



Chestnut Class

Newsletter

April 2024

Welcome

Hello and welcome back after the Easter holidays. It is fantastic to see the pupils back in class. Last term, we had a very busy time and pupils worked hard and made some great progress. Our topic last term was “A day in the life of... an inventor and shop assistant”. The pupils were very engaged in different inventions that they made. They loved interacting with others on the phone and creating light displays. Pupils enjoyed running their own shops and cafes in class too. We are now starting the summer term and look forward to lots of learning and fun! We are looking forward to sports day, Rainbow day and Queen’s day!

If you have any queries; please do not hesitate to contact us via the school office, in your child's home school book or email joanne.baker@saxon.set.org

Jo, Sassi, Sarah and Isra.

Topic

This term our topic is “Wish you were here... Lichfield and then Far Away.” We will be exploring the key features of our school grounds, especially in forest school. We will investigate wider by finding out about Lichfield—we would love to do a visit into Lichfield, but we will need some volunteers to come and help us—if you would be available, please let me know.

After May half term, we will be learning about countries far away—Egypt, Thailand and India. We will explore what we need to go on journeys, what it is like in those countries and also about their history, through sensory experiences.

Communication

We have a wide variety of methods of communicating in class and this is modelled by staff throughout the day. This includes Intensive Interaction, PODD, Makaton, switches and tactile signing.

In communication sessions we gain in confidence in using some of these methods. We also do communication through dance massage, Starbox and Interactive soundbath sessions.

Our sensory story for this half term is “Alfie and the lost words of Lichfield”

Thinking & Problem

During cognition sessions we are developing our thinking and problem solving skills. We use switches to control our environment and operate devices, explore treasure baskets, objects hanging on an A-frame or use Active learning resources to help us explore with greater independence.

We also engage in early number activities and explore position and direction.

We will be starting to explore rocks and also changing materials.

Meet the Team!



Hi, I'm Jo! I have worked at Saxon Hill for 19 years! I have a border collie and 6 guinea pigs! I'm a Brownie leader and I love doing crafts such as sewing, needle felting and crochet.



Hi, I'm Sassi! I have worked at Saxon Hill for 20+ years! I like cooking and eating healthy foods. I like being out and about with my family and being very active. I like smiling and being silly too!



Hi I'm Sarah! I have worked at Saxon Hill for 15 years! I have a crazy Cocker Spaniel called Jessie. I love walking, especially in the Lake District.



Hi I'm Isra! I have worked at Saxon Hill for 3 years. I have a 1 year old daughter who keeps me very active! I like spending time with my family. I like trying lots of different foods – my favourite is Chinese!

PSHE

This term our topics will be being safe and then online relationships. If you have any questions about PSHE please get in contact.

Forest School

Chestnut class will take part in forest school on alternate Thursdays, when Isobel Jellyman has them all day, with art in the afternoon. Please ensure pupils have warm clothes suitable for being outdoors and you don't mind getting dirty!

Swimming & Rebound

Our hydro session is Tuesday morning! To give each pupil a meaningful session in the water, we work on a rota. Please ensure that your child has their swimming costume with them each week. Our rebound session will take place on Wednesday mornings and we will be working on our physical skills during this session. We can only take pupils that have completed signed permission forms returned and risk assessments put in place for those conditions it applies to.



Drinks and snacks

Please send in snacks and squash for your child, if needed. Drinks of water are available throughout the day and we stop for drinks and snacks in the morning and drinks in the afternoon.



Phonics

Each morning we have a pre-phonics session. This term we will be working on alliteration and then voice sounds. This includes listening and responding, Intensive Interaction, using switches and mark making activities.

EfL

We love seeing what the pupils get up to at home—it gives us so much that we can talk to them about and they love showing photos to their friends too. Read or listen to lots of stories too! We will be going to the library each week to get a new book out to share at home. Please upload photos on to Evidence for Learning and look regularly at the things your child gets up to in school! We love to share with you the fun and progress that they are making.