

## Newsletter: Spring Term 2022

It has been wonderful inviting parents into Montessori again to collect children at the end of their sessions, as we did before Covid restrictions were put in place. We enjoy seeing parents and children reunite at home time and the opportunities this gives you to connect with your child's day. However, we have found that the quick drop off at the door in the mornings works well and intend to continue with this procedure (apart from settling-in sessions).



*Learning through watching others.*

It has also been marvellous to get our woodwork sessions off to a great start this term. Each child who participates has as long as they want to use the resources, guided by Elise and some children have worked in the area for one and a half hours at a time – what fabulous engagement and concentration!

Once each child has had a go at basic hammering, they can put their skills to work by combining an assortment of small wooden blocks, beads, bottle tops, fabric etc. Following our Montessori principles, Elise works with each child at their own level; some are happy banging nails into a strip of insulation foam, others have made quite detailed models and progressed onto using the vice and screwdriver too. We are inviting children who are 3 years and above to participate, currently only on Tuesday

mornings, however, we hope to include another morning during next term.

The woodwork was the prompt for our more general theme of 'wood and trees', to enable the children to appreciate where the materials they are using come from and their value. We have been doing bark rubbings when outside and using these to create tree trunks for our new classroom display, which also features animals and insects whose habitats rely on wood and trees. Expanding upon this topic, circle times have involved looking at some of our Montessori 'Understanding the World' activities including 'the terminology cards of the parts of a tree' and 'the lifecycle of an apple tree'. We have also learnt a folk song which you might like to sing along to at home:

[There Was A Tree \(with lyrics\) - YouTube](#)



*Learning through doing: using a vice and a screwdriver.*

This next half term we have some exciting events including World Book Day, Mother's Day, our Bring n' Buy sale and Easter. Please continue reading more about some of these below.

Thank you for your support, Ruth and the staff team ☀

## Borrowing brilliant books!

Thank you to the parents who volunteered to accompany us to Chagford Library. All books borrowed as part of our World Book Day visit need to be returned to Montessori by the end of March at the latest please.

## Home time

A polite request for punctual collection. It is important that collection times are respected to enable the smooth running of the nursery. If you would like to spend time with your child at Montessori before they leave, please arrive 5-10 minutes before they are due to leave. Also, note that **a member of staff only must let you out**, for safety purposes. Thank you.

## Saying goodbye

Prior to the Covid restrictions we had to put in place, we were in the habit of shaking hands with children when saying goodbye. Before reintroducing this routine, we are evaluating its relevance and appropriateness. It may be that we include a wider range of acknowledgements including those of other cultures. We would like to hear your thoughts about this, so please let us know verbally, or via our parents questionnaire.

## Parent questionnaire

There is a comments box in the garage in which you can put your completed questionnaire. We will use the feedback gathered to plan any changes that may need to be made as part of our improvement plan.

## Spares needed!

We had a stock of spare socks which Rachael kindly sewed Montessori name labels onto, however, now we find that we have run out yet again! Please return any that your child has borrowed and do keep your child's own spare clothes bag topped up too. Thank you.

## How to let us know

**Please ring us directly on 01647 433676** and leave a message to let us know of any information or changes regarding your child's forthcoming sessions especially **absences**. General questions and session requests can be emailed to [ruthbeck-mylius@sky.com](mailto:ruthbeck-mylius@sky.com) and for queries about funding and invoices email [jenni.montessori@btinternet.com](mailto:jenni.montessori@btinternet.com)

## Oral Health

We are delighted that Chagford Dental Practice will continue to support us with promoting good oral health. A hygienist from the practice is due to visit us on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June at 2:30pm.

## 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.

## Events

Bring n' buy sale w/c 4<sup>th</sup> April. The children will have a stall in the main room to sell an assortment of items including unwanted toys, books, cakes and bakes. We are fundraising to purchase a small apple tree for the children to plant in the garden at Montessori next term, which coincides with other tree planting events to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

## Term dates

**\*Please note amended date.**

### Spring Term 2022:

Ends on: Thursday 7 April

### Summer Term 2022:

Starts on: Monday 25 April

HALF TERM: 30 May – 3 June

**\*Ends on: Thursday 14 July**