



West Dean Church of England Primary School

West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0RJ

Telephone: 01243 811247 Headteacher: Mr C Williams



We do our best in all we do, with God's love.

'Love one another. As I have loved you, so must you love one another.

John 13

Chestnut Class Parent Information Letter: Autumn 2022



Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome to our Year 5/6 class. I hope that you all had a super summer holiday period. The children in Chestnut Class have had a fantastic first week back after their summer break and are already familiar with the organisation and routines of their classroom. The Year Sixes have taken their places on the benches in our school assemblies and are being amazing role models for the younger children. What a lovely start to the new school year!

This newsletter outlines some of the routines and procedures that will be in place in your child's class (which will be familiar to some of you already), as well as some of the areas of learning we will focus on this term.

World War II

Our topic for this term has proved a hit for the pupils in Chestnut Class. We have watched film clips and listened to first hand recounts to launch our learning and the pupils have been keen to share their knowledge and understanding of the events of this period in history.

Our class novel, 'When the Sky Falls' by Phil Earle (inspired by true events), is also helping to immerse pupils in the past and learn what it was like to be an evacuee.



Reading



Reading regularly for pleasure and growing into life-long readers is something that we encourage. In Chestnut Class, we firmly believe that ...



In Year 5/6, children are expected to read at home for **at least 20 minutes five times a week**, immersing themselves in their texts and practising to read with fluency. This should be a mixture of independent reading and reading aloud to an adult. Children (and adults) of any age benefit from and love being read to – please continue to enjoy reading to your child.

Research shows that reading with your child is the single most important thing you can do to help your child's education.

Please feel free to come and ask if you would like examples of the type of questions you could ask while reading with your child.

When your child reads to you, please take the time to ask questions about the text to develop their comprehension skills and to ensure that your child can pronounce and understands unknown vocabulary.

Reading Records

Your child's home reading diary and independent reading book should be brought to school every day. In their reading diary, children should share what they have read and how much they have read, which in turn should be signed by a parent/guardian on, at least, three occasions each week.



Your child's reading diary will be collected and checked by an adult each **Friday**.

Your child should record their regular home reading as in the example below.

Date	Title	Pages Read	Parent's signature	Teacher's signature
9 th September -----	Holes by Louis Sachar -----	P12 to p34 -----	Mrs J Smith -----	K Prudence/ S Goacher -----
12 th September	Holes by Louis Sachar	P34 to p56	Mr M Jones	K Prudence/ S Goacher

Spelling

Most of the English language spelling follows rules and conventions. Learning about these rules means that pupils will be able to apply this knowledge to the spelling of words they have not met in print before. Spelling tests can ensure that spelling words are learned but it is essential that pupils understand, remember and use them confidently in their writing.

Therefore, rather than a weekly test, the emphasis is on an investigative approach to learning spelling rules - pupils learn to identify the rules and patterns enabling them to apply their learning independently in their writing. Spelling, grammar and listening skills are assessed through dictation activities on Fridays. These are not administered as 'tests' but provide an opportunity for pupils to evaluate their learning, think about next steps and discuss strategies.



Spelling and literacy Homework

Pupils will be required to carry out a weekly spelling investigation, which will be set each Monday and should be submitted by Friday of the same week. Spelling homework will be accessible to pupils on our Google classroom.

Mathematics

x9

x7

In mathematics, children are expected to continue learning and practising their multiplication and division facts regularly. (The **Topmarks** website is useful for practising selected skills.)

A 'Times Tables Challenge' takes place every Friday and pupils are encouraged to work towards improving their 'personal best' each week.

Mathematics homework will be set each Wednesday to consolidate what the children have covered in class and provide opportunities for pupils to investigate and apply their learning across a range of mathematical contexts. Homework should be completed for the following Monday.



Topic Home Learning

Pupils may also have a home learning task to complete related to the term's topic. These tasks normally involve a range of activities allowing pupils to choose those that appeal most closely to their interests. Information about expectations and deadlines will be shared with the children in school and on our Google classroom as necessary.



Chestnut Google Classroom

Much of your child's homework will be set on our Google classroom, allowing your child to access their work in school and at home. Please ensure that your child knows their Google login details and regularly checks our online classroom for important information. You can find your child's login details in their homework diary.

Chestnut Class Weekly Overview:

Children should bring the following equipment to school on the days shown.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
P.E. kit (To be kept in school all week) Reading diary/Independent reading book Spelling homework set Return mathematics homework Spelling workbook Maths Matters workbook	P.E. kit Reading diary/Independent reading book Spelling workbook Maths Matters workbook	P.E. kit Reading diary/Independent reading book Mathematics homework set Spelling workbook Maths Matters workbook	P.E. kit Reading diary/Independent reading book Spelling workbook Maths Matters workbook	P.E. kit Reading diary/Independent reading Submit spelling homework Reading diaries Checked. Spelling workbook Maths Matters workbook

P.E.

Mr. Johnson of AAA Coaching will continue to teach P.E. to Year 5/6 on Friday mornings (beginning Friday 9th September). I will teach P.E. every Wednesday afternoon.

Please make sure that your child's P.E. kit is clearly labelled with your child's name.

Independence

Developing independence is an important part of being in Chestnut Class to prepare for the move to secondary school at the end of Year 6. The children learn to be increasingly responsible for their own learning, expectations are high and they are encouraged to work independently. At home, you can support this by helping to develop your child's independence and encouraging them to be responsible.

How can I help my child in Chestnut Class?

Children should pack their own bag for school, be responsible for their homework tasks and submit their homework on time.



Below, are some of the ways that you can help your child do well in Year 5/6

- Make sure that you know what homework is set and encourage your child to complete it thoroughly.
- At home, encourage your child to read quietly for 20 minutes each day.
- Help your child to learn and practise their times tables to develop speed and accuracy.
- Keep up-to-date with what your child is learning at school and talk regularly about it.
- Help your child to be 'Ready to Learn' and well rested when they come to school.

We are all very much looking forward to working with you and your children during an exciting and rewarding year of learning in Chestnut Class.

Please feel free to speak to me on the playground in the morning or at the end of the day. You can also email the office to make an appointment to discuss matters that are more specific.

Many thanks,

Karen Prudence (Chestnut Class Teacher)
Mrs Goacher
Mrs Pearmaine