

# Chaffinch Brook Newsletter



## Autumn Term 2

Together towards success!

Dear Parents and Carers,

As always, it has been a busy and productive half term at Chaffinch Brook School. Our pupils have worked extremely hard, and we are so proud of the progress they have made. They continue to impress us both in school and during offsite activities. To celebrate their achievements and successes, the classes enjoyed some well-deserved end-of-term trips to places such as FlipOut and bowling.

We would also like to extend a big thank you to all the parents who attended our school events at both our lower and upper sites. The events were a great success, with a wonderful turnout of families enjoying quality time with their children. Please keep an eye out for future parent events—we look forward to seeing you there.

We hope you all enjoy a restful Christmas break with your loved ones, and we look forward to hearing about the wonderful experiences the pupils have over the holidays.

Mr Mark, Miss Abbie, Miss Mwamba, Miss Amanda and Miss Leona



**19<sup>th</sup> December:** Early finish 12:30  
**20<sup>th</sup> December- 5<sup>th</sup> January:** Christmas break  
**5<sup>th</sup> January:** Inset day  
**6<sup>th</sup> January:** Academic review day  
**26<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> January:** Mock exams  
**30<sup>th</sup> January:** Parent information session, Sensory Processing  
**W/B 9<sup>th</sup> February:** Children's mental health week  
**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February:** E-safety day  
**13<sup>th</sup> February:** Last day of term

### Support for Families this Christmas

Croydon offers a wonderful range of support for children, young people, and their families over the festive season. If you'd like to find out more, please click the link below or feel free to speak to a member of our team.

#### Mind in Croydon (supporting those with mental health concerns)

<https://www.mindincroydon.org.uk/>

#### Holiday Activities and Food (HAF)

<https://www.croydon.gov.uk/holiday-activities-and-food>

#### Help for Households

<https://www.croydon.gov.uk/get-help-rising-cost-living/help-households>

#### Legacy Youth Club

<https://legacyyouthzone.org/>

The QR code included in this newsletter links to a short survey for parents and carers. We truly value the time, support, and partnership of our families, and your feedback plays an important role in helping us to continually reflect and improve as a school.

Your views help us understand what is working well and where we can make further improvements to best support our pupils and wider school community. We would be very grateful if you could take a few moments to share your thoughts and experiences.

<https://forms.gle/yd8ZJkt98QdmJXKA9>



Scan Me

# Chaffinch Brook Newsletter

## Yayoi Kusama Class



In English, the children in Yayoi Kusama Class have been enjoying the stories Dear Zoo and The Gingerbread Man. They retold the stories through engaging multi-sensory activities, using colourful semantics, actions from Talk for Writing, and exploring the stories through sound, smell, taste and touch. The children also created their own versions of the stories and explored different animals and the sounds they make.

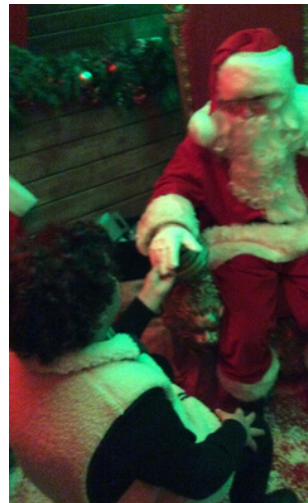


In Maths, the children have been practising counting forwards and backwards to 10 through play-based learning and maths tuff trays. Some children have also begun identifying number bonds to 10 using their growing place value knowledge. In Science, we explored different materials, with the children becoming investigators around the school and taking part in Attention Autism sessions, which they really enjoyed.



In PSHE, we introduced the Zones of Regulation and explored emotions using mirrors. In Geography, the children learned about different continents and traditions, including making Djembe drums from Africa and exploring foods from Asia. The children have worked extremely hard this term and made great progress in their attention, response and communication. To celebrate, we enjoyed a trip to Santa's Grotto and a visit to Chaffinch Upper.

