

Newsletter: Summer Term 2026

This term started with a bang, celebrating Sir David Attenborough's 100th Birthday! The children baked a special cake, coloured with green and blue, which did make it resemble planet Earth! They then decorated it with seven animals, one to represent each continent. The 'Happy Birthday' song was sung, and everyone had a slice, yummy! See Tapestry for further details.



Ella posting her birthday card to "Dave".

What is more, Ella bought Sir David a birthday card, which she then wrote a message in and posted on our way to the allotment – we are hopeful of a reply!

The celebration was a great entry point for our current topic: Blue Planet. We have nearly completed our new classroom display about marine life. Who knew that there are so many collective nouns... The aim of this project is to stimulate children's interest in and awareness of the amazing life in the oceans and engender a sense of awe for our environment. Please see the plans for the term on our notice board.

Hopefully the children have had some lovely real-life experiences of being by the sea during this very hot half term!

We have enrolled onto the Maths Champions programme. This national initiative enables early years settings to enhance children's maths learning. Although we have great Montessori materials for maths, we are always eager to reflect on our provision and enhance it where possible. We are in the early stages of this yearlong commitment, so will share our progress with you in due course.



The day the police came to visit.

I have received an award to join the World Organisation for Early Childhood Education (OMEP) Conference in Poland. Although I am excited it go, it means sadly missing the last two days of term (15th & 16th July) - if only I could be in two places at once! Hen, who is well known to the children, has kindly agreed to cover for me, so I know the term will end smoothly in my absence.

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

Summer Gathering

We warmly invite you to our annual **Summer Gathering**. Please join us on **Thursday 9th July at 2pm**, for entertainment, provided by the children and yummy refreshments served by them too. More details to follow.

Tapestry

Please check your **invoice** on Tapestry – the due date is 28th June. A **late payment fee** is incurred if the deadline is missed.

Tapestry offers the opportunity to print your child's **learning journey**. When your child leaves, you will receive a link to a PDF file on your account. This can then be downloaded onto your device and printed as a visual memento.

Photos

You can view Sarah Clarke's photos at Montessori and, if you would like to buy the photo, please **pay with the correct cash in a named envelope, before taking it home**. There is an order form enclosed with your print to order more copies/different sizes directly from Sarah if you wish.

Leavers' ceremonies

For those children due to leave us in July, we will be publishing transition reports in June and arranging their leaving ceremonies for the **last two weeks of term**. I am in touch with Chagford Primary regarding transition visits and will let you know as soon as I have details.

Warm weather

Please **apply sun cream** to your child before their sessions, provide a named **sunhat** and pop an ice pack in their lunch bag. Thank you.

Packed lunches



These types of pouches are **detrimental** to children because: soft foods don't need to be chewed preventing the development of jaw muscles, which hinders development of speech, squeezy foods don't need cutlery, preventing opportunities to develop fine motor control, such foods stick to teeth and increase tooth decay, which is the no.1 reason for school absence. One portion contains 12g of sugar which is 85% of a child's daily allowance. Enough said!

Practical clothing please!

Please dress your child in **practical clothing and footwear**. We request that children do not wear dungarees, shoes with laces, or strappy dresses (in hot sun), we appreciate your support with this.

Term dates

Summer Term 2026

Ends on Thursday 16th July

Autumn Term 2026

Monday 7th September – Thursday 17th December

Half term: 26th – 30th October

Spring Term 2027

Monday 4th January – Thursday 25th March

Half term: 15th – 19th February

Summer Term 2027

Monday 12th April – Thursday 15th July

Half term: 31st May – 4th June