CHK PARENT NEWSLETTER

SHARING THE LIFE AND LEARNING OF OUR KINDERGARTEN DAYS

As April marches on, we bring you a shorter edition this month. The children have been happily embracing the spring air, enjoying fresh outdoor play and exploring the garden, where each day brings its own small delights and discoveries.

April

2026 edition

'THE GREATEST CHALLENGE OF THE DAY IS: HOW TO BRING ABOUT A THINKING THAT IS AT THE SAME TIME FULL OF HEART AND FULL OF WILL..'
— RUDOLF STEINER



CHARTHAM HOLISTIC KINDERGARTEN

Welcome *Dear Parents*

Welcome to our April edition of the Chartham Holistic Kindergarten newsletter. We were closed over the Easter period, and then returned with our holiday club, which brought a relaxed and joyful rhythm to our days. The children enjoyed time together through play, creativity, and gentle seasonal activities.

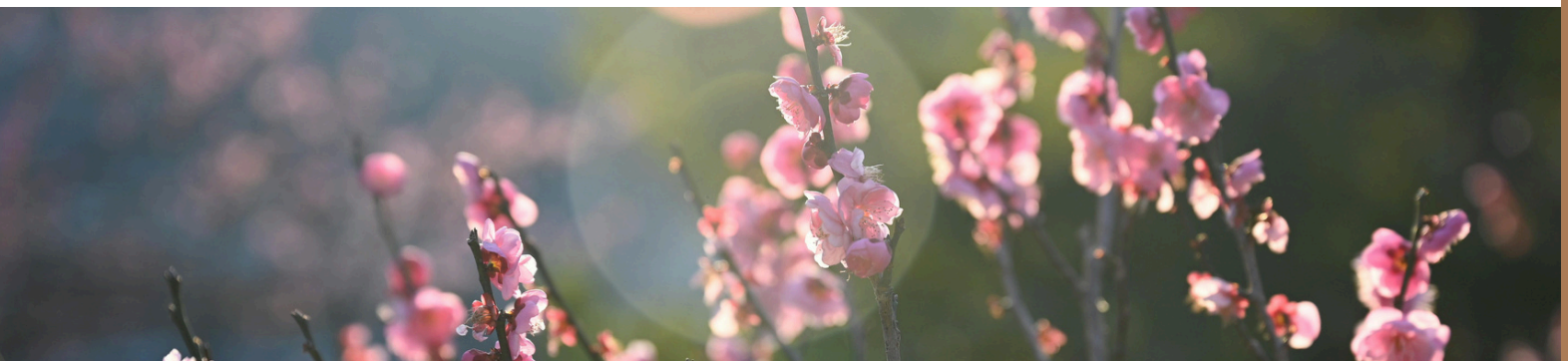


April has been a gentler and slightly different month within the kindergarten, shaped by the Easter break and a time when many families have been away. Although our daily rhythm has continued to hold steady for the children who have been with us, the wider sense of the whole group being together has felt quieter, and the days have carried a different quality.

Following our Easter closure, we have spent time in our holiday club, where the atmosphere naturally shifts into a more relaxed and mixed rhythm. This has been a lovely time in its own way, allowing for mixed age groups, unhurried play, deeper connections, and a softer pace to the day.

For this reason, this month's newsletter takes a slightly different form. Rather than sharing our usual room updates, which are often rooted in the unfolding of each group's rhythm, we have chosen to offer some more general reflections and news from across the kindergarten.

We look forward to May, when the children are all back together again and the fuller life of the kindergarten can be felt more strongly once more. With this, we will return to our usual newsletter format and share more of the rich, everyday moments from each room.



CHARTHAM HOLISTIC KINDERGARTEN

Festival News *Passover*

Our celebration of Passover at the beginning of April was held quietly and with intention, offering the children a gentle experience of this special moment. Through simple activities, the festival was carried in a way that could be met through the senses with an emphasis on togetherness, care, and the feeling of moving into something new. It sat softly within the rhythm of our days, echoing the wider sense of change and renewal present in the season.



The morning unfolded, with time in the garden alongside the preparation of matzah. The children took part in mixing and shaping the dough, approaching the task with quiet focus and care. Our snack tables were laid with flowers, matzah, and parsley, creating a simple sense of occasion and togetherness as we shared food.

A special part of the day was our Desert Journey Table, where soft cloths in sand, blue, and gold created a peaceful landscape. The children added stones, shells, and small figures along a winding path, returning to it throughout the day in both play and quiet reflection. We held a puppet play which the children came together to experience and there was, as always, time for free play too, before we came together to close the day with a simple blessing.