Myself, Miss Opal and Miss Laura would like to thank you for your support and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



*Miss Hoana, Miss Opal and Miss Laura*

# Chaffinch Brook Newsletter

## Pablo Picasso Class



We have had a great second half-term in Picasso Class. This half-term was full of amazing work and experiences. In Geography, we have been exploring maps and keys, and pupils used a key to create their own treasure maps.

In English, we created our own reports based on pupils' nationalities and made presentations as well. Our Science learning has focused on dangers to living things, and pupils were able to create and label food chains.



Picasso Class were lucky enough to visit the STEM Centre, where pupils had the opportunity to make their own water filtration systems and code their own LEGO robots.



Mr Dan, Mr Omer, Ms Marion and Mr Jon are all very proud of the progress and work Picasso class have made this year. We can't wait to see them continue to make progress!



*Mr Dan, Mr Omer, Ms Marion and Mr Jon*

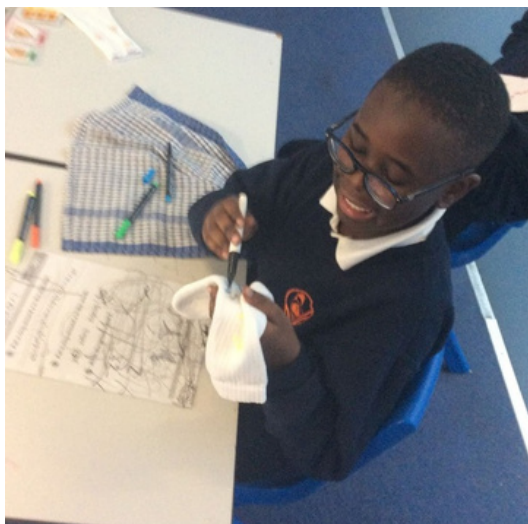
# Chaffinch Brook Newsletter

## Claude Monet Class



It has been a wonderful Autumn term in Claude Monet class, packed with engaging activities and exciting learning experiences! Here are some of our highlights this term.

The children all enjoyed their swimming lessons this term. It was fantastic to see their confidence grow in the water each week.



In English, our learning was centred around The Woolly Mammoth and the Children produced some excellent work. Instruction Writing: a highlight was our activity where the children had to follow instructions on how to wash the woolly mammoth.



In geography, we went on a global adventure, learning all about different continents and oceans. We can all now identify and locate different continents and oceans on a map.



To bring our learning to life, we had a fantastic food tasting session! The children sampled food from different continents exploring the 7 continents of the world.

Claude Monet would also like to welcome our new classmate Umar who is settling in and making new friends.

We hope you all have a lovely break and we look forward to seeing you all in the new year!

**Miss Rebecca, Miss Becky and Miss Sandra**

# Chaffinch Brook Newsletter

## Henri Matisse Class



During our first term in Henri Matisse class we enjoyed some exciting activities! We have been learning to ride horses at the diamond riding centre and are becoming very confident in our horse riding lessons.



The volunteers at the riding centre help us learn new techniques and guide us around different obstacles.

We also participated in art lessons with Miss Ruta, we have made a lot of beautiful art pieces. Some of our creations include a gingerbread house, a scenic winter wonderland and a magical picture with invisible ink.



This term we covered some very interesting subjects in history, including the ancient Egyptians. We made fact files and learnt all about the pyramids and what they were used for. We even created our own pyramids out of lego!



We look forward to more exciting lessons and activities next year.

Merry Christmas from Henri Matisse class.



