Dear Parents,

Awbridge Primary School

What another fantastic week of learning, growing and exploring we have had in our Chestnut class! It has been wonderful to see the children becoming increasingly confident, curious and independent as they continue to settle into our routines and enjoy learning together.

Exploring Animal Life Cycles

This week, we have been learning all about animal life cycles, with a particular focus on the fascinating life cycles of frogs and butterflies. The children have loved discovering how animals change and grow over time and have been developing their understanding of the different stages in each life cycle.

We have also been learning about baby animals and the special names we give them. The children particularly enjoyed using their imaginations to create animal hospitals, caring for poorly baby animals, and building wonderful farms filled with different animals. There has been lots of imaginative play, conversation and learning happening through these experiences!

Drama Workshop

On Wednesday morning, we were lucky enough to enjoy a fantastic drama workshop. The session focused on building confidence, having fun and using our imaginations. The children thoroughly enjoyed becoming different characters, exploring ideas and expressing themselves through drama. It was wonderful to see so many children stepping outside their comfort zones and joining in with such enthusiasm!

Maths

Our Reception children have been focusing on counting and recognising patterns when counting. We have been working hard on the important skill of counting each object once and only once, making sure that we are accurate when counting a group of objects.

We took our learning outside on a nature walk, where the children counted things they could find in the natural environment. We also used chalk on the playground to create our own counting games, turning our maths learning into lots of fun!

Our Year 1 children have been focusing on counting backwards and finding 1 less. They also enjoyed taking their maths learning outdoors on a nature walk, using movement to help them practise counting backwards. There were lots of jumping, stepping, moving and, most importantly, lots of hearts beating with excitement!

English

Our Reception children have continued exploring Ruby's Worry, developing their vocabulary and beginning to think carefully about how a story is sequenced. Our very special Chestnut Worry Monster has also been working hard this week!

The children have been encouraged to understand that it is always okay to talk about our worries. If a child has a worry, they can write or draw it on a piece of paper and place it inside the Worry Monster's mouth. The following morning, we discover that the Worry Monster has "digested" the worry, leaving only tiny pieces of paper behind! This has created some lovely conversations about how sharing our worries can help us to feel better and that we never have to keep a worry all to ourselves.

Our Year 1 children have been thoroughly enjoying their story Old Bear. They have been exploring the different characters and thinking carefully about how they might be feeling. We have already seen some wonderful sentences developing from these discussions, with the children using their ideas about characters' emotions to enrich their writing.

Kind Regards,
The Chestnut Team