



Chestnut Class

Newsletter

September 2023

Welcome

Hello and we hope that you have had a lovely Summer! We would love to hear about any adventures that pupils had during the holidays. We are really looking forward to welcoming the pupils back in and getting started with all of the exciting work we have planned. We did a lot of transition work with the pupils before the holidays, to help them settle into the new class groups. We are planning a coffee afternoon on Friday 29th September, so you can come in, see Chestnut class and meet the staff too! 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 "All about my friends". We will be working on our own identity and developing our awareness of what we can do, what we like and don't like and how we communicate these to others. We will also be building relationships with others, working on social interaction skills, finding out how we are similar and different and what we like to do with our friends. Thank you to those who filled in the All about me forms before the summer, please return this week if you still have yours at home—this will help us planning activities for this topic!



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 "Pesius and Medusa"

Cognition

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 height of our friends.

We will be using resonance boards and the soundbeam machine to experiment with sound.

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!

We will also be having another TA join us during this term—for now we will be having supply staff supporting us.

PSHE

This term our topics will be about families and also respectful 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 phonics session. Some pupils do visual curiosity—working on looking skills and vision assessments. Some do pre-phonics—exploring environmental sounds and engaging in sound play. Some have started a non-verbal phonics session, focussing on a letter each week, exploring objects that begin with that letter.

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.