

Chesnut Lodge News

Spring 2023

Happy Birthday

Chesnut Lodge is 50!

It has recently been brought to our attention that Chesnut Lodge School in its current guise is 50 years old this year!

Obviously everyone at Chesnut Lodge need just a tiny bit of motivation for a celebration and we can see no reason to change the habits of a lifetime just yet, so School will be organising a number of celebration events and activities to mark such an iconic birthday.

While we know Chesnut Lodge evolved from Peel House Lane School which itself evolved from the Widnes Open Air School, not a great deal of information is known about the history of the school itself. If anyone has any information about the school from its opening in the early 70's to the present day we would love it if you could share it with us to support our celebrations and project work.



Average pay for male manual workers was £38.10.
The best-selling car of 1973 was the Ford Cortina MkIII.
Only 43% of households had a telephone.
The Wombles made their TV debut.
'Tie a Yellow Ribbon' was the biggest hit of the year.



What Happened in 1973 ?

1 January 1973 - Britain joined the EEC.

26 March 1973 - The London Stock Exchange admitted women as members of the for the first time in its history.

April 73 saw Liverpool crowned League Champions – their first trophy for 7 years!

1 May 1973 - 1.6 million workers went on a one-day strike to protest the Government's pay restraint policy.

20 May 1973 - The Royal Navy sent warships to protect UK trawlers against Icelandic gunboats in the 'Cod War'.

26 September 1973 - Concorde made its first transatlantic flight.

14 November 1973 - Princess Anne married Mark Phillips at Westminster Abbey.

The Mother Continent

Beethoven Discover Africa

Beethoven spent last term learning all about AFRICA. Elephants, tigers and giraffes were some of the animals we were learning about. Our classroom display had lots of wild animals that we made in our art lessons. African prints using pastels were also on display. Using clay we made African pots to use to eat our African stew. This was made in cookery lessons. Tins of stewed steak and mixed vegetables were put into a big pot and shared between the children. EVERY LITTLE BIT WAS DEVoured!!!!!!

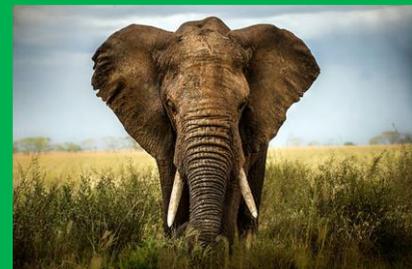


Did You Know



There are 54 Countries in Africa covering an area of over 30 million square kilometers – in other words Africa is **REALLY BIG!**

Over **2000** languages are spoken in Africa, the most common being Arabic which is spoken by over 170 million people followed by English which is spoken by over 130 million!



African Elephants are the worlds largest land animals, often weighing over 6 tonnes. They have bigger ears, more wrinkles and longer tusks than their Asian Cousins.

Half of the gold ever mined has come out of Africa – still only enough to make a solid cube about the size of an average house 11mx11mx11m !

Magic and Mystery In Keller

The theme this term in Keller Class has been Magic and Mystery.

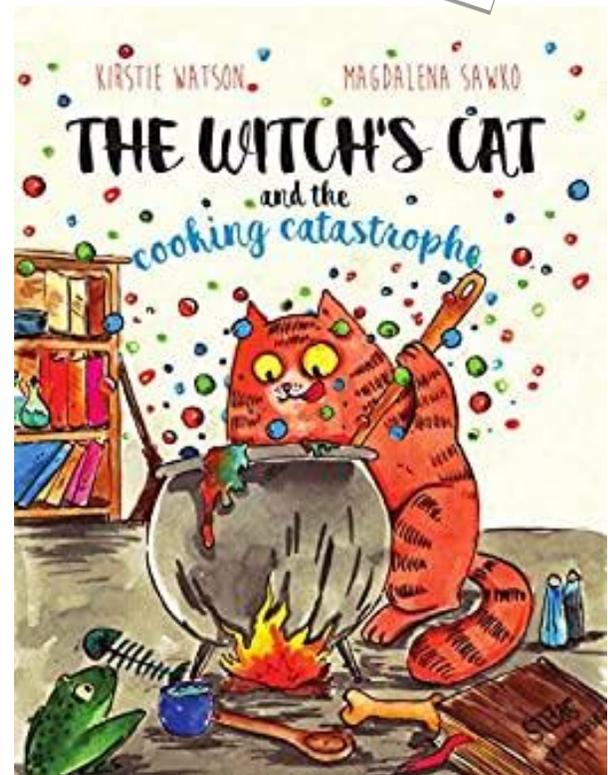
As an aspect of this theme, class have been enjoying a story called 'The Witch's Cat – A Cooking Catastrophe' in which a cat makes her Witch a meal as a treat and accidentally turns her into a frog!

