

# Chesnut Lodge News

Summer 2023

## Blink and You'll Miss It

*What a Busy Term!*

This has been such a busy term for Chesnut Lodge School.

Apart from the usual Summer Term activities such as Sports Day, Leavers Assembly, National Numeracy Day, Merseyside Athletics, Celebration of Achievement, National Writing Day, Fund Raising, Dancathon, Annual Reports, Panathalon Challenge, Summer Panto, Inter School Staff Rounders and Mental Health Day, School has had the pleasure of taking part in activities to celebrate the King's Coronation, Liverpool hosting the Eurovision Song Contest and of course a successful Ofsted inspection!

All of these activities were approached with our usual gusto and as usual proceeded smoothly with few mishaps – this is due to the hard work and preparation the staff team have put in across the course of the year.

Is it any wonder that schools need 6 weeks to recover in the summer!



## Retraction

*Younger Than We Think!!!*

In our last edition of the school newsletter we reported in copious detail of how the school was coming up to its 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday and we would be looking to celebrate with our partners this milestone.

However, while researching the history of the school, from what little information there was available, we came across the only two articles which mentioned the opening date of the school – both 1974!

Given this term in particular has been an exceptionally busy one, particularly for celebrations we look upon this as being a bit of a blessing, especially as it gives us an excuse to throw a party in 2024!!!



## Out and About with Keller

Keller class enjoyed a well-deserved and hard earned trip after all their effort this year in all their lessons.

Class visited to Walton Hall Park and Gardens in Warrington and enjoyed exploring the Greenhouse and the Animal Park.

Given the fantastic weather the country has had recently it was inevitable the coldest dampest day for ages would be on the day of the class trip!

However it wasn't wet enough to dampen the class' spirits and Keller were lucky enough to find an empty marquee in which to eat lunch while it rained!

Soon after the sun came out and everyone enjoyed playing in the playground.

A grand day out was had by all !



# Let's Dance – For Chesnut Lodge

Chesnut Lodge held DANCEATHON 2023 in June! to raise funds to help towards the refurbishment of the small playground.

Pupil's were eager to get as many sponsors as possible to support their task of completing a whole day of dancing. Obviously, they took on the challenge head first (or should that be feet????)

Each class was given an official time slot and told they had to continue dancing for the whole duration. NO ONE stopped until the next class had arrived to take over.

Even the dinner staff were busting out moves during lunch (the pupils have a break at some point).

The day was a massive success and we ended at 3pm to a MEGA RAVE! The grand total raise was an astounding £3032.55

We are so proud of all the pupils who took part end the staff who took the opportunity to strut their stuff!

Thank you once again for all the contributions. We are hoping to have our small playground up and running for the new academic year.



# Move Over Lord Sugar!!!

Fox class have enjoyed being enterprising entrepreneurs!! We have been really busy perfecting our café skills over the last few months, from baking delicious cakes to making better coffees than Costa.

Alongside our café we sold ice creams and it's safe to say that they went down a treat. We have already enjoyed spending some of our profits on a trip to McDonald's.



*'We enjoyed making money and equally enjoyed spending it.'*



# Green Fingers

Hawking class have been learning about plants in Science growing their own plants from seeds.

Being the enterprising sort Hawking then sold their saplings and budding plants to staff as our enterprise project. Everyone had turns trying different jobs, welcoming customers, advising customers on the best plants, working on the till and writing receipts. Tyler decided to create a new job of shop security and checked everyone's receipts on the way out!

Who said money doesn't grow on trees!!!



# Hawking Leavers Trip

At the end of June Hawking class visited Walton Hall and Gardens to celebrate the Year 11 leavers. They enjoyed seeing the animals, playing on the park, a picnic, buying themselves an ice cream and exploring the gardens. They all really enjoyed this day out.



