

Newsletter: Autumn Term 2025

Welcome back to the second half of the Autumn Term, which continues to be full of fun activities at Chagford Montessori.



Picking an apple to share for snack

This term, **healthy eating** is in focus, in line with the new Early Years Foundation Stage Nutrition Guidance.

We have done a variety of topic-related activities to increase children's awareness of the importance of '**eating the rainbow**' as well as conversations relating to food choices at snack and lunch times. We are also including a greater variety of foods at snack time to encourage children to try a wide range of tastes and textures.

Snacks have been supplemented by our own produce: apples and beans from the garden. The children enjoyed taking turns to pick one apple from the tree when needed for snack. When on another day we had carrot, a child asked..."is this from your carrot tree?" hence, the importance of having these meaningful experiences!

Some of the older children visited **Chagford Community Allotment** this term. The children had been aware of the trips last academic year and had patiently waited for their turn. Many of them looked forward to the outing with much anticipation – luckily the trip did not disappoint, demonstrated in comments afterwards such as "that was such a lovely day!" Thank you to those parents who made the trip possible by helping. We hope to continue the visits in the Spring.



Podding beans for snack time

We have been invited to participate in a community art project being organised by the **Chagford Health Centre**. The children will paint a picture on the theme of the 'River Teign' and the resulting artworks will be displayed at the Health Centre, where families can go to view them. The aim of the project is to enable children to become more familiar with the Health Centre environment.

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

Yummy packed lunches

There are some lovely lunches coming in, appetisingly displayed in the marvellous Bento style lunch boxes! We still have a few boxes left to purchase for £15 each.

Fees and funding

A polite reminder to check your **invoice** on Tapestry – the payment due date is 30th November. **ALSO**, for those parents receiving **Working Entitlement (WE)**, you need to reapply every 3 months by the deadline specified on the Gov.uk website to keep your code valid.

Prompt pickups please

We appreciate it when you come to collect your child/ren on time. There is always a lot to do at the end of the day and we don't have capacity for children after 4pm.

Winter weather

Warm clothes including **gloves, hats and scarves** make a huge difference to the children's enjoyment of outside time and **wet weather gear** is essential!

Anti Head Lice Advice

Please tie your child's hair up for their sessions to prevent the spread of nits. They are a real nuisance and hard to get rid of, so prevention is always best! If your child does get nits, please let us know, so that we can alert others to check their children.

Name everything possible

Please **NAME** your child's clothing, boots, shoes and lunch items as it avoids confusion and the loss of your belongings.

Winter Gathering

Please join us on the afternoon of **Thursday 11th December** for a short performance, songs and festive food. **More information to follow.**

Charity money raised

Our bring 'n buy **Harvest Shop** raised nearly £90 for UNICEF this term – well done everyone!



Being the shopkeeper in the Harvest Shop

Term dates

Autumn Term 2026

Ends: Thursday 18th December

Spring Term 2026

Starts: Monday 5th January

Half term:

Monday 16th Feb to Friday 20th Feb

Ends: Thursday 2nd April

Summer Term 2026

Starts: Monday 20th April

Half term:

Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May

Ends: Thursday 16th July