Each week the children have explored sensory props to try to create the spell to try and turn the Witch back into herself, just like the cat in the book.

The poor Witch became a frog and a dog before turning back into her usual self!

The children have used signs, vocalisations and symbols to communicate in the story and through repetition of actions each week have demonstrated good understanding of the story, become more confident and displayed greater independence when adding the ingredients into their cauldron.

Thankfully, no one in class turned into a frog, and dog or a Witch during these lessons!



Inventive Industry in Tubman

During Spring 1 Tubman looked at the topic of 'Inventions'.

Class enjoyed researching the Industrial Revolution and learning about how the invention of the steam engine helped usher in the start of production on an unprecedented scale.

The class also enjoyed learning about the life and work of Isambard Kingdom Brunel, creating fact files about him.

Following the idea of inventions, the class researched pencil pots and looked at the different designs and uses of them. From this the children designed and created their own pencil pots, enjoying using mod-roc to create the shape, and then decorating in different styles.

The class also enjoyed exploring materials in science, testing various materials to find out what properties they had. They worked on sorting materials by magnetic and non-magnetic, bendy and stiff, waterproof and not waterproof.



Elvis has Entered the Building

Elvis Joins Beethoven Class

School had a very special visitor at the end of the Spring Term.

A very friendly horse named Elvis popped by Chesnut Lodge to say hello to all the children and to enjoy the lovely grass and carrots.

The visit was organised by Beethoven – due to the fact that they had some very special friends in high places – Alfie's mum who is the proud owner of Elvis!

Beethoven class all got to feed Alfie and managed to get very close to stroke and groom his coat using the special brush.

Some of the class even went for a little ride on Elvis's saddle.

Having such a friendly and interesting visitor to school was an opportunity not to be missed so Beethoven invited the whole school down to say hello.

Everyone wants to say a big THANK YOU to Vikki, Geoff and Millie for making this visit happen and especially to Elvis who was very kind and gentle with everyone.



WORLD BOOK DAY 2023

On the 2nd March we celebrated World Book Day. Secondary classes had the theme of the 'Little People, Big Dreams.' Lots of pupils and staff looked amazing dressed up as famous people who inspire them. These classes joined together to do activities inspired by famous people from these books.

These ranged from code cracking inspired by Ada Lovelace to badge making inspired by Vivienne Westwood.

Each Secondary class did activities linked to these books in class too. Hawking class loved learning about David Attenborough including doing their own voice over narration of the plants and creatures they found in our forest.



WORK WORK WORK

We like to keep busy at Chesnut Lodge School – here you can see some of the work and activities our classes have been doing this term.



During this term Beethoven led the Friday Celebration Assembly just in time for Shrove Tuesday – otherwise known as Pancake Day.

Obviously we couldn't resist the opportunity to building a bit of a competition with representatives from each class taking part.

Well done David from FOX who was 'flipping' great at making his his pancake sail the highest

Beethoven Class have been learning about the days of chivalry when learning about Knights and Castles.

The classroom itself now has its own fort with swords, shields and even horses.

We learned about the roles of the Knights and how they would have tournaments to see who was the best at jousting and we even held our own competition which Mr Thompson joined in with – he lost!

We are also planning a trip to visit Chirk Castle in Wales which we are really looking forward to especially going into the dungeons, hopefully no one will get locked inside!!!



Fox class can't believe that it is nearly the summer term, I guess the saying is right time flies when you're having fun.

In Spring one our topic was 'Inventions,' we were extremely interested to learn about inventions from years ago and we were all quite shocked at the mobile phones that people used to use.

In Spring two our topic has been 'famous faces,' this topic fitted in really well with World Book Day this year as we learnt about lots of famous faces. We have been learning about biographies in literacy and we are in the process of writing our OWN biographies for someone



We researched, designed and made our own individual pencil pots- we used tins, Modroc and paint to complete our pots. We thought they turned out really cool!



