



Term Dates

Summer Term Starts 15th April

Bank Holiday (Closed) 6th May

Half Term (Closed) 27th - 31st May

Inset Day (Closed) 28th June

Summer Term Ends 18th July

19th July - Pre-school Leavers Graduation Party
(Playgroup closed - only Pre-school children attend) - times TBC.
Party invitations will be sent to pre-schoolers later in the term

www.chestnutplaygroup.org.uk/Term-Dates

Dates For Your Diary

15th April: World Art Day, Celebrating Thai New Year, & Celebrating Vaisakhi

17th April: Fire station visit

14th May: Graduation photos

TBC: Parent Workshop

24th June: Parents Evening

Considering it has been a very short term, I cannot quite believe how much we have managed to fit in this Spring term. We had a lovely turn out for our Parents' Evening and had some lovely feedback from our Parent Surveys, so thank you for sharing your thoughts with us, we really do appreciate it. We tend to send out the Parent Surveys twice a year, which gives us time to review and put in place any recommendations that we feel are necessary. Your feedback means a great deal to us to ensure you are happy in all areas with your child attending our setting. We welcome any feedback and are always looking at ways that we can improve our practice to be at the highest of standards.

What The Children Have Been Enjoying

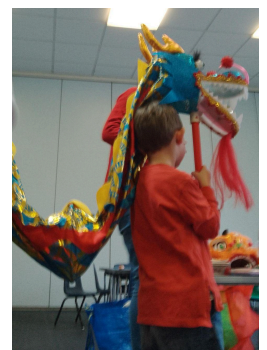
We have had a very busy spring term. Back in January we did the RSPB Bird Watch where the children made bird food cakes, and we also had a little bird watch hut created in the garden with binoculars to see what birds we could see in our garden.



In February the children enjoyed a lovely visit from Mando school, where Hailey came and did a Chinese New Year workshop with the children.

The children experienced learning Mandarin, joining in with the Dragon Dance, singing songs and creating money envelopes. The children all enjoyed participating and it was lots of fun for everyone, whilst learning

about other cultures and communities' celebrations. We would also like to thank the parent that came in to tell the children a story for Chinese New Year.





Also in February we celebrated 'Pancake Day' where the children helped to make their pancakes. They weighed, measured and followed a recipe together to create their pancake mix (the grown ups did the flipping), whilst the children enjoyed watching it being cooked, they also then enjoyed having some lovely fruit that the children prepared to have on their pancakes - there were full tummies all round!

In March we celebrated World Book Day, where the children came in dressed as their favourite characters. We had a range of story-based activities throughout the week where the children got very creative by sharing their imaginative ideas through creating stories in play. We enjoyed a visit to the library where the children chose some books for us to borrow, and we also had Christiane from The Curious Mind (Usbourne Books) come and read to the children. The children had done their sponsored listening, with the sponsorship money and the extra percent from Usbourne Books we were able to buy £75 worth of books for the playgroup so thank you so much for this as they will be great new resources for the children to contribute towards their learning.



We have also had a visit in March from Sarah from Messy Church, where she came in for a 'stay and play' with the children, and read them a story about Palm Sunday.

Towards the end of March we were very excited to be able to go to Symonds House for an Easter visit where the children and residents joined in with an easter egg hunt, and did some easter crafts together, it was a lovely time had by all.



And we ended the last day of term with a fun visit from Cambridgeshire Police, where they came and talked to the children about the help and keep us safe in our community.



Our Curriculum

We have been looking at our curriculum and ways that we can further support this. One of our curriculum goals is 'to follow a recipe', to support the children to reach this goal this term we created a 'play dough station'. The children can access this where they can use the ingredients and tools and resources available to create and make their own playdough. The children have really taken to this and are extending their learning by experimenting what else they can add to it.

Another curriculum goal that we are currently adding more to is 'love of story and rhymes'. The children this term have been taking it in turns to take home our 'home book bags' they contain books, figures, song sheets and games etc that the whole family can get involved in. Charlene is also putting together over the holidays a 'Chestnuts Sharing Library'. After Easter there will be a box out in the foyer where the children can borrow a book from the box and take it home and when they have finished with it they can return it to the box and change it for a new one.

Family 'Stay and Play' Sessions

Parents/carers/grandparents etc are always welcome to come to playgroup for a 'stay and play' session with their children on the days they attend. It is a wonderful opportunity to see what the children are learning and be a part of that. If you would like to come into the playgroup for a morning or an hour, then please speak to a member of staff to arrange this. Also, if you feel there is anything that you can contribute towards the setting for example coming in to talk about your occupation or about your culture and/or celebrations, we would love to have you come in. Just speak to a member of staff and we will be happy to discuss this with you. We value our partnerships with parents and are continuously looking at ways that we can develop this further.

