

Chagford Montessori Nursery School

Email: info@chagfordmontessori.co.uk

Tel: 01647 433676

Newsletter: Autumn Term 2019

Our Harvest Festival was a fun filled few hours of cooking and creating, both inside and outside at Montessori. It was a lovely way to mark the changing of the seasons in which the children pressed apples, baked flat bread and created Autumn crowns and pinecone owls. Thank you to Ralph for letting us borrow his press and to everyone who donated apples. We really enjoyed it and hope to end this half term again in good spirits, with an equally special 'Winter Gathering'.

This term we have changed the way we do lunches slightly. The children now sit around two big tables with a teacher who helps them as and when needed. This has been instigated to provide a more social setting for eating together. We encourage the children to eat their savoury foods first and save sweeter foods for dessert. It is wonderful when all of the food choices are healthy as this makes it much easier for children to make the right choices themselves. The children are involved in helping to clean up after they've eaten. They compost any food waste and wash cartons for recycling. We are still aiming for zero waste!



We have just distributed reports for each child, younger children: the Integrated Review and for older children: a Characteristics of Effective Learning report. I hope you have found these informative. The new format is in response to parent feedback about our reporting system which showed that a brief but more regular format was favourable. Therefore, you can expect to receive a similar report after each half term, to keep you abreast of your child's learning and development and their next steps. We love to have parent feedback, so please don't wait until our annual questionnaire, speak to us if you have any ideas or comments and make good use of the comments section on Tapestry.

Looking forward to 2020, we will be starting the Spring Term looking at new and exciting ways to incorporate technology into Chagford Montessori. We hope to provide a range of activities that explore the topic such as potato powered clocks, dynamo powered lights, simple electric circuits and more. If you have any expertise in this area, your input would be most welcome! As we progress into the Summer Term we will be thinking about how we can promote children to care for the world around us. We will be looking at environmental nursery accreditation schemes to help us. Please continue reading below for more news. Thank you for your support, Ruth and the staff team



Staff news

Elise and Zoe spent two weeks of their summer holidays here at Montessori doing the Montessori Centre International Apparatus Workshop. They now know much more about the special Montessori materials and are sharing this with the children. Then, Elise and I attended the Montessori Conference in September, which is a national event taking place in the QE Centre, London. We were inspired by the speakers, from a variety of professional fields, who all endorsed the Montessori method and validated its relevance to the 21st Century.

Lost and found

We have signed up to MyNametags.com, a company which provides a range of products for keeping track of your child's clothing and more. If you make a purchase, we benefit not only by knowing whose things are whose, but also by getting a percentage of the order value, it's a win, win situation! School ID 1894

Safety guidance

We have been informed of a NSPCC 'Talk Pants' campaign that supports parents to have simple conversations with their children



Elise and Zoe have been on an Early Phonics course and have come back speaking like robots! This helps children to identify the different sounds in a word and enables children to segment and blend in preparation for reading. I have just completed an MA in Education (Early Childhood) and am looking forward to attending my graduation ceremony next month.

Events this term

Join us for a Christmas visit to **St Michael's Church**, Chagford on the morning of **Thursday 12th December**. **Parental involvement is needed** to ensure a high adult-child ratio.

Our **Winter Gathering** will take place on **Thursday 19th December from 2pm**. Everyone is welcome to join us for a 'Merry Medley' of seasonal poetry and songs. Please can children dress in **Christmas/Winter pyjamas and bring a baby doll** if they have one. Thank you.

Spares needed!

Please ensure your child has at least one full set of spare clothes. We also need socks!

to keep them safe. It revolves around a friendly dinosaur called Pantosaurus. More information is available at nspcc.org.uk/pants

Parentinfo is a website devoted to providing up to date information for parents. It covers many topics including advice about the digital world. You can sign up to receive regular news which you might find useful as your child progresses through their school life <https://parentinfo.org/>

Please ensure your child is safe when coming and going from Montessori. Holding hands and walking on the far side of the drive (next to the trees) avoids danger from vehicles. Also remember that Moor Park is private, resident access only. Thank you.

Term Dates

Autumn Term 2019

Ends on Thurs 19th Dec

Spring Term 2020

Tues 7th January – Thurs 13th Feb

1 WEEK HALF TERM

Mon 24th February – Thurs 26th March

Summer Term 2020

Tues 14th April – Thurs 21st May

1 WEEK HALF TERM

Mon 1st June – Thurs 16th July