# Rise Like A Phoenix

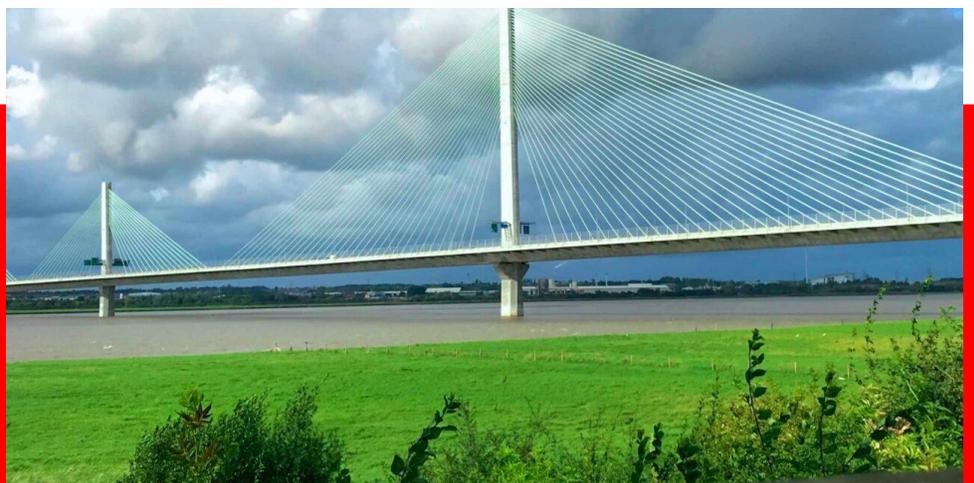
For our final term, we have done a local study of Halton, looking at points of local interest and places we visit, we enjoyed looking at places we like to visit with our families and seeing where we can recognise on a map. We have had a look at the two bridges- the Silver Jubilee Bridge and the Mersey Gateway and had a look at the history and location of both of them.

The school took part in the Eurovision Eurolearn Project Kahlo chose to represent Austria, looking at where the country was on a map, finding its flag, tasting the national cuisine and discovering more about its landscape and beautiful Alpine countryside.

We learnt about Conchita Wurst, using their Eurovision performance to inspire our own interpretation of the song 'Rise Like a Phoenix'.

After recording the music video and playing it to the school, we were voted the overall winners!

To top off a fantastic year full of fun, learning and laughter Kahlo class have chosen to celebrate in true Austrian Style – with a traditional dish from McDonalds!!!!



# FESTIVAL SEASON

This term, Reeve class have had lots of fun exploring and participating in different festivals from around the world.

The pupils began the term having lots of fun at La Tomatina festival in Spain and really enjoyed splatting staff members pictures with tomato based ingredients. The pupils then jetted off to Mexico for the Day of the dead festival and created their own flower headbands communicating their preferred colours.

In addition to this, the pupils made a stop in China for the Ice festival and loved the ice and light show!

The children had lots of fun and loved rolling in paint to celebrate Spring Holi festival.



# A REAL ROYAL KNEES UP!

The whole of the school got together to celebrate the coronation of King Charles and Camilla in May.

The coronation gave learners the chance to find out so much about the royal family and their changing role in British History.

There were also opportunities to decorate the school, with classes making and creating garlands and heraldic decorations, very much in the style of the pomp and circumstance expected from such an important celebration.

Though the classes really worked hard on their preparations, a special mention should go to Michelle, the school cook who turned her decorative skills up to 11 when creating a fantastic balloon arch through which everyone had their pictures taken and processed through in their fancy dress costumes.

The day itself was celebrated in traditionally British style with a Garden/Street party outside in the glorious sunshine followed by a disco which everyone fully enjoyed.



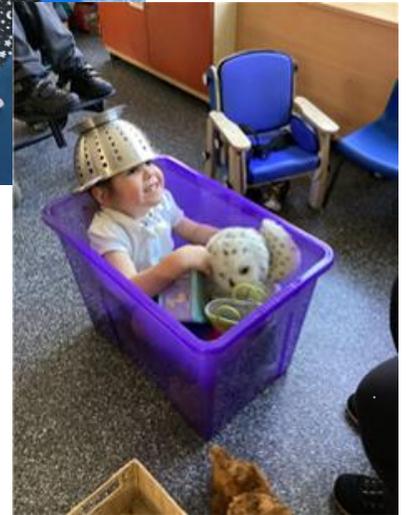
# Peacock In Space

## SUMMER 1 TOPIC

This terms topic was all about Space!

