



# Chrysalis Newsletter

Spring Term 2024

Welcome to the Spring Term at Chrysalis!



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, **Happy New Year to all** and a very warm welcome to parents and children who are new to us this term. We hope all of our families had a fabulous festive season and are returning refreshed for the start of a new year at Chrysalis!



Thank you to everyone, on behalf of myself and the team, for the thoughtful gifts and cards we received from you at Christmas. We hope you enjoyed watching the children sing. We thought they did marvellously!

**Our project for the Spring Term is 'Number, shape, colour and pattern'.**



When we help children to start noticing and identifying patterns we talk about shapes, colours and numbers to make connections.

When setting up our nursery environment we carefully select images, photographs and books for children to access to support their learning in these areas which form a basis to early mathematical learning.

The children have access to a wide range of materials supporting this, such as building blocks and other construction resources, small parts such as mosaic tiles and sorting cups, and a wide range of art resources. Using these materials, we help the children to identify the numbers, colours, shapes and patterns that surround them. This helps them develop self-confidence as they start to understand more about their world.

Our House of Maths workshop this term will complement our project nicely.

If you'd like some further information about this project and how it helps your child to develop, please follow the link below...

[Link: Spring Term Project](#)

The Spring Term sees the children celebrating seasonal festivals such as...

**Chinese New Year**, which for 2024 is **The Year of the Dragon!**



The holiday we sometimes call Chinese New Year in English is known as *chūnjié* in Chinese, or Spring Festival.

Everyone wears red, a lucky colour, and visits family and friends with gifts of oranges, flowers, sweets and special food items like sweet rice cakes, taro cake, or turnip cake.

Adults give out red envelopes (*hóngbāo*) filled with lucky money to children and elders, and everyone enjoys fireworks, parades, banquets, and brightly lit lanterns at night.



The children love to learn about this vibrant festival, and particularly enjoy taking part in dragon dancing and sampling Chinese foods such as noodles and rice which they practice eating with chop sticks in the Chrysalis Chinese restaurant!

**Valentine's Day** sees an explosion of all things heart shaped in nursery!



Our Valentine's Day celebrations can also include conversations about our own heart, and how to keep it healthy with exercise and the types of food we eat.

The children listen to each other's hearts with a stethoscope to hear how exercise can increase the rate of our heart beat.



## Pancake Day

This is a particularly well-loved celebration with the children enjoying pancake races, cookery activities and best of all.... a delicious treat for snack time!



We will be celebrating our lovely mummies on **Mother's Day**.

In nursery, celebrating Mother's Day can be a great opportunity to help children understand the importance of family relationships and to express their love and appreciation for their lovely mummy or mother figure.



And then there will be Easter crafts, egg and spoon racing and Easter egg hunts for the festival of **Easter**.



We will also be helping our children to recognise the changing of the seasons and how this affects our local plants and animals, as Winter turns to **Spring**.



## 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 **31st 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 next term on 2nd January 2024.

## • What do I need to bring into nursery for my child?

All your child needs to bring with them to nursery is a NAMED water bottle (water only please), a lunch box (see note below) and weather appropriate outdoor clothing eg coat, gloves, hat etc.

We carry spares of everything on site from a change of clothes, wipes, nappies, sunhats etc. In our continued effort to avoid too many items travelling to and from nursery we kindly request that children do NOT bring in any toys/teddies etc from home. Small items particularly, are likely to get lost or broken, so keep those treasured possessions for home please!



## • A note on lunch boxes.

Whilst we have a small fridge to accommodate the majority of lunch boxes that come into nursery, others need to be stored in a cupboard at room temperature and so we kindly request that ice packs are included in ALL children's lunch boxes (which should also be of the insulated variety).

Additionally, we are trying to reduce waste in the nursery as part of our commitment to reduce, reuse and recycle. We are finding that children are increasingly being given too much choice in their lunch boxes and are often overwhelmed by the quantity of food leading to lots of food wastage. Please provide healthy food of age-appropriate quantities. Snacks are provided by Chrysalis throughout the day and so no child will go hungry!

For further advice regarding portion size and healthy lunch box ideas please follow the link below:

<https://www.firststepsnutrition.org/eating-well-early-years>

## • Messy play

A session at nursery can involve working with some very messy substances, such as paint, glue, sand and mud. Whilst we make every effort to protect clothing with aprons and waterproofs, please send your child to school in clothes that you don't mind them getting messy in.

At Chrysalis we strongly believe that the marks on your child's clothes, the pockets filled with sand and the paint in their hair are the indicators of future architects, artists and scientists in training!



- **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 Chrysalis 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

[chrysalis@montessorinurseries.co.uk](mailto:chrysalis@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:

[perdy@montessorinurseries.co.uk](mailto:perdy@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: Chrysalis Hours, Fees & Holidays](#)

- **No parking**

Please remember there is a NO PARKING regulation in Hayeswood School car park. Parents should not enter the school car park in their vehicle at any time. Please ensure that everyone who drops off or collects your child is aware of this safety rule.



## And finally...

Please speak to myself or your child's key worker if you have any concerns about your child's welfare or development. We're always happy to arrange a convenient time to talk. We're really excited about the Spring Term ahead and are planning some fun learning activities for the children to enjoy. If you have anything at home that would complement any of our topics, please talk to a teacher. The children love to welcome family members into nursery.

I'd like to wish all of our families a very happy and healthy 2024 to one and all!

Perdy x