**Miss Angela, Miss Sally, Mr Sam  
and Miss Jaye-Leigh**

# Chaffinch Brook Newsletter

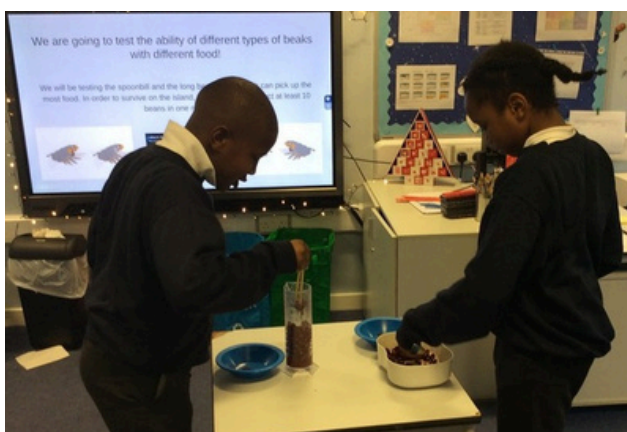


## Faith Ringgold Class

We've had a fantastic half term in Faith Ringgold Class, full of engaging learning and exciting experiences. In English, the children enjoyed studying Kensuke's Kingdom, producing thoughtful writing and discussing the characters in depth. In Maths, they built growing confidence while working with fractions, including comparing, converting and calculating.



In Science, the topic of Evolution and Inheritance sparked great curiosity, especially during our memorable trip to the Natural History Museum, where pupils explored exhibits on human evolution. In History, the class learned about the Mayans, discovering their achievements, beliefs and daily life, with a highlight being the chance to taste authentic ancient Mayan hot chocolate.



Beyond the classroom, pupils enjoyed a cinema trip and thoughtful PSHE lessons focused on relationships, empathy and kindness. Cooking sessions took the class on a cultural journey, exploring family recipes from around the world through teamwork and enthusiasm. It has been a wonderful half term, and we are very proud of all the children's achievements. We wish everyone a joyful winter break and a happy New Year.



**Miss Hannah, Miss Tiffany, Mr Cian  
and Miss Nadine**

# Chaffinch Brook Newsletter



## Frida Kahlo Class

This term, the boys have been swimming every Friday morning as part of their PE curriculum. In each lesson, they learn a new swimming technique, which is then concluded with a fun swimming game. The boys' swimming ability has improved immensely, and they have learned many new skills.



We joined Andy Warhol class on a visit to the Bank of England in central London. We travelled by bus, train and tube. During the visit, the boys learned about the history of bank notes, who works at the Bank of England, and they were even able to create their own bank notes featuring people they believe should be represented. The boys also had the opportunity to hold large sheets of real bank notes and used their maths skills to calculate their total value. The behaviour on the trip exceeded our expectations, and it was lovely to see the classes bonding.



On Christmas jumper day, the class enjoyed their Christmas dinner. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the delicious food, with pigs in blankets and roast potatoes proving to be the class favourites. For dessert, the boys chose between trifle and chocolate yule log, both of which were very popular. We stood in a circle to pull our crackers, wear our paper crowns and share our jokes. The boys then helped to clear up, ready for an afternoon of watching *The Grinch*.



**Mr Callum, Miss Nicci, Miss Jesse and Mr Manny**

# Chaffinch Brook Newsletter

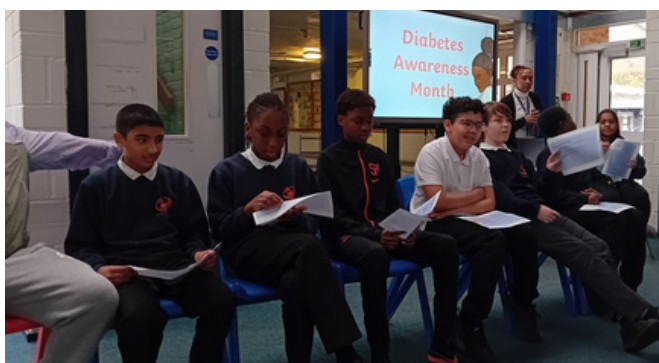


## Andy Warhol Class

As we come to an end of our first term in Andy Warhol, we would like to share the achievements and exciting opportunities that have been taking place.

