

# Chagford Montessori Nursery School

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## Newsletter: Summer Term 2021

The highlight of the last week of term for me, was sitting in on Zoe's circle time, where she and the children created a dandelion garden for Nutmeg! Zoe had brought in a seed tray, soil and dandelion seed heads and when everything was ready the children blew the dandelion clocks over the soil to plant the seeds. Hopefully, Nutmeg will have a feast of her favourite food!

Social & Cultural, Environmental and Economic Education. We have attended training sessions, completed a detailed audit, and involved parents in completing the I-Care booklets. Thank you to those of you that have contributed and if you are still working on completing the booklets, please continue – as you know sustainability is such an important topic and we regard this award as the first step along our educational journey.

Zoe's dandelion activity was the culmination of a focus on flowers this term. Starting with making daffodils and origami tulips for our display, Elise has also introduced the children to flower poetry. The colourful display created with the children's artwork shows the perfect conditions for growth: sunshine and rain. This picture has gone some way towards replacing the beautiful view we had at the Pavilion and complements the gorgeous real flowers in the garden here at Montessori, which has been full of bluebells.

Alongside this, Rachael created a wonderful Ramadan themed roleplay area, in which the children learnt about this annual Islamic festival. The children have also been grinding cardamon and grating nutmeg to add flavour to some fruity treats. Eid al Fitr was marked with a special snack of homemade humous, pit ta bread and our spicy fruit balls.

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

During this activity, the children talked about their own experiences of gardening. Barley told us about how bees pollinate flowers and Luca described how some of the plants in his garden had been cut down and were now turning into soil. Zoe told us how the imagery of the dandelion lifecycle represents the sun, moon and stars, which I thought was beautiful. Later that day, I was informed that we have achieved the Education for Sustainable Citizenship (ESC) Bronze Award - a great way to finish the half term.

We have been working on the ESC Award for the past year, which has comprised planning and implementing activities on the three pillars of sustainability:



## 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. In addition to this, we will be sending out a report before the end of this term, outlining your child's interests and next steps. In order to work in partnership with you, we do need to have your feedback. It would be wonderful if you could upload your own observations to Tapestry showing what your child has been up to at home and **add your own comments to the reports** too.

## Health and safety

### Important reminders:

- Please ensure that your child has sun cream applied before arriving at nursery and has a named sun hat to wear during outdoor play.
- Add an icepack to your child's lunch box to keep the contents fresh.
- Please be aware of the Covid-19 travel restrictions and check quarantine rules if you are going on holiday.

## 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.

## Transition to school

Parents of children who are leaving us at the end of this term will receive a transition report and these children will have a 'leaving ceremony' during the last two weeks of term. We will invite the parents of these children to join us for this special event. I am liaising with Ed Finch, the Head of Chagford Primary School to put in place transition arrangements for those children joining the school in September.

## A new start in September

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is changing. From September 2021, the emphasis of the new framework is for practitioners to spend quality time with the children in their care and use their expertise to plan, implement and evaluate children's learning and development based on their thorough knowledge of their key children and child development theory. Time spent record keeping will be used to flag any concerns so that immediate and effective support can be provided, as well as sharing information with parents. As a staff team we have attended three training sessions provided by Devon County Council and will be discussing how to put the changes into practice. While we will continue to use Tapestry as our main tool, the way in which we use it is likely to change. We will keep you posted about developments.

## Events

Please join us for our end of term gathering at **The Pavilion playing fields on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July from 11 am – 1 pm**. Come prepared for sports activities – whatever the weather and bring your own picnic.

## Term dates

### Summer Term 2021:

Ends on Thurs 15 July

### Autumn Term 2021: 6 Sep

HALF TERM: 25 Oct – 29 Oct

Ends on: 16 December

### Spring Term 2022: 4 Jan

HALF TERM: 21 Feb – 25 Feb

Ends on: 7 April

### Summer Term 2022: 25 April

HALF TERM: 30 May – 3 June

Ends on: 21 July