Dear Parents,

Awbridge Primary School

What a wonderful second and third week we have had in our Chestnut Class! It has been such a joy to see how settled our Reception children are already and to watch the special bond growing between everyone. We truly feel that we are creating something very special in our Chestnut family, and we are so proud of the kindness, care and sense of belonging that the children are showing one another.

Over the past few weeks, we have been placing a strong focus on our whole-school expectations of being Ready, Respectful and Safe. We have been exploring what these important words look like in action and how we can demonstrate them throughout our school day. Together, we have even created our very own classroom promise, which links to these key expectations and helps us to remember how we can look after ourselves, each other and our learning environment. It has been lovely to see the children taking ownership of these promises and beginning to understand what it means to be part of our classroom family.

Reception

Our Reception children have taken some very exciting steps this week as they have been introduced to Phonics, English and Maths. They have been enjoying learning new sounds with Fred, counting and recognising dots in different arrangements, and exploring our wonderful story, Ruby's Worry.

Our story has provided a beautiful opportunity to talk about feelings and emotions, helping the children to recognise how they might be feeling and understand the importance of using their words when they need help or support. We have been encouraging the children to share their thoughts, listen to one another and understand that all feelings are important.

Belonging has been a special thread running through much of our learning over the past few weeks. We have been learning what it means to belong to a class, to be a friend and to feel safe, happy and valued. We can already see the beautiful relationships developing, and it is wonderful to watch our youngest children grow in confidence each day.

Year 1

Our Year 1 children have absolutely blown us away with their kindness, independence and the confidence they have shown as they transition into Year 1. They have been wonderful role models for our Reception children, and we are incredibly proud of the care they show towards others.

In English, we have started exploring our new story, Old Bear. The children have been making predictions about what the story might be about, writing sentences about the bear and his friends, and developing their understanding of plurals using -s and -es. We have also been practising joining words and ideas together in sentences using and.

In Maths, the children have been recognising numbers written as words and practising counting on from any number within 0–10. They have been developing their confidence with numbers and enjoying opportunities to apply their learning in practical and engaging ways.

Dimensions Learning – Traditional Tales

As part of our learning, we have been exploring living and non-living things, with a particular focus on identifying the characteristics of birds. The children have enjoyed looking closely at what makes a bird a bird and discussing the features they can see. This learning links beautifully with our Science curriculum and encourages the children to be curious about the world around them.

It has been such a positive and exciting start to our time together, and we could not be prouder of how our Chestnut family is growing. Thank you, as always, for your continued support, encouragement and partnership. It means so much to us as we work together to help every child feel happy, safe, valued and excited to learn.

We look forward to another wonderful week of learning, laughter and new adventures!

Kind Regards,
The Chestnut Team