

Newsletter: Summer Term 2019

What a lot of happy children! This became very apparent when creating our new display titled 'how are you feeling?' The children's default setting is 'happy' which is lovely to see. We did have to do some thought provoking work in order to attain a range of pictorial representations on the theme of emotions!



Learning how to recognise and express feelings.

We decided upon our topic 'ceremonies and celebrations' to help the older children prepare for their forthcoming transition to school. Focussing on how the children feel and behave in different situations will indirectly help them to manage their emotions as they settle into school, with all the new experiences it brings.

As well as identifying the different facial expressions that communicate our emotions, we are decorating a magical feelings tree. This is currently being wrapped in colourful wool, ready to be adorned with leaves and flowers containing messages about children's hopes for the future. We have a fantastic party themed role play area, in which children can act out and rehearse such exciting events and are going on two outings to quite different and emotive settings....see below for more info.

Alongside this topic we have been working continuously to improve our provision. This year each member of staff has completed an audit to evaluate a particular curriculum area. This has led to changing and adding to our resources to complement the core Montessori materials and activities. We have also been incorporating ideas from the training that the staff attended this year to maximise benefits for children.

For example, we have purchased some Numicon and incorporated its use into our tidy up routine after outdoor play, we have found it can be used in many fun ways to expand the children's mathematical knowledge at this time. We have also added visual prompts around the classroom to help us promote opportunities for 'sustained shared thinking' and develop children's ability to 'self regulate'.



One of the many smiley faces at Montessori.

Our growing patch is full of sunflowers, beans, courgettes, nasturtiums and strawberries to complement the lifecycle activities that we have been doing, so that the children can experience these at first hand. Please continue reading below for more news. Thank you for your support, Ruth and the staff team ☀

Staff news

Thank you to Elise, Rachael, Zoe and Hen for their work at Montessori this year. It has been a pleasure to work with them. I appreciate their commitment, care and enthusiasm every day. Katie Street, our work experience student, is due to finish her placement with us soon. We would like to wish her success with the remainder of her course and forthcoming placements at other settings.

Pre-school maths

We have a new, **informative leaflet in our parent's library**, to help parents promote age appropriate maths skills. This is from a course that Rachael recently attended, which has already inspired us to create new fun maths activities at Montessori.



An interactive addition activity at circle time

Warm up – cool down

Please continue to **apply sun cream before drop off** and supply a named sunhat. If your child stays all day and you would like sun cream to be reapplied for the afternoon, please supply a named tube of cream to be kept at Montessori and sign our permissions form. **Please pop an icepack into your child's lunch box** to keep food fresh. Thank you.

Outings this term

Join us for a 'mock' **Christening in St Michael's Church**, Chagford on the morning of **Thursday 20th June**. We will visit **Chagford Dental Practice** on **Wednesday 10th July** in the morning, for some dental hygiene awareness and a quick check up for those who like going for a ride in the dentist's chair! **Parental involvement is needed** to ensure a high adult:child ratio.

Summer Splash Party!

To celebrate summer and the end of term we are having a water themed session on **Thursday 11th July 1:30-3:30pm**. All children are invited to join us for an afternoon of wet and wild fun. Bring a wetsuit, trunks/costume, or sun suit, a towel and sunhat too. We will have water play activities outside, party games, followed by a yummy snack.

Leaver's ceremonies

During the last two weeks of term, we will be holding **individual ceremonies** for each child who will be starting school in September. We are currently busy writing **transition documents** which we aim to give to parents at the end of June. I will also create a **PDF document of your child's learning journey on Tapestry** for you to download. Please look out for information about these in your child's tray.

Term Dates

Summer Term 2019

Ends on Thurs 18th July

Autumn Term 2019

Tues 3rd September – Thurs 17th Oct

2 WEEK HALF TERM

Mon 4th November – 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

