

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back from the Easter holidays.

Curriculum Information

Our main theme for this half term is **Jack and the Baked Bean Stalk**. As a class, we have already read the book by Colin Stimpson. We will be learning all about how beans grow, imagining where magic beans could take us and discovering how the seasons affect plants. We will use this book and the ideas of the children to explore the world around us in every area of the EYFS curriculum:

- communication and language
- physical development
- personal, social and emotional development
- literacy
- mathematics
- understanding the world
- expressive arts and design

Children have directed maths, writing and phonics sessions daily. When not working with an adult children will have access to independent activities and play that will help develop their understanding of different concepts and skills. In maths, we will be focusing on using objects to explore addition and subtraction as well as doubling and halving numbers to 10. In our literacy sessions the focus will be on writing and reading our own sentences using our phase 3 phonemes. This term we will also be taking part in art week. Along with the rest of the school, Chestnut Class will be exploring topic of "Oceans" through materials and media. Later in the term we will be inviting parents in for an open afternoon to share our learning. More information about this will follow.

Reading and home learning.

We want your child to develop a love of reading and enjoyment of books. Your child will hear stories, share books and read regularly throughout the school week. The person that shares a story with your child could be a teacher, learning support assistant, governor or volunteer. In addition to this the children will be participating in class reading sessions where we will share, read and investigate books as a group. We ask that you sign their "Exploring at Home" book and leave a comment. **When your child has 3 comments and signatures in their home book, we will make sure their book is changed. Children who need to change their book should let Mrs Purkis know in the morning when they get to school.**

Each **Friday** children will be given a task in their "Exploring at Home" book which could be linked to any area of the EYFS curriculum. It may be a written or practical task to be

completed by the following **Wednesday**. Phonics packs should be used little but often to support the learning being done in school. For some children we will be sending home phase 3 phonemes and tricky words soon.

Other Information

We would like to use our outside space throughout the year to support learning and enthusiasm in the classroom. To ensure that all children are able to participate, please make sure they have wellies and coats ready for all weathers. Please make sure your child has a PE kit in school all week.

Refreshments: If you wish your child to have milk everyday, please remember to order online. Miss Webb is able to supply further details. Milk is free for under 5s, but you must be signed up. Name labelled bottles containing water are useful. We ask for water as juice, when left, can attract unwanted visitors. Fruit or vegetables are part of our daily routine and are free of charge.

Finally if you (or any family member) would like to offer help or share your skills with the children in Chestnuts, you will be most welcome. It would be fantastic for parents to come in and read during reading time or help with art, design or cooking activities. If you do have spare time available, please contact either myself or Miss Webb to arrange the appropriate paperwork.

Looking forward to a great term ahead. Please don't hesitate to ask any questions you may have.

Yours sincerely,

David Amps