changing day - they can be read more than once before returning them. Once back in school, **books will be quarantined for 72 hours.**

Year One children are required to complete a **Phonic Screening Check** in June 2021. This is a statutory assessment on segmenting and blending skills to read words. Please support your child with this by practising phonics regularly at home through suggested phonic games, activities and reading.

Your child will bring home a **spelling booklet, these should be kept at home.** Our spelling scheme focuses on National Curriculum expectations and provides continuity throughout the school. Research shows that spellings are embedded if practised regularly over two weeks so children are assessed on a fortnightly basis. We want your child to be using the spellings correctly in their writing and recognise them when reading. Spellings are set in groups of 4 or 5 words. You may learn these through a variety of activities e.g. Magnetic letters, chalks, rainbow writing or spelling games.

**Google Classrooms** will be used to share further information about our learning in class. Further details to follow.

This year instead of your child earning stickers for good work we are collectively earning coloured pebbles as a whole class. We will celebrate our achievements together in our weekly **Class Celebration Assembly.**

Please remember not to bring anything into school except: a coat, water bottle and your lunchbox (if required). Should you wish to contact me about your child my email address is [scullingworth@ickleshamcp.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:scullingworth@ickleshamcp.e-sussex.sch.uk)

*Teacher-Mrs Cullingworth and Mrs Wells*

*Teaching Assistants - Mrs Smith, Mrs Pain, Miss Freeman*