

Newsletter: Spring Term 2026

It's hard to believe that we are halfway through this academic year – time flies when you're having fun!

We have really enjoyed seeing **children's friendships** blossom as they get to know each other better, and how caring they are to the new children who have joined us more recently.



Since the last newsletter, we have had the pleasure of having some more **parents visit** us to talk about their work or hobby. It was fascinating to learn about the work of a commercial diver, when Sarah-Jayne told us about her job, which she demonstrated using a Lego structure immersed in water – very clever. We also enjoyed hearing about David's hobby and seeing some of the 130 rosettes he and his family have amassed, showing ponies.

We asked David to speak about his ponies because it linked well to our topic - the **Chinese New Year (CNY)**, which is now entering the year of the horse.



Honor's painting inspired by CNY

A tradition of the Montessori approach is to include such **festivals** into the planned activities to provide children with a positive experience of other cultures. Living in rural Devon means this is even more important, therefore, we have gone into some depth with this project, incorporating it into different aspects of the children's experiences over several weeks...stories, interest tray of artifacts, displays, roleplay, food tasting at snack, music etc.

Caring for nature is another strong element of the Montessori approach, encouraging children to appreciate animals and plants. When we made bird feeders for the **Big Garden Birdwatch**, it was lovely to see the children's enthusiasm for feeding birds during the cold weather. **Nutmeg** often goes home with a child for the holidays too, so if you would like to have a turn at caring for her, do let me know.

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

Theatre trip

In the past, we have arranged a theatre show outing for children and parents to enjoy, meet up and socialise together. There is an event advertised, taking place on **27th May** at the Barnfield Theatre, which looks fun. Read all about it and book your tickets by following the link: [Flavours of Us - Exeter Northcott Theatre](#)

Sunnier days

With warmer weather ahead, a reminder to pop an **icepack** in your child's lunch bag/box and make sure that **suncream** is applied before they come to the nursery. **Sunhats** are vital too, once the summer sun is shining.

Prompt parents please

We appreciate it when parents **drop off and collect their child/ren on time**. We have arranged staff ratios according to booked session times and have lots to do throughout the day, so this helps us to keep things running smoothly.

Allotment time

After a very wet winter, we will be embracing the big outdoors again properly by resuming our visits to the Community Allotment. This will involve a small group of older children on Wednesday mornings, more details to follow. We will need parent volunteers for these outings.

Invoices due

There has been controversy about the early years funding. Unfortunately, the government's advertising campaign of 'free childcare' is very misleading, as the funding does not cover the actual cost of provision, in unique settings like ours. Therefore, we have an extra charge per session. Please check Tapestry for this term's invoice, the **payment deadline is 20th March**. If your child is eligible for Pupil Premium, we use it to cover this fee.

Library visit

On the morning of **Monday 2nd March** we are off to the library. The children will be able to choose a book to borrow, to read at Montessori and listen to a story read by the librarian. If your child does not usually attend on a Monday morning and you would like to accompany us, you are most welcome to join.

World Book Day

We are looking forward to seeing the children **dressed up on Thursday 5th March**, to celebrate their favourite book character.



Term dates

Spring Term 2026

Half term:

Monday 16th to Friday 20th Feb

Ends: Thursday 2nd April

Summer Term 2026

Starts: Monday 20th April

Half term:

Monday 25th to Friday 29th May

Ends: Thursday 16th July

Autumn Term 2026

Starts: Monday 7th September

Half term:

Monday 26th to Friday 30th October

Ends: Thursday 17th December