In PSHE this term, Year 8 have been learning about conflict and resolution. They explored how disagreements arise and practised using empathy, active listening, and clear communication to manage them calmly. Through discussions and role-play, pupils developed positive strategies to resolve issues and strengthen relationships.

Year 8 also presented an impressive assembly for National Diabetes Awareness Month. Pupils also shared how people can support someone living with diabetes. Their presentation helped raise awareness across the school and encouraged everyone to make healthy, informed choices.



Pupils also welcomed a guest speaker who delivered an engaging session on digital gaming, which sparked lots of enthusiasm, with many pupils excited to ask questions and share their own gaming ideas.



This term, pupils enjoyed an exciting visit to the Bank of England Museum, where they took part in a hands-on workshop exploring how our money is designed and printed. They were fascinated to learn about the hidden security features on banknotes and even had the chance to lift a genuine gold bar.



Pupils were also treated to a special cinema experience as part of the Into Film Festival 2025. They settled into their seats with great anticipation to watch *Bad Guys 2*, which was packed with action, comedy and unexpected twists.

To celebrate the end of term, Andy Warhol enjoyed a fun Christmas bowling trip filled with friendly competition and lots of laughter.



It was a great chance for everyone to relax, spend time together, and finish the term on a positive note.



*Miss Jaini, Miss Louise and Mr Jaden*

# Chaffinch Brook Newsletter

## Leonora Carrington Class



This term we kicked off our BMX programme, and it's already a favourite! Students have been building balance, control, and confidence on the bikes, with plenty of fun and a few impressive tricks along the way.



We also visited the London Transport Museum, where students explored historic vehicles and interactive exhibits to see how travel in the city has changed over time. Climbing aboard old buses and trains was a clear highlight.



At the Natural History Museum, students took part in a hands-on biology workshop on classification. They sorted insects and used electric microscopes to study tiny details, discovering how scientists group living things.



**Miss Yeti, Miss Thalia, Miss Michelle  
and Mr Colin**

# Chaffinch Brook Newsletter



## Kara Walker Class

In Food Tech this term, students in Kara Walker's class have been busy developing their practical kitchen skills through a fun and engaging cooking activity. The class focused on measuring ingredients accurately, using utensils safely, and working together to follow a simple recipe from start to finish. It was wonderful to see their confidence grow as they supported each other, demonstrated excellent teamwork, and proudly tasted the results of their hard work.



Our highlight of the term was a fantastic trip to the Natural History Museum, where students had the chance to explore a wide range of fascinating exhibits. They especially enjoyed the dinosaur gallery, taking time to look closely at the fossil displays and ask curious questions about how these creatures lived. The Earth and Space sections also captured their attention, with students engaging brilliantly in the interactive areas and showing real enthusiasm for learning outside the classroom. Staff were extremely proud of the students' behaviour throughout the journey and during the visit, as they represented Chaffinch Brook Secondary School with maturity and respect.



To round off the term, the class welcomed a Futures Advisor who delivered an informative and supportive session on work readiness and social skills. During the visit, students learned about different job types, the skills employers look for, and the role of communication and teamwork in the workplace. It was a valuable opportunity for them to gain insight into their future pathways and take part in team-building activities.



**Mr Emmanuel, Mr Curtis, Mr Yatana  
and Mr Ragesh**

# Chaffinch Brook Newsletter

## Salvador Dali Class



Autumn 2 in Salvador Dalí class has been a memorable and exciting part of the academic year, filled with new experiences and lasting memories. One of the class's standout achievements was winning a phenomenal double Jack Petchey Award, with Mia and Youssef each receiving £300 to spend on school departments or trips. This was a huge accomplishment for the class and set a high standard for everyone. Another highlight was hosting a cookie-making morning, where students designed and decorated biscuits that were shared during the Children in Need assembly. The gesture was warmly received, and the biscuits were thoroughly enjoyed.



Throughout the term, students worked hard in Maths and English. In Maths, the focus was on solving linear equations using fractions and brackets, exploring a range of methods while showing great perseverance and understanding. In English, students analysed language techniques and structural features, identifying these within a variety of texts.



