

Chagford Montessori Nursery School

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Newsletter: Autumn Term 2020

A lot has happened since writing the last newsletter! However, while the world has been in a state of turmoil, we have continued to create a calm space for the children. They have responded amazingly, quickly adapting to the changes in routine and carrying on with what they do best – exploring, playing and learning. The main change in routine has been children being dropped off at the door and this is something that many settings including ours are keen to continue with. We do miss being able to invite you into the nursery and will reinstate this at collection time just as soon as we are able.



During the Summer Term, we started to work towards our Education for Sustainable Citizenship (ESC) Award. We started via Zoom sessions during lockdown 1.0, with children and parents contributing activity ideas to the themes contained in the 'I-CARE' booklets. We then continued with the topic when we reopened for the remainder of that term. We did some lovely work around increasing children's awareness of how to be more environmentally friendly, through books, story sacks and new activities such as a mini recycling depot, signs lotto and litter picking.



Settling the children into nursery has taken precedence so far this term, but we have been revisiting ESC, through making leaf mobiles and focussing on enjoying the great outdoors both near and far through the photos you have shared with us.



To fulfil the criteria for the Bronze Award, we need to have achieved 60% parental participation, so this is where you come in! We believe that this project is worthwhile, being truly relevant for the children now and for their futures. We would like to ascertain how many parents feel able to get involved and therefore, we will be undertaking a survey to find out about uptake. Please read the letter attached, follow the weblinks and watch the short video on our website (coming soon!), which will explain the project and the part you could play in it. We will be asking you whether you are able to participate so that we can evaluate if we should continue to strive to achieve the award. Please continue reading below, thank you, Ruth.

Staff news

We are delighted to welcome Lark into the team. She is currently doing the Montessori Early Years Educator course with Montessori Centre International and doing the Teaching Practice element of the course with us on Monday and Tuesdays.

Covid-19

Thank you to parents who have kept their children at home and got tested when they had symptoms, and for those who have quarantined after travelling. We have been able to remain open so far and dearly hope that this continues to be the case. It does depend upon everyone taking sensible precautions, so please do keep to the government guidelines.

Parent support



Here to help

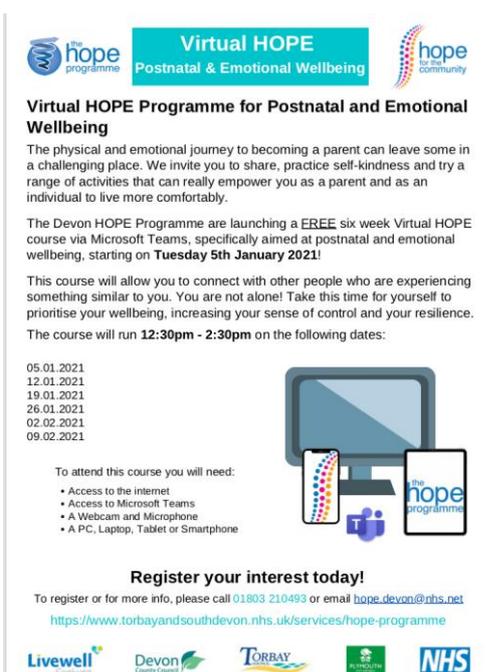
Action for Children

Have a question about parenting?

Action for Children is offering free online parenting support for families with children aged 0-19. You can ask us for help on all sorts of things - from how to keep your children entertained at home, to how to handle difficult behaviour, to how to manage stress and anxiety at this challenging time.

Head to parents.actionforchildren.org.uk to read our advice and useful resources, or talk directly to a parenting coach via our confidential 1-1 live chat.

Whatever you need, Action for Children are here to listen and support you.



Virtual HOPE
Postnatal & Emotional Wellbeing

Virtual HOPE Programme for Postnatal and Emotional Wellbeing

The physical and emotional journey to becoming a parent can leave some in a challenging place. We invite you to share, practice self-kindness and try a range of activities that can really empower you as a parent and as an individual to live more comfortably.

