



Chestnut Class

Newsletter

January 2024

Welcome

Hello and welcome back after the Christmas 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 "All about my friends", and we learnt lots about different cultures and the interests that we all have. There was lots of brilliant interactions between pupils and they had so much fun together! It was wonderful to be able to go out on a school trip to Ash End Farm before Christmas and to see pupils perform in the Nativity play.

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 A day in the life of an inventor, followed by shop assistant. We will be exploring different inventions and how we can use them to explore the world around us. At the end of our topic we will be holding our own Great Exhibition to show what we have done and what we have made.

After February half term, we will be learning about shop assistants and we hope to go on visits to local shops. If you are able to help out on a trip, please let us know. Also let us know what shops your child likes going to!

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 "The Inventing Room" from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

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 capacity and money.

We will be starting to explore British wildlife and their habitats.

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 caring friendships and then our bodies. 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 body percussion and then rhythm and rhymes. 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.