



# Childrens House Newsletter

Spring Term 2024

**Welcome back – it's Spring Term at the Children's House!**



Welcome to the first edition of our new slimmed-down newsletter!

After listening to your feedback, we've reduced the length, making it easier for you to access any important information that we want you to read for the term ahead. Your child's Tapestry, and our Facebook page contain lots of nice photos of the children.

Please access these to see some of the activities they are taking part in as each term progresses.

Firstly, we'd like to wish all our families, new and old, a very happy New Year! We hope you all enjoyed the festive season, and are ready for an exciting year ahead in 2024.



Can I please say a big thank you from all of the team for the lovely Christmas gifts and cards. The run up to Christmas was a very busy and exciting time for everyone. Thank you to all of the families who came in to hear the children sing in their Christmas Carol Concerts. We thought they did brilliantly well!

## Our project for the Spring Term is 'Traditional Tales and Fairy Stories'



This term we will be taking our children on a journey through the magical world of fairy tales, and basing our nursery activities on some of the well-loved and better-known classics, and also some folk tales from around the world.

Traditional tales and fairy stories are an amazing way to spark children's imagination and hook them into their learning. A traditional tale is a story that is well known within a particular culture. It has often been passed down through many different generations allowing great grandparents, grandparents, parents and children alike to share a love of these stories.

Fairy tales also model behaviour for children, and provide a context in which children can evaluate their own emotions and decision making. This aids in building emotional resilience by helping children connect stories to real life.

For more information about our project, please click on the link below.

[Link: Spring Term Project is Traditional Tales and Fairy Stories](#)





This term we'll also be looking at how **the seasons** begin to change from often cold wintry weather when we return in January, to the warmer Spring days as we head towards Easter.



We'll also include lots of seasonal based activities such as ...

## Chinese New Year 2024 will be celebrating The Year of the Dragon!

Chinese New Year is a 15-day festival celebrated in countries all around the world. Also known as the 'Spring Festival' in China, around a quarter of the world's population observes this holiday.

The new year is the perfect time to bring families and communities together.

From fireworks, singing, lanterns, fire-crackers, drums, and dancing, there's a lot to love about Chinese New Year. Are you ready to explore this vibrant event with your child?

In nursery there will be dragon dancing, and the children will sample Chinese food and practice eating with chop sticks, which are great for developing hand eye co-ordination!



**Valentine's Day** will see us embracing love and all things heart shaped in the nursery!



The children enjoy role play in the nursery 'romantic Valentine's restaurant' allowing for waiters, cooks and customers to take part! The children can make their own menus and restaurant signs to help with their mark making.





## Pancake Day

Traditionally celebrated in February, pancake races are highly popular, and cookery activities allow the children a chance to try a tasty snack they've made themselves!



**Mother's Day** is the perfect opportunity to celebrate one of the most important people in our children's lives...the lovely mummies!

The children like to tell us what makes their mummy particularly special, and why they love her so much.

Sharing this with friends and teachers helps improve communication and language skills, and teaches the children the importance of family and what it means to themselves and others.



**Ramadan and Eid celebrations** teach our children about important festivals celebrated by the large number of Muslims who live in our world. Learning about the world and some of the festivals that people celebrate, helps children to experience other cultures and customs that may be different, or similar to, their own experiences at home and in their local communities.

Many adult Muslims and older children observe Ramadan by fasting from sunrise to sunset. From an early age, however, children join the celebratory meals in the evenings.

Both 'Ramadan Kareem' and 'Ramadan Mubarak' are common expressions used during the month of Ramadan. Both mean "have a blessed or generous Ramadan".

This year Ramadan will be celebrated from March 10<sup>th</sup> and ending on April 8<sup>th</sup> 2024.



From sundown on April 9<sup>th</sup> to sundown on April 10<sup>th</sup> Muslims celebrate Eid al-Fitr which is a feast that celebrates the ending of the Ramadan fast.

It is sometimes known as 'Sugar Feast', 'Sweet Eid' and 'Festival of Sweets' because of the sweet treats enjoyed on this holiday. Typically, many Muslim families offer sheer khurma, which is warm, sweet vermicelli milk. This is a sweet treat that is delicious at any time of the day and is a staple during Eid meals.

Children love to hear about (and even taste!) different types of food that people eat around the world, and this festival provides great opportunities for including this as part of our topic.





## Planting and growing

As the weather improves, we will be starting some planting and growing activities with the children.

Children can learn new skills, have fun, play and develop self-confidence by spending time in the garden tending plants and growing fruits and vegetables that they can eat themselves. Most children enjoy being outdoors and love digging in the soil, getting dirty, creating things and watching plants grow.



Some of the many benefits children gain from planting and growing, particularly outdoors in the fresh air are:

- Responsibility from caring for plants
- Understanding as they learn about cause and effect (for example, plants die without water, weeds compete with plants)
- Self-confidence from achieving their goals and enjoying the food they have grown
- Love of nature and a chance to learn about the outdoor environment in a safe and pleasant place
- Physical activity doing something fun and productive
- Cooperation including shared play activity, and teamwork
- Nutrition and learning about where fresh food comes from.