The Devon HOPE Programme are launching a FREE six week Virtual HOPE course via Microsoft Teams, specifically aimed at postnatal and emotional wellbeing, starting on **Tuesday 5th January 2021!**

This course will allow you to connect with other people who are experiencing something similar to you. You are not alone! Take this time for yourself to prioritise your wellbeing, increasing your sense of control and your resilience. The course will run **12:30pm - 2:30pm** on the following dates:

- 05.01.2021
- 12.01.2021
- 19.01.2021
- 26.01.2021
- 02.02.2021
- 09.02.2021

To attend this course you will need:

- Access to the internet
- Access to Microsoft Teams
- A Webcam and Microphone
- A PC, Laptop, Tablet or Smartphone

Register your interest today!

To register or for more info, please call 01803 210493 or email hope.devon@nhs.net
<https://www.torbayandsouthdevon.nhs.uk/services/hope-programme>

Livewell Devon County Council **TORBAY** **NHS**

Names, glorious names

The children have lovely names – lets see more of them on their belongings! We love knowing whose shoes, bottles, bags, scarves, hats, gloves and toys belong to who so please help us out with this!

No nuts please

A reminder about our no nuts policy. We uphold this at all times, so that we are fully prepared to accept a child with a severe allergy. Thank you for your cooperation.

Decision Time

The Primary School application process closes on January 15th 2021. For children turning 4 this academic year, parents need to apply before the deadline to secure a place for starting school in reception next September. Remember that you can defer entry to school until the term after your child turns 5. Your child will continue to receive the Early Years Funding if you'd like them to stay with us for longer.

Events

We would usually advertise forthcoming events here, but due to Covid-19 we are not currently able to organise our usual outings or gatherings. To celebrate Christmas this year, we will be decking the halls and having little parties during the afternoon sessions of the last week of term, featuring special snacks and party hats!

Term dates

Autumn Term ends on Thurs 17 Dec

Spring Term: Tue 5 Jan-Thurs 1 April
HALF TERM: 15 – 19 Feb

Summer Term: Mon 19 Apr-Thurs 15 Jul
HALF TERM: 31 May - 4 June

Education for Sustainable Citizenship

We are excited about participating in the **OMEP Early Childhood Sustainable Citizenship Award** initiative. It very much lies with Maria Montessori's view of '**Cosmic Education**' and her emphasis on the interdependence between all life on Earth, our having a role and responsibility in our lives, and being 'citizens of the world.'

What is involved?

Children work towards stickers for their **Passport**, and initially this will be for the Bronze level. To achieve a sticker, your child will need to complete activities, or show knowledge or a skill – all at pre-school level and aimed at 3 and 4-year olds. We would like some parents to volunteer to coordinate Zoom sessions to help support those participating – could this be you?

What are these activities?

These are detailed in the five 'i-care' booklets for each level, and we will give you these for the Bronze level so that, you can work on these with your child. The booklets are on Environmental Education, Social and Cultural Education, Economics, Emergent Literacy and Numeracy (the latter two recognise the importance of these life skills).

When will my child receive their Passport?

When your child has completed an 'i-care' booklet your child will receive a passport and be able to put a sticker in it to recognize that they have completed an I-care booklet.

How does Chagford Montessori achieve the Bronze Award?

We have to audit our setting, curriculum, activities and approach in the same three areas that your child will be working in: Environmental Education, Social and Cultural Education and Economics (the three pillars of sustainability). We have begun the audit and have to decide on areas that need most development, and work on making improvements or implementing changes. We will inform you what these are in due time.

We will then have to evidence the improvements and changes we make and prove that a minimum of 60% of families have engaged with the Award through your children participating with the booklets and Passports.

We are hoping to do this in collaboration with you during this academic year.

Please follow this link for further information:

<https://schemaplay.wordpress.com/esc-award/>

www.omep.org.uk