

Chagford Montessori Nursery School

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Newsletter: Spring Term 2020

Our exciting topic about technology and Space got off to a 'soaring' start. This week, I overheard a two-year-old talking to himself about the Solar System. Later, I asked him if he knew why the planets are called the Solar System and he replied, "because the Sun is in the centre and the planets orbit around it!" Well, I could not quite believe my ears, but then I realised that this little person is very interested in the subject, he asks lots of questions and he is with us four days a week, so had a lot of input especially through some afternoon circle times where Elise has demonstrated the Solar System specifically and emphasised the vocabulary. The topic has also been supported at home. It just goes to show what the youngest children can achieve when everything aligns - success!

We have used the topic to think about how children's use of technology can be incorporated into our nursery routines. As a result, the children are now operating the CD player at circle times. Children also used a camera to take photos of their 'favourite thing' at Montessori, on display in the main room.



We've created a 'Space' themed room, featuring a projector, lightbox, remote control moon lamp and boards comprising knobs, switches, levers and the like for the children to explore. A big thank you to Zoe for organising and Dave Brass for making two of these technology boards for us. The children are enjoying role playing astronauts and life on the International Space Station.



Through the process of implementing curriculum audits, we review our provision regularly and supplement existing resources accordingly. One such change is the addition of books in the maths area, which you are welcome to borrow, prompted by this interesting article promoting the benefit of doing maths related activities with your child <https://www.npr.org/sections/ed/2015/10/08/446490524/where-the-wild-fractions-are-the-power-of-a-bedtime-math-story?t=1582997665904> As a result of evaluating the audits, we plan to focus on the 'Critical Thinking' aspect of the Characteristics of Effective Learning next term, to ensure that the activities we implement enable us to extend children's critical thinking skills.

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

Staff news

Welcome to our Teaching Practice student, Nikky who has joined us from South Africa. She commences the practical side of her Montessori Centre International course. We look forward to supporting her as she settles into life here. Nikky has assured me that she has mastered the art of layering already - essential for living in these parts!

Events

We are celebrating World Book Day with a visit to Chagford Library on 5th March. If you would like to help organise a theatre trip for next term, please let me know.

Lunch ideas

Look no further for healthy and environmentally friendly packed lunch inspiration: Link up with <https://zone.recycledevon.org/wp-content/uploads/Waste-Free-Lunches-UPDATED-April-19.pdf>

Coronavirus

We are receiving regular updates from Public Health England with advice for early years settings with regards to Coronavirus. Communication is vital, please keep us informed about your families health, so we can act as required. We are asking everyone to wash their hands when arriving as a precaution.

Your feedback please!

This term, parent questionnaires were put into children's trays. Please can you complete and return to us as soon as possible. Also, there is a new report available to view on Tapestry about your child/ren. We are grateful for the comments you add to these and to the observations on Tapestry too.

Reusable bags



Help us reduce our plastic usage by investing in a wet-dry-bag such as these, found in many online stores. We could use them for your child's wet clothes now and they will be useful as swimming bags in the future too.

Keep positive!

Encouraging children's positive behaviour involves praising them when they are being good and avoiding use of negative terms which can label the child, such as 'naughty'. Therefore, when your child pleases you tell them exactly what they did that made you happy 'well done for holding my hand at the road'.

Term Dates

Spring Term 2020

Term ends on Thurs 26th March

Summer Term 2020

Tues 14th April – Thurs 21st May

1 WEEK HALF TERM

Mon 1st June – Thurs 16th July

Autumn Term 2020

Tues 8th September - Thurs 22nd October

1 WEEK HALF TERM

Mon 2nd November – Thurs 17th Dec