**Easter** sees the children taking part in egg and spoon races, Easter arts and crafts, egg hunts and some chocolatey cookery activities!



We would really like to encourage parents and family members to engage with their children's learning in nursery. If you have anything at all at home that might complement our topics or activities this term, and would like to come in to nursery to share it with the children, we would love to welcome you. The children are always so proud to show off the nursery and their activities to visitors.

If you're too busy to come in yourself, Tapestry is another great way to share things from home!

## Spring Term Stay & Plays

We are hoping to offer parents the opportunity to join us in nursery this term for a 'Stay and Play' session with your child. Come in and get the Children's House experience firsthand, and be warned, you **WILL** be expected to take part in any activities the children are doing on that day. Suitable clothing recommended!

We will be sending out more information about these sessions soon, so keep an eye on your inbox for a mailchimp with session dates and times. Spaces will be limited, and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.





# Some important reminders...

## . Applying for school places 2024

Parents with children due to start school for the first time in September 2024 will need to apply for their child's school place by **15 January 2024**. Parents must apply by this deadline for the best chance of getting a place at their preferred school.

Dorset residents apply online at Dorset School Admissions:

<https://schooladmissions.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/Synergy/SynergyLive/SynergyWeb/Parents/default.aspx>

## . New 2-year funding from April 2024

If you are hoping to access the new 2-yr funding for working families in April 2024 for any child in your family, you will need to apply for an HMRC eligibility code.

Dorset Council have advised us that parents will be able to apply for their eligibility code from **2nd January 2024**, and codes must be obtained by **31st March 2024** to use in the Summer term 2024.

## . 3- & 4-year-old 30-hr funding

Hopefully by now, all parents who are newly 30hr-funded this January will have passed their HMRC code to the nursery. Codes with a start date after **31<sup>st</sup> December 2023** will not be valid until the Summer Term (April 2024).

If you're already 30-hr funded, you'll need to pass a valid renewal date to the nursery as soon as possible if yours expires before the start of the new term on 2nd January 2024.

## . What to bring to nursery?

The only things your child needs to bring to nursery are the following ....NAMED PLEASE!!

- lunch box (with a cool pack included)

- drinks bottle

- weather appropriate outdoor clothing eg coat, hat, gloves, welly boots etc

Please ensure your child attends nursery in clothes suitable for the season, and also clothes that you are not afraid to get wet / sandy / muddy / gluey / paint splashed!

Children often feel restricted when wearing aprons, and mud and paint travels quickly!



There is no need for your child to bring a bag or change of clothes/nappies/wipes etc as we are able to provide all of these during a session. If you wish for your child to only use your designated nappies etc you must please make us aware.

Please discourage your child from bringing in toys from home, it can cause all sorts of sharing issues and you run the risk of items being damaged or broken.

## • No nuts

Please can I remind you that we are a NO NUTS nursery as we have children and staff attending with a nut allergy. Please do not include nuts or nut-based products like peanut butter or Nutella in your child's lunch box.

Other items that might be linked to allergic responses in affected people are coconut and items with coconut listed in their ingredients, and pine nuts which are often in the ingredients of pesto sauce and some pre-prepared salads and sauces. Please also avoid these in your child's lunchbox to avoid the risk of allergen transfer and help to keep our nursery community safe.



## • Contact details

Please check that the contact details that we have for you in nursery are correct, and you've updated us with any changes to telephone numbers, addresses etc It's vital that we are able to get hold of you in an emergency.

## • Contacting nursery

If you need to contact us at the nursery out of hours, for instance to inform us that your child will be absent/ has taken any medication before their attendance with us etc please email our new email address

[childrenshouse@montessorinurseries.co.uk](mailto:childrenshouse@montessorinurseries.co.uk)

as all staff have access to this mail, so the information will be seen when I'm not on site.

As always, should you wish to contact me separately you can do so at:

[christina@montessorinurseries.co.uk](mailto:christina@montessorinurseries.co.uk)

## • Nursery forms

Please do inform us if your child has taken any medication or sustained any injury prior to a session with us. You will be asked to fill out a quick form at drop off, and for your ease these forms can also be downloaded and printed out from our website to complete and bring to nursery with you.

[Link: Website forms](#)

## • Term and holiday dates

The term and holiday dates for this academic year and the next are available on our website to assist with your forward planning.

[Link: Childrens House Hours, Fees & Holidays](#)



## And finally...

If you have anything you wish to discuss about your child's welfare or development, please speak to myself, Kirsty or your child's key worker. We are always happy to arrange a convenient time to talk with you.

For general information about the nursery our website is always a good first port of call.....

[www.montessorinurseries.co.uk](http://www.montessorinurseries.co.uk)

I had a really enjoyable (if busy!) first term in my new role as leader of the nursery, and am feeling excited about the Spring term ahead and the activities we will be enjoying with the children. I hope that 2024 is happy and rewarding for all of our families.

Kind regards

**Christina x**