Class explored lots stories and rhymes all about space and found out all about the sun, moon, stars and planet earth where we live!

We had lots of fun activities to develop our knowledge and understanding of Space across all the 7 areas of learning



# From Space to Sea

## SUMMER 2 TOPIC

Uring Summer 2 term Class have been looking at life under the sea. Pupils learnt about lots of sea creatures through songs, stories, rhymes and learning outside the classroom!

We had a special visit to the Blue Planet aquarium and saw lots and love of sea creatures including sharks!



# **Thank you and Goodbye!**

**We have 2 of our lovely pupils moving on to new Schools this Summer - Good Luck Jacob and Isla !**



## **Special Thanks**

**It has been a lovely year in Peacock, we have made new friends, learnt new things and had lots of fun along the way!**

**Many thanks to Denise, Simone, Micelle, Kate, Irum, Hayley and Gail.**

**Have the best Summer!**

**Miss Sue**

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How is it the summer time already?...We have been working really hard in Fox class over the last few months but we also know how to have fun. We have had fantastic forest school sessions, helped to clean up the school grounds, taken part in the pantomime, danced till we could dance no more, as well as many other great activities.



# Creativity was bubbling over in Angelou!

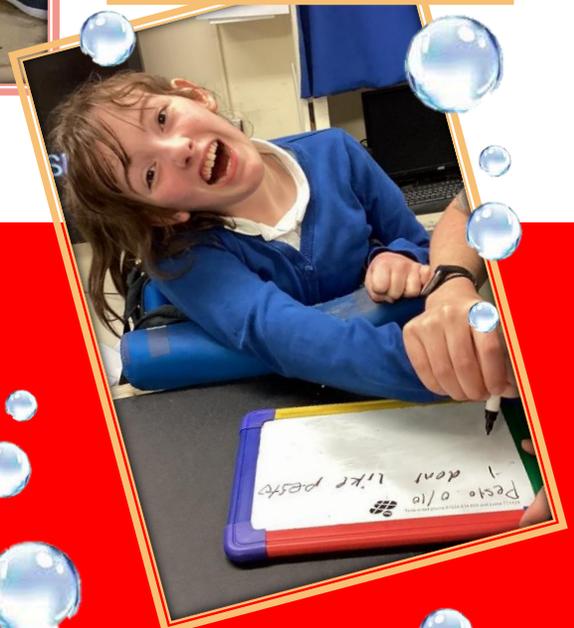
During the summer term, Angelou have had lots of exciting opportunities to show off our creative flare. We have had lots of special celebrations and wow days that were enjoyed by everyone.

During the Coronation of King Charles II class Angelou got busy making lots of lovely decorations in their Art classes, such as crowns, bunting and flags. We then had a visitor in school who put on a brilliant disco and karaoke. Lilly-Grace wowed the other students and staff with her singing and dance performances on the microphone.

Then Eurovision came Liverpool! Angelou chose to represent Italy during the Euro-learn project, which meant that we were able to cook and (more importantly) taste test a range of classic Italian foods; the garlic aioli was a class favourite. We had lots of fun working on our cooking and fine motor skills whilst making bruschetta and spaghetti and meatballs.

Angelou were also lucky enough to receive a visit from Mr Thompson's friend, Carmello, who is Italian and grew up in the beautiful city of Palermo in Sicily. He told us all about his life in Italy including what his favourite food is, it was pasta, and his favourite Italian bands and musicians. Carmello was also kind enough to bring us some Italian breakfast biscuits and sweets, which we very much appreciated.

