



Welcome to Chestnut Class! After such an unsettling term before the summer, I am excited to welcome the children back to school and get settled back into class. After such a long time away from the normal school routine, we will be spending plenty of time in at the start of this term in getting settled, catching up with friends and getting used to the routines of Chestnut Class. We have some exciting topics planned and will also make sure that the transition into new year groups is smooth and supported. Below is some key information about how the class will be running from September. I am also outlining some key areas which we will be focusing on this term to help children catch up where needed - please support your child with this at home.

### **Times tables and mental maths**

Times tables form an integral part of the maths we cover in upper key stage 2, and children should be fluent in their times tables and related division facts by the time they start Year 5. Because of the long time away from school, it may be the case that some times tables and maths learning has slipped so it is important to catch up with this as soon as possible. There will be mental maths sessions each afternoon (apart from Tuesdays) and a mental maths test each Friday afternoon to support this. Children will be given the focus for the week so they can practise at home and should practise their times tables at home daily. We will also be restarting TTRockstars soon to help support this.

Additional support will be provided for children who have not finished learning their times tables, but please work with them at home to support them in catching up as soon as possible.

### **Spellings**

Spellings will be tested on Tuesdays, and children will be expected to achieve 8/10. There are a number of effective strategies to help learn tricky words, and these will be taught at the beginning of the term with a guide to help the learning of spellings sent home.

### **PE**

PE will be on Tuesdays and will be run by a teacher from the high school as last year. Please ensure children have the correct kit at school, including trainers, as our lessons will be outside. Children should take their PE kits home after PE so that they are clean for the following week.

### **Reading**

Reading will be taught following the *Destination Reader* approach across the school, though initially group reading sessions will be replaced with individual reading. This will ensure your child has the opportunity to read on a daily basis, and will read both within groups and individually. Reading strategies will be taught and practised in class, and it is really important that you continue to hear

your child read at home regularly, as regular practice will help them develop into confident readers who understand what they read. Talking about what they have read and asking questions is a great way to help engage with what they have read and to boost their comprehension.

Please try to hear your child read at least 4 times a week, and initial or comment in their student planner. As well as basic reading skills, it is important to build understanding, so talking about what they have read and asking questions should always be a part of hearing your child read. Children who read four or more times will be entered into a 'reading raffle' with prizes drawn at the end of each half term.

### **Homework**

To support their learning, children will be set homework which will help consolidate what they have been working on in class. Homework will be set on a Friday to be handed in on a Wednesday.

As part of their homework, children will be given a workbook from which work will be set, and will record the pages they are to complete in their student planners. They will additionally have a homework book in which to stick any sheets or complete other homework. Whilst children are encouraged to work independently on this, please ensure that you check your child's work prior to the hand in date to ensure that it is accurate. If they are unsure how to complete homework, they should let me know on the Monday so I can make time to explain or provide further help.

### **Lockers**

Children in Chestnut Class have access to their own locker and will be given a locker number on the first day into school. If your child brings in a packed lunch, they are to keep this in their locker.

### **Equipment and pencil cases**

Children in all classes will be given a pack with all the stationery they need to use in class so will not be allowed pencil cases. I appreciate that children in Chestnut Class like to bring in their own equipment, so if they would like to bring in a few items such as pencil/rubber/ruler and keep these in their packs, that is fine, so long as these items then remain in school.

### **Walking home**

Children in Years 5 and 6 are permitted to travel to and from school on their own once I have written consent from their parents. If you would like your child to do this, please write and sign a short note to let me know.

If you have any questions about anything that we will be covering this term, don't hesitate to come and ask!

Thanks,

Mr. Singleton