We closed the day simply, gathering together for a blessing that carried the essence of the festival in a way the children could feel and hold:

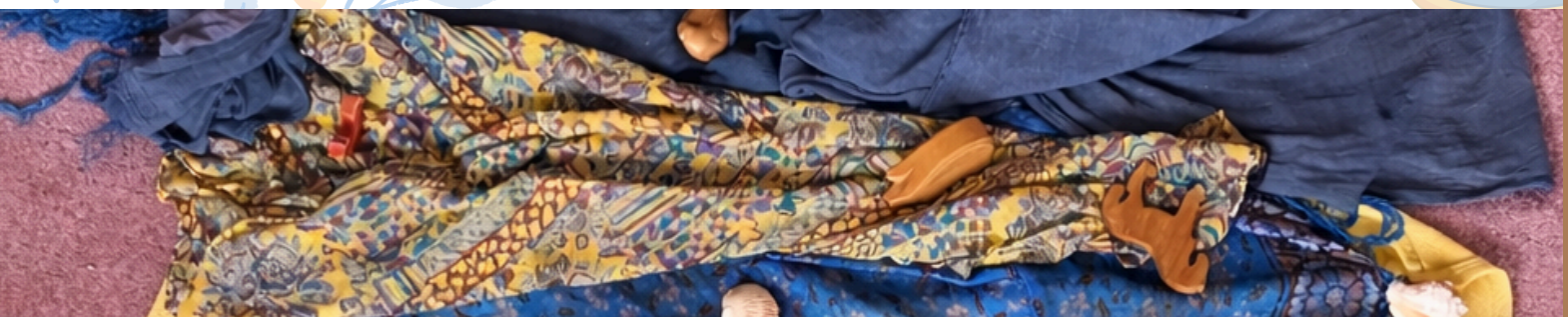
May your heart be a home
Wherever you roam
May your spirit be free
Over land, over sea.



CHARTHAM HOLISTIC KINDERGARTEN

Festival News *Passover*





CHARTHAM HOLISTIC KINDERGARTEN

Festival News *Spring*

Our Spring Festival was a lovely and grounding afternoon, with parents joining us in the garden to share in the work and the season together. There was a gentle sense of purpose as we tended the garden, and the children moved between play and helping, experiencing the warmth of doing alongside one another.



Our Spring Festival gave us the opportunity to come together in the garden and mark the change in season through shared work and time outdoors. As the garden begins to come back into life, the children are able to take part in preparing the space turning soil, planting, and helping in small but purposeful ways.

It was a pleasure to welcome parents into the kindergarten for the afternoon. There was a steady and practical atmosphere as adults and children worked alongside one another, with the children moving between play and joining in where they felt drawn. Seeing this cooperation between home and kindergarten is an important experience for them, and something that quietly supports their sense of place within the wider community.

Afterwards, we gathered to share a simple snack together. This offered a natural pause in the afternoon and a chance to sit together before the day came to a close.

These shared occasions form an important part of the life of the kindergarten. They allow the children to experience the seasons not just as something observed, but as something they take part in, alongside the adults around them.
Thank you to all the parents who joined us and contributed their time and effort, it made a real difference to the day.



CHARTHAM HOLISTIC KINDERGARTEN

Festival Ahead May Day

Tuesday 5th May

With May just around the corner, we find ourselves looking ahead to one of the most cherished moments in the rhythm of the year.... A joyful festival of spring, flowers, and new life. It is a time when the world feels full and blossoming, and we mark this together in a simple, gentle way that feels meaningful for the children.



As part of the gentle rhythm of the year, we will be celebrating May Day here with the children on Tuesday 5th May. This promises to be a joyful festival, marking the fullness of spring, when the earth is blossoming and life feels abundant once more. Rooted in old seasonal traditions, May Day has long been a time to honour growth, beauty, and the turning of the year. In Waldorf kindergartens, these festivals are held with a sense of warmth and simplicity, offering the children an experience that feels both magical and deeply grounding.

The children will enjoy gathering around the maypole, taking part in simple dances, and sharing a special May Day cake together. The Oak and Maytree children will also have the lovely opportunity to visit Lightroot, where they will watch a Maypole performance, adding another layer of wonder to the occasion.

In keeping with the spirit of these early years celebrations, May Day will be observed as a quiet, child-centred occasion within the setting itself. We find that holding the festival in this way allows the children to fully settle into the experience, held gently by the familiar rhythm of their day and the presence of their teachers.

It is always a delight to share these moments with the children, and we look forward to a day filled with colour, song, and simple seasonal joy. We know many of you would love to be part of it, but this will be a small, child centred celebration held within the setting, so we won't be inviting parents to attend.



CHARTHAM HOLISTIC KINDERGARTEN

Festival Ahead Whitsun

Friday 22nd May

As the brightness of May Day settles, we gently turn towards the next festival in our rhythm. On Thursday 22nd May, the children will come together to celebrate Whitsun.. A light-filled festival of warmth and togetherness. We'll mark this in a simple, quiet way that feels natural and meaningful for the children.



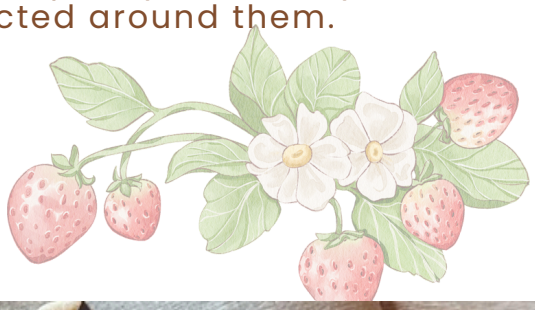
For Whitsun, we will spend the day together in a simple, thoughtful way, keeping close to the children's natural rhythm. This festival carries a sense of light and togetherness, and like all our festivals we meet it in a way that feels calm, grounded, and real for the children.

There will be time for shared preparations: baking biscuits together and sharing strawberries and cream, a lovely nod to the season, and later sit down for a warm bowl of rice pudding, bringing everyone together in a familiar and comforting way.

The children will also make white paper doves, something they can take home afterwards. These simple experiences, shared as