Parent Workshops

Unfortunately we had to postpone the Parent Workshop of 'Learning Through Play' last term due to low numbers. We are wanting to book this in for the beginning of Summer term. We have sent out a Parent Survey to try and best suit your needs and what you're wanting to know, so you can get the most out of what we will be offering. If you haven't done so already we would really appreciate your thoughts on this. The areas where we are wanting to cover at our 'talk tables' are:

- Getting ready to write
- Early maths
- Toileting
- Communication and language
- Our feelings are important
- Healthy choices

It is a great opportunity for you to come along and see how the staff support your children and how they learn through play. The staff will be there for you to ask questions, and there will be lots of ideas for you to do at home too, to help support your children with their transition to school.

Training

All staff are given training opportunities throughout the year to ensure they are continuously developing their knowledge and skills, for their own professional development, and to ensure the children have the best possible learning experiences. All training that staff complete is then fed back to the rest of the staff at staff meetings that we hold at the beginning of each half term. This gives all staff the opportunities to review and reflect on our practice and put action plans into place. The staff all have access to free online learning through our Early Years Alliance membership, where they can access these and update on areas where they feel needed.

Staff Training This Year

Basic Child Protection - All staff have this is then renewed every 3 years

SENCO - Charlene Hayes and Tracey Oldfield

Designated Child Protection - Charlene Hayes and Tracey Oldfield

Ofsted Briefings - Charlene Hayes and Tracey Oldfield

EYFS forums - Charlene Hayes and Tracey Oldfield

Understanding Children's Behaviour and interactions - All staff

Play in a schematic way - Kirsty Mitchell

ENCO - Charlene Hayes

Professional Curiosity - Tracey Oldfield

Record Keeping - Tracey Oldfield

Nurture for wellbeing - Molly Miller

Let's play in a technical and engineering way - Tracey Oldfield

Let's play in a mathematical way - Sarah Meeks and Sam Redhead

Physical Development and movement play - Molly Miller and Gagandeep Sagoo

Let's play in a scientific way - Julie Lambon-Ralph

First Aid - All permanent staff

Prevent Duty - All staff

FGM (Female Genital Mutation) - All staff

Food Hygiene - All staff

Fire Safety - Charlene Hayes, Tracey Oldfield and Kirsty Mitchell

Committee Training This Year

Committee Essentials - Janine Cook

Roles and Responsibilities - Emily Steele

Prevent Duty - All Committee

General Reminders

Sunscreen: As we head into the summer months the weather will become much warmer, please can you ensure that your child has **sunscreen and a sunhat in the playgroup at all times**. Please also ensure that both items are clearly labelled. We do have a box for sunscreens and hats that can stay at the playgroup at all times - we find this to be a much easier way of doing this so that way we know the children always have these to hand when we experience warm weather. Sunscreen must NOT contain nuts.

Welly boots: Please ensure your children's **welly boots are named** as we do have some multiple pairs of the same, and with having 40+ children on Register it can be hard to remember whos belong to who! Children need an outdoor pair of shoes such as welly boots for wet days and also a pair of shoes for indoors. **We now have pens for you to write on welly boots**, they are in the form pockets behind the door in the foyer.

Foods: Please no items in packed lunches that contain nuts within the ingredients. If you have made anything at home please just pop in a list in the lunch box with a list of ingredients that you have used. We appreciate that you may want to give your child a treat in their lunch box such as a biscuit or a chocolate bar which we are happy for you to do but we only allow one. Please no multiple sweet treats. We have also noticed that some foods have age warnings on the label - if a child is 2 years old and their food has an age warning on it e.g 36 months+ then we will not give this to your 2 year old child. Please ensure to check all packaging on the items going into your children's lunch boxes.

Cutting up foods: Please remember to cut all **small round foods into quarters** such as cherry tomatoes, grapes, or anything of the similar size as these can cause choking. This can be quite time consuming for staff to cut up many grapes before the children can eat them, which is then taking a member of staff away from interacting with the children.

We welcome any feedback and ideas to the playgroup. If you have any ideas or suggestions for improvements or things you would like to see in the setting please do let us know, we would love to hear your views.

Best wishes

Charlene Hayes and all the Chestnut Playgroup Team

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These donations really mount up and make a BIG difference to us, so we'd really appreciate it if you could take a moment to sign up and support us. It is completely FREE and only takes a moment.

You can find our Easyfundraising page at:

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/chestnutlinton/?utm_campaign=raise-more



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