We then had hours of fun cutting, gluing, painting and glittering our costumes for our Eurovision performance. We performed our version of Maneskin's Zitti E Buoni and had a fantastic time rocking the stage with our guitars, sunglasses and punk rock costumes.



# Not The Back Page

## Peacock Sports day!

We had a fabulous time at our family sports day !



Wimbledon, The Ashes, The British Grand Prix...all summer sporting events that pale into insignificance to the summer at sport at Chesnut Lodge.

As competitors in the Merseyside Schools SLD Cricket Tournament, Teams both won and lost matches but gained enough points to ultimately finish in a very respectable second place.

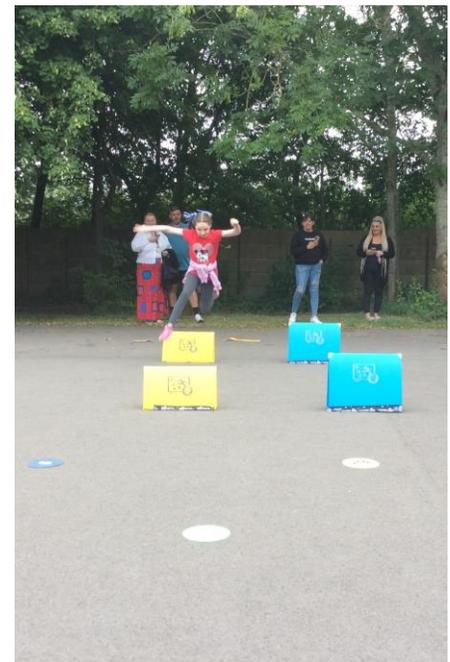
Nine athletes represented school at the Secondary Penathlon event and although victorious in the polybat and table cricket, school was again edged out into second by Sefton.

School also hosted its annual summer sports day when secondary pupils took part in throwing events, obstacle races, target games, and relays.

A hard fought contest saw the Blue Team win by a margin of only ten points!

Students have also been taking part in a 'Movement Matters' research programme with John Moores University where pupils from Kahlo and Beethoven have been learning about the importance of movement each and every day.

All in all School has had a very active and energetic summer – time now for a little rest and recuperation – ready for September!



## DREAM TEAM

Being neighbours to a similar school often brings out rivalries, even if those schools have little in common.

Such is the case with Chesnut Lodge and Ashley Schools. At their closest the two schools are little more than 3 metres apart but have, other than occasional sports competitions, had little to do with each other.

Mr Thompson felt this was time for a change and laid down the challenge – a staff rounders match.

The contest took place on Thursday, ominously the 13<sup>th</sup> at Ashley School (they have a very large playing field) between the two staff teams.

Rumour has it the Ashley staff team had been working on their technique for some time while Chesnut Lodge staff concentrated on presenting a united front with team colours and a huge entourage of spectators.

The match went well, and great fun was had by all. Obviously the final score was far less important than the event – (guess why) and both sets of staff are looking forward to the next event.

This could be the start of a beautiful rivalry!!!



## Animal Magic

14<sup>th</sup> June had a real treat for everyone at school.

As his Birthday Treat, Oscar Ross from Kahlo requested that 'The Animal Man' come into school with his menagerie of exotic animal.

While school will always compliment learners of their excellent behaviour, this time it would be remiss to not mention the amazing behaviour of the animals themselves.

All the animals, Skinny Pigs through to Bearded Lizards and even an Owl were amazing with learners, so tame and tolerant and very often inquisitive, meaning everyone, if they wanted, could handle and pet the animals.

What an experience was had by all and a huge amount of thanks should go to Oscars parents for organising this experience for everyone.



## It's Behind You!

It's Panto season at Chesnut Lodge this summer.

Oh no it's not!

Actually it is!. Although Pantomimes are usually associated with Christmas, Gaynor O'Grady, school's very own impresario and lead on Drama Club was determined that all the learners take part in a performance this term.

Naturally as is often the case at Chesnut Lodge the choice of performance was a little less traditional than usual.

