Dear Parents,

Awbridge Primary School

And that's a wrap on our first half term! We can't quite believe where the time has gone, but what a wonderful Autumn 1 it has been. Our little Chestnuts have made so many special memories, developed new friendships and enjoyed a fantastic journey of learning together. We are so proud of everything they have achieved and how much they have grown in confidence, independence and curiosity.

Kindness, Safety and Making Good Choices

This week, we have continued to focus on what it means to be kind, respectful and safe in our classroom and beyond. The children have been exploring different scenarios, discussing what they might do in certain situations and thinking carefully about the choices they make. It has been lovely to hear their thoughtful ideas and see them developing an understanding of how their actions can help everyone feel happy, safe and included in our Chestnut family.

RE – Celebrating Our Uniqueness and Belonging

Our RE learning has encouraged us to celebrate what makes each of us special and unique. We have been talking about our individual qualities and recognising that, although we are all different, we each have something wonderful to bring to our class community.

We then explored the idea of community and belonging, discussing what makes someone a Christian and how Christians are part of a community. This led to some lovely conversations about belonging, sharing common beliefs and how being part of a community can bring people together.

English – Bringing Our Stories to Life!

Our Reception children have been busy creating sentences for the four parts of our story, Ruby's Worry. To help us remember the structure of a story, we use our four special story animals: Octopus Opening – opens the story. Build-Up Bear – builds the story up. Problem Penguin – introduces the problem. Elephant Ending – brings the story to an end.

These familiar characters help our little storytellers organise their ideas and understand how stories are put together. The children have also been practising writing short words from our story on their whiteboards, building their confidence with their phonics and early writing skills.

Our Year 1 children have been busy planning and writing their own four-part stories based on Old Brown Bear. It has been fantastic to see the children developing their ideas, organising their writing and producing some wonderfully detailed paragraphs. We have been so impressed with their enthusiasm and the progress they are making as young writers!

Maths – Seeing Numbers in Different Ways

In Reception, our Maths learning has focused on subitising. This is the wonderful skill of recognising how many objects there are without needing to count them one by one. We have been exploring small collections of objects, looking carefully at different arrangements and challenging ourselves to recognise amounts just by looking. It has been lovely to see the children growing in confidence as they develop this important early number skill.

Our Year 1 mathematicians have been busy exploring part-whole models and writing number sentences. They have been learning how numbers can be broken into smaller parts and how we can use this knowledge to represent addition. We have enjoyed seeing the children use practical resources and their mathematical thinking to explain their ideas.

Thank You, Chestnut Families!

It has been so lovely to catch up with you all during parents' evening and share the beautiful learning that has been taking place in Chestnut Class. Thank you for taking the time to meet with us, celebrate your children's achievements and work together to support their learning journey. These conversations are so valuable, and we really appreciate the wonderful partnership we have with our families.

As we head into the half-term break, we hope you all have a restful, happy and enjoyable week together. Take time to relax, make special memories and enjoy a little autumn fun!
We look forward to welcoming our little Chestnuts back for another exciting half term filled with curiosity, creativity, friendship and lots more wonderful learning.

Have a fantastic half term, everyone!

From,
The Chestnut Team