

The Chestnut Chronicle

What an exciting and joy-filled half-term it has been in Chestnut Class! The children have thrown themselves into their learning with such enthusiasm, curiosity and growing confidence — we are incredibly proud of them. As we reach the end of term, here's a little look back at all the wonderful learning and experiences we've shared.

Our biggest focus this term has undoubtedly been the Nativity. The children have worked their socks off, learning a wide range of songs, memorising lines, understanding the story of Jesus' birth, and rehearsing with growing confidence.

In RE, we explored *Incarnation* and why Christmas matters to Christians, linking our learning to feelings of thankfulness and kindness, and to how the Nativity story influences people's actions at this time of year. Seeing the children connect their learning to real-life celebrations has been such a joy.

In English, we've delved into *Flashlight* by Lizi Boyd. The children have been busy writing recounts and crafting first-person narratives and acting out scenes. It's been fantastic watching them plan aloud, refine their sentences and edit their own work with growing independence. Year 2 have also been stretching their spelling skills with contracted forms and suffixes — super progress all round!

In maths, year 1 pupils have been exploring counting in 2s, spotting odd and even numbers, and developing early division ideas through halving and sharing.



They've also been introduced to grouping in 10s and strengthening their understanding of number bonds.

Year 2 have been busy extending their multiplication knowledge using repeated addition, investigating symmetry in 2D shapes, and beginning to work with non-unit fractions. They've also made links between fractions, counting in 5s, and telling the time — all while building fluency with numbers to 100. Brilliant effort from everyone!



What an exciting topic the Great Fire of London has been! The children have asked thoughtful questions about the Great Fire, learned about how and why it spread so quickly, and discovered how houses, streets and firefighting have changed since 1666. They particularly enjoyed learning about key figures such as Samuel Pepys and how his diary helps us understand the events. Ask them what he did with his cheese and wine!

In science, we have been linking our earlier work on life cycles and habitats, exploring the four seasons and how different animals and plants adapt throughout the year. We are so lucky to be able to extend this learning in our forest school sessions and wonderful outdoor space.

We have also been busy building our gymnastics skills, learning how we can best look after ourselves and others, and getting creative in art, experimenting with wax resist to add detail and texture to our artwork.

Thank you so much for your ongoing support this term. Your children have worked incredibly hard and shown such kindness, resilience and enthusiasm in everything they do. We hope you all have a restful and very happy Christmas break.