

Newsletter: Autumn Term 2021

We would like to let you know about a new initiative commencing next term. The children will be doing woodwork projects from time to time as we believe this is a wonderful medium for children to work with. We would like to take this opportunity to explain why we think woodwork is such an important activity and reassure you that safety is always prioritised.

Woodwork has a long history in early childhood education dating right back to the beginnings of early childhood education with Froebel's Kindergarten in Germany back in the 1800s. Since then, it has been embraced by many countries all over the world. Woodwork is one of those special activities that truly engages children and encompasses all areas of learning and development. Children really respond to the challenge and very much enjoy working with wood and real tools. Elise has completed a comprehensive course focussed on woodwork for 3–5-year-olds and has been sharing her knowledge with the whole staff team.



Woodwork encompasses so much learning – children will be developing their physical coordination, fine and gross motor skill, and hand eye coordination; they will learning basic mathematical concepts, such as shape and measure and develop their mathematical thinking skills; they will be developing their understanding of the world – seeing tools as

basic technology, understanding wood as a material and observing many scientific concepts such as the rotation of a wheel, levering nails back up or using a drill, to drill holes. They will be developing their language with new vocabulary, using language to talk about their ideas and to problem solve. Children develop their mark-making and drawing to express ideas on paper and also mark on the wood itself. But there are two areas where woodwork really excels.



Hammering golf tees into a pumpkin is good preparation for doing woodwork

Firstly, it develops children's self-esteem and confidence – it is empowering for children to create with real tools, and they take great delight in their achievements, and it develops a can-do spirit. Secondly, it develops children's thinking skills - their creative and critical thinking as they problem solve and express their imagination with wood – which is not easy to work with! In terms of safety, this is always prioritised. We adhere to strict guidelines such as the children must always wear safety glasses and sawing is only ever done with 1:1 adult supervision. Part of children's development is that they need to learn to manage risk and make judgements to protect themselves, so they are better able to make decisions in all situations that life presents.

Please continue reading below. Thank you for your support, Ruth and the staff team ☀

Borrowing books

If you would like to find out more about our woodwork project, you are welcome to borrow the book 'Learning Through Woodwork' by Pete Moorhouse from our parents library. We very much look forward to the children showing you what they have created – but remember the real product that is being made is the changes within the child! As children make with wood, they are learning skills that will empower them to shape their world - encouraging them to become the innovators, makers, sculptors, engineers and architects of tomorrow!

Information sharing

We endeavour to keep you abreast of what your child has been doing at Montessori via our Tapestry observations. We hope you enjoy reading these and looking at the photographs, which outline your child's learning and development. To work in partnership with you, we do need to have your feedback, so [please add comments to our observations](#). It would be wonderful if you could also upload your own observations to Tapestry showing what your child has been up to at home. Follow this guide:

[how-to-create-observations-for-relatives.pdf\(chagfordmontessori.co.uk\)](#)

How to let us know

Please ring us directly on 01647 433676 and leave a message to let us know of any information regarding your child's forthcoming sessions. General questions and session requests can be emailed to ruthbeck-mylius@sky.com and for queries about funding and invoices email jenni.montessori@btinternet.co.uk

Gloves glorious gloves!

We love playing outside in the winter. To prevent us getting cold, please provide warm clothing including hats and gloves – all named of course!

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.

Oral Health

The importance of good oral health has been highlighted in the revised Early Years Foundation Stage. Early years settings are now required to support children and parents in preventing tooth decay. This term, we attended a training session provided by www.healthyteethdevon.nhs.uk and have been adding to our resources which includes this informative article: [Oral health \(chagfordmontessori.co.uk\)](http://Oral%20health%20(chagfordmontessori.co.uk))

Events

Please join us for our end of term WINTER GATHERING at **Chagford Montessori on Thursday 16th December at 2:30pm, when we will sing seasonal songs in the garden**. Please dress children in warm clothes, and come prepared, whatever the weather! Light refreshments will be served afterwards.

Term dates

Autumn Term 2021:

Ends on: Thursday 16 December

Spring Term 2022:

Starts on: Tuesday 4 January
HALF TERM: 21 Feb – 25 Feb
Ends on: Thursday 7 April

Summer Term 2022:

Starts on: Monday 25 April
HALF TERM: 30 May – 3 June
Ends on: Thursday 21 July