Dear Parents,

Awbridge Primary School

What a lovely and busy week we have had in our little Chestnut family! There has been so much learning, exploring, questioning and, most importantly, lots of opportunities for the children to learn alongside one another and build those special friendships.

A huge thank you to all the parents who joined us for our Step into School sessions for our Reception and Year 1 children. It was wonderful to see so many of you there, and the children were incredibly proud to showcase their phonics learning.

Curiosity has been a running theme throughout this half term. We have been encouraging the children to wonder, question, investigate and show an interest in the world around them. We want our little Chestnuts to see themselves as learners who can ask questions, discover new things and enjoy the journey of finding out why and how things work.

Music – Little Red Riding Hood

This week, our music learning has taken us into the wonderful world of traditional tales, with a particular focus on Little Red Riding Hood.

The children explored how different musical instruments could be used to represent different parts of the story. We discovered that drums were perfect for chopping wood, while a triangle worked beautifully for Little Red Riding Hood skipping through the forest!

We also began exploring the musical vocabulary dynamics and tempo, thinking about how music can become louder or quieter and faster or slower to help tell a story.

The children then continued their exploration by choosing instruments to represent different moments and characters from our traditional tales. It was wonderful to see them using their imaginations and making their own musical choices.

PE – Moving, Balancing, Throwing and Catching

Our PE learning this half term has focused on fundamental movement skills, including movement, balancing, coordination, throwing and catching.

This week, we brought lots of these skills together through fun and active games. One favourite was Balance Stuck in the Mud, where the children had to explore different ways of balancing while trying not to get stuck! There were some very creative balancing positions and lots of laughter along the way.

Forest Friday – Learning Through Exploration

We thought we would share a little more about what our Forest Fridays look like for our little ones. Each week, we have an overarching theme and link our activities and learning opportunities to this. Before lunchtime on Friday, the children are introduced to what will be on offer. This gives them time to ask questions, think about what they might like to explore and make their own choices about their learning.

This week, our theme was Autumn Colours, inspired by the story Summer Green to Autumn Gold.

The children were able to freely explore a range of activities, including:

An Autumn Bakery in our mud kitchen, exploring floating and sinking in our water area, creating leaf crowns, leaf threading to develop fine motor skills, making leaf people as a craft activity and creating hedgehog homes for our little outdoor friends.

Alongside these activities, our Forest Friday staples were still available, including den building, water tubes and bug hunts.

We love seeing the children move freely between activities, follow their own interests, work together, solve problems and develop their confidence and independence. It is such a wonderful opportunity for them to learn through curiosity, play and real experiences.

Reception Maths

Our Reception children have been exploring the mathematical concepts of heavy and light. We used weighing scales to investigate and compare different objects around our classroom, making predictions and talking about which objects we thought might be heavier or lighter.

We have also been exploring patterns. The children had great fun creating patterns using their bodies, such as:

Clap, stomp, clap, stomp! 👏👣👏👣

We introduced the mathematical language ABAB pattern, and the children enjoyed spotting and creating their own repeating patterns.

Year 1 Maths

Our Year 1 mathematicians have been learning how to compare numbers. We have explored the vocabulary greater than, less than and equal to, as well as more and fewer.

The children have been developing their understanding by comparing groups and numbers, explaining their thinking and using mathematical language to describe what they notice.

What a wonderful week of learning, friendship, exploration and curiosity it has been in Chestnut Class. We are incredibly proud of how the children are settling into their routines, supporting one another and embracing every opportunity to learn.

*Don't forget about library on a Tuesday. Books need to come back so we can swap them and get a new book. 🙂

Kind Regards,
The Chestnut Team