Silk and Wax

REEVE GET ARTY

This term the pupils within Reeve class have been researching famous artists.

The pupils have been learning about Jean Baptiste and have been creating their own silk paintings.

With adult support the pupils poured wax onto silk and used paints to create and crayons to create their own pictures. Everyone chose their own colours through gestures and eye pointing. Class staff are so proud of all of all the hard work!



World of Work

Some very exciting equipment has arrived in school - two coffee machines! Well, a lot of the staff are excited at least!

As part of our careers in Fox we have been learning how to use the new coffee machines. Some staff members have been lucky enough to try some of our cups of coffee!! Next term we will be using our new skills and we will be selling coffee and other treats.

For careers week, the pupils in Reeve Class learnt how to clean windows as part of their Talentino careers project. The snow was all over the windows and needed a lot of cleaning!

The amazing pupils of class Reeve were able to spray water onto the (makeshift) windows, choose their preferred cleaning sponge before drying them with a squeegee. The windows had never looked so clean!



If you go down to the woods today.....

In Peacock we explored lots of Teddy Bear related activities. We enjoyed a wide range of stories and rhymes within literacy and explored opportunities for developing cognitive skills through lots of sensory exploration. We explored number through counting opportunities and rhymes and also through the use of numicon.



We made jam sandwiches for our Teddy Bears picnic and brought in our favourite teddies to join us!



Gong-sshee faa-tseye - Happy (Chinese) New Year!

In Peacock, class members developed their understanding of the wider World when they celebrated Chinese New Year—we even did a dragon dance and used chopsticks!



Our Theme in Spring 2 was "Down at the Bottom of the Garden"



We have loved learning all about mini-beasts this half term - we was able to count, sort and categorise lots of different mini beasts.



Not The Back Page

Penathalon Gold!

In March eight pupils from Khalo and Tubman classes attended a Penathalon at Greenbank Sports Centre and came away with the gold medal! It was a hard fought day of sport with Chesnut Lodge emerging victorious, winning by 6 points ahead of the Sefton and Liverpool teams.

Teams took part in races such as relay, boccia, javelin and long jump! We were proud to win the competition and brought back gold medals and the trophy to put in our school cabinet! This was the second year in a row that we have won the Primary Panathlon Challenge, and the pupils were happier than ever to receive their trophy and medals. There were some really closely contested events such as wheelchair races and athletics, as well as a nail-bitingly close relay race as well.



MOVE OVER STRICTLY
OVER THE COURSE OF THIS TERM
FOX AND KAHLO CLASSES HAVE
BEEN WORKING ON THEIR
SHIMMIE'S, CAKE WALKS AND
CHEARLESTONS AS PART OF THE
'DANCE YOURSELF HAPPY'
SESSIONS.

KIRSTY THE TEACHER AND
CHOREOGRAPHER HAS BEEN
HELPING EVERYONE LEARN NEW
MOVES AND EVERYONE INVOLVED
ABSOLUTELY LOVE THE LESSONS
WHICH CULMINATED IN A
PERFORMANCE TO THE SCHOOL
ON WEDNESDAY 29TH MARCH.



MOVE programme success! Silver Award!

Following on from last years success in gaining the Bronze Award for the MOVE programme, school is proud to announce Following on from last year's success in winning the MOVE Programme BRONZE award, Chesnut lodge has won the SILVER award for the work we do throughout the MOVE programme. Our amazing children have been working hard, every week on their aspirational goals and targets for some years now and have been recognised for their efforts. Well done to all our families parents for the hard work that you have put in at home, after school and to Jen Helliwell and Lyndsey Jackson for all their hard work co-ordinating the programme. Hopefully next year will be a golden one!.



New Friends

Chesnut Lodge received some very welcome visitors this term when ladies from Bridewell Court in Farnworth were shown around the school by pupils from Beethoven Class.

The ladies were wowed by the school and by the way they were made to feel welcome by all the pupils.

The visit was organized by Lynn Keeling who worked at Chesnut for 40 years and was keen to show of the excellent work the pupils produce.

The ladies at Bridewell Court spend a lot of time raising money for worthwhile causes and joined the Friday Assembly where they donated £500 towards the much needed refurbishment of the infant playground.



Have a Very Happy Easter - From Everyone at Chesnut Lodge!