'Dick Whittington' took a bit of a turn this year and although there was a cat, there were no sign of rats or even 'Old London Town' there was a long journey, on which Dick and his faithful moggy ran into, among others, Snow White, Winnie the Pooh and even a Mariachi band?

Well done to everyone who took part and especially to Gaynor for her hard work.





# Eurovision EuroLearn Project



May saw the entire school taking part in an enormous Chesnut Lodge 'Eurovision Champion of Champions' Project.

The project took place over an entire week with pupils studying both Ukraine and a second Eurovision-winning country. Each class then learnt the winning song from the country of their choice to perform, film and enter into the final grand, 'Eurovision Champion of Champions Contest'.

The project week saw pupils experience new art and DT techniques such as decorating pysanky eggs and Petrykivka painting. They also tried clothing design by designing and



making their costumes for the grand final and got to use a host of different mediums to create flags, Ukrainian nightingales, Dutch windmills etc. They also got the chance to meet and chat with local community members from a range of these countries. Miss Scott and Irish dancer Annabelle taught us about Ireland, Martyna taught us about Poland, Carmello taught us about Italy, Stina sent us video messages about Sweden, Kaya taught us all about Norway and Retta and her beautiful baby taught us all about Finland.

At the end of the week every child also got to experience performing their iconic Eurovision

making their costumes for the grand final and got to use a host of different mediums to create flags, Ukrainian nightingales, Dutch windmills etc. They also got the chance to meet and chat with local community members from a range of these countries. Miss Scott and Irish dancer Annabelle taught us about Ireland, Martyna taught us about Poland, Carmello taught us about Italy, Stina sent us video messages about Sweden, Kaya taught us all about Norway and Retta and her beautiful baby taught us all about Finland.





musical piece as part of a group. They donned freshly made costumes, props and backgrounds and took to the stage for their big moment. There was some very enthusiastic singing across several groups and a few new future-stars were definitely born! Older pupils worked with local company Mako Education to learn about filmmaking. They then used their new

skills to film each class performing their winner's songs.

The project concluded with a grand screening of the final Chesnut Lodge 'Eurovision Champion of Champions' Project. The whole school gathered with flags, facepaints and funny hats to cheer on their country. The popcorn flowed and the glowsticks glowed as we



saw each entry strut their stuff. A final

vote was held and the Eurovision Champion of Champion was ready to be announced. It was a tense moment but the winner was finally announced as.... Kahlo as AUSTRIA!!!



The project gave us all the chance to embrace the uniqueness of individual European countries and their amazing music and cultures. It allowed us to meet lots of new people from amazing places and gave the whole school community a chance to celebrate what makes us all different in a truly interesting, bright, colourful and engaging Eurovision way. A huge thanks to EuroGrant who are backed by Liverpool Council, Liverpool City Region, Spirit of 2012 and Culture Liverpool who funded the project with their generous grant.

# Fond Farewells

Chesnut Lodge bids a fond farewell to three members of our of our team this year. Chesnut Lodge School wish you all the best of luck in the future.

## Gail Goble

Gail has been a Teaching Assistant at Chesnut Lodge for 10 years and in that time has offered her expertise around school in a whole host of settings. She is moving on to work in residential child care and will no doubt be a great asset with all the experience she has.



## Rachael Lewis

Rachel joined Chesnut Lodge in 2021 as class teacher for Keller. She has a huge number of specialist skills which will stand her in good stead at her new Specialist ASC school which she will be joining in September



## Laura Scott

Laura has been with Chesnut Lodge since 2015 and is currently class teacher for Fox. Children and staff will sorely miss her positivity and friendliness and her distinctive Ulster accent echoing around the corridors. We look forward to her hearing of her new adventures as she heads back home to Ireland.



## Sheila Andrews

Sheila has been one of the team at Chesnut Lodge for over 30 years, we will miss her commitment to the school, the children and her team – have a happy and deserved retirement!

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