

Chagford Montessori Nursery School

Email: info@chagfordmontessori.co.uk

Tel: 01647 433676

Newsletter: Autumn Term 2018

Namaste and Happy Diwali! We have been having a lovely time in our cosy small room, learning about Rama and Sita and how every year in November, Hindu people light divas to celebrate how good triumphed in that ancient story. The character of Ravana with his ten heads has not surprisingly made quite an impression on the children, with lots of questions being asked! In addition to getting thoroughly involved in dressing up and lighting the (safe) candles we have explored this cultural festival using a multi sensory approach; including spice grinding, playing with lentils, drawing mehndi and rangoli patterns and tasting some typical Indian foods during our afternoon circle times.



During our recent inspection the Ofsted inspectors commented that they were impressed with the high level of multi cultural resources we have available and agreed how important this is in rural Devon. This, amongst our other strengths gained us our overall grade of **'Outstanding'**, which we are obviously very proud of. Thank you to the parents who supported us with the inspection process and to the children who, once again, shone through most of all.

We have more cultural, celebratory fun to look forward to as we approach Christmas. We are inviting **all children and parents to join us** on

Wednesday 19th December at 2pm, for our winter gathering. This will focus on the children doing a short performance with light refreshments and time to chat afterwards. If your child does not usually attend on this day/time, please bring them along at 2pm. Children are encouraged to wear Christmas jumpers or other festive attire.

Some of you will have recently received **planning reports** via Tapestry. As each report provides a thorough account of your child's learning in each area of development, it is practical for the key teacher to write these every other term. However, we are aware that this leaves quite a gap between each report, therefore, we would consider changing this to a briefer more tightly focussed report every term. This is something that we would like parent's feedback on, to help us make this important decision. We will be inviting comments about this and other aspects of our provision in our parent's questionnaire in the New Year. So please give it some thought.

With the growing awareness of the damage plastic does to the environment, we would like to promote our **'no waste lunches'**. This is something that we have been promoting for well over ten years now! Please be mindful of what you are putting into your child's lunch box and try to reduce the quantity of one use, disposable items which would go into landfill. When we encourage children to tidy up after lunch they are involved in sorting their waste into the bin, compost and washing containers ready for recycling. Raising children's awareness of this issue is vital if our beautiful Blue Planet is to survive. I have been looking at sites such as www.theplasticfreeshop.co.uk for ways in which I can reduce my own consumption and have added a few items to my Christmas wish list! Please continue reading below for more news and events. Thank you for your support, Ruth and the staff team.

Staff news

We are currently recruiting for a new member to join our staff team and have had some strong applications. This is because an opportunity has arisen for Leigh to join her husband in his business which she has decided to take up. We hope that the successful candidate will be able to join us for some sessions before the end of term, to get to know the children and provide some overlap before Leigh leaves. We wish her every success and look forward to seeing Leigh at Montessori again, as she has offered to provide cover for staff in the future. **Work experience student Katie Street** will be working with us on Monday and Thursday until June.

Church visit.

We will be visiting St Michael's on **Tuesday 11th December**. This provides an opportunity for children to be involved in an outing to somewhere in our community, have a change in routine and meet new people. We have found such trips to be a good way in which to extend children's curiosity and find this an appropriate time to visit the church as Christians prepare to celebrate Christmas. We hope that some parents can volunteer to join us to ensure a high child/staff ratio is maintained.

Outdoor play

The children often collect natural treasures in our outside spaces. We are encouraging them to put these into little dishes and to keep the items at Montessori for future games and for all the children to use. We will also be incorporating more general discussions about keeping ourselves safe each term to complement our fire drills.

Tapestry

When your child moves on from Montessori, I will create a PDF of your child's learning journey, comprising all of the photos and observations on Tapestry. You are then able to download this document directly and store as a keepsake. **Thank you to everyone who has added comments, likes and their own observations to Tapestry**, please keep it up!

Harvest Shop

We raised **£71.66** through our Harvest Shop which was gratefully received by Children's Hospice South West. Apparently the majority of their income comes from small scale fundraising events such as ours – so your contributions were valued as well as the children having lots of fun in the process.



Busy shop keepers, pricing up goods to sell.

Theatre trip

We have reserved some tickets for **'Room on the Broom'** at the **Northcott Theatre in Exeter for Saturday 13th April at 11am**. There is also the possibility of staying on in the cafe after the show if this suits too. It's an opportunity to get together with other Montessori families during the Easter holidays and see a great show! Please let us know if you would like to go, tickets will be allocated on a first come first served basis, upon receipt of payment (£9 pp please bring correct money in a named envelope).

Term Dates

Autumn Term ends on

Thursday 20th Dec 2018

Spring Term 2019

Tuesday 8th Jan – Thursday 14th Feb

1 WEEK HALF TERM

Monday 25th Feb – Thursday 4th April

Summer Term 2019

Tuesday 23rd April – Thursday 23rd May

1 WEEK HALF TERM

Monday 3rd June – Thursday 18th July