The class also enjoyed an Art trip to the Bethlem Art Gallery, where they took part in a textiles workshop using needlework and produced impressive pieces. Finally, the Christmas trip to Beckenham Place Winter Wonderland ice rink was a fun and memorable experience. Despite a few slips and falls, everyone had a great time and enjoyed the festive atmosphere.



*Miss Joy, Mr Jordan, Miss Olivia and Mr Timi*



# Chaffinch Brook Newsletter



## Vincent Van Gogh Class

And just like that, Vincent Van Gogh class has reached the Christmas break. It has been a half term marked by perseverance and commitment to improving themselves. They demonstrated profound resilience when completing their Functional Skills exams and we could not possibly be prouder.

Elsewhere, the class has continued to demonstrate their maturity, presenting a Maths assembly to the entire school. They presented with confidence and pride, garnering wide praise from staff and students alike.



One thing that did divide class opinion was our very first trip to The London Dungeon. Lots of screams and scares were to be had, outweighed only by the laughter and joy of the students. They represented the school and themselves beautifully and we look forward to more trips.



The relationships in the class continue to grow and we are excited heading into the new year.

**Miss Keisha, Miss Clara and Mr Stephen**



# Chaffinch Brook Newsletter

## Damien Hirst Class



As we reach the end of Autumn term and approach the new year, the Damien Hirst staff team would like to congratulate and commend the students on the effort that they have shown over the last few months. This is especially important as they continue their crucial final year. We are immensely proud of the resilience and positive attitude demonstrated by every student; their hard work and collaborative spirit are preparing them well for future success.



A particularly exciting development this term has been the beginning of the Food Technology course. This hands-on subject has been met with great enthusiasm, allowing the students to develop vital life skills alongside their academic studies. From understanding complex nutritional values to practising practical culinary techniques, the students are thriving in the kitchen environment.



Finally, we would also like to congratulate the entire class on the successful completion of their Functional Skills exams in English and Maths. These essential qualifications are integral to their post-16 pathways. We are incredibly proud of the determination they showed, and this success provides a significant boost of confidence as they look ahead to their GCSE examinations later in the academic year.



**Mr Jermaine, Miss D'Jate, Mr Sylvan  
and Miss Umme**

# Chaffinch Brook Newsletter



## CBL School Council

Together towards success!

This year the school council at Chaffinch lower decided they wanted to do something special for the community, with that they decided to ask parents and staff to donate presents and essential baby items for our local mother and baby unit at the Royal Bethlem hospital. We are so grateful and blown away by the support and pouring in of gifts from all of you for this amazing cause. Miss Becky took the donations down to the unit and they were very appreciative of every single thing donated.



# Chaffinch Brook Newsletter



Together towards success!

## CBL Reading Breakfast

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Reading Breakfast at CBL. It was wonderful to see so many parents and carers sharing stories, books, and breakfast with the children.

The calm, cosy atmosphere and the enthusiasm for reading made the morning very special. Spending time reading together is such an important part of children's learning, and it was lovely to see the enjoyment and engagement from everyone involved.

We really appreciate your continued support and the time you take to be part of school events. Your involvement helps to make experiences like these meaningful and memorable for the children.

Thank you once again for joining us, we hope you enjoyed the morning as much as we did.



# Chaffinch Brook Newsletter



## CBU Festive Coffee Morning



Together towards success!

It was truly lovely to see so many parents and carers attending and sharing such a special time with the children at CBUs Festive Coffee Morning.

The festive jumpers, warm conversations, Christmas activities, and cheerful atmosphere made the morning really memorable. We hope you enjoyed spending time in your child's classroom, joining in the activities, and getting into the Christmas spirit with us over a drink and a mince pie.

Your continued support and involvement mean a great deal to our school community, and events like these are made extra special because of you. Thank you once again for coming along and helping to make the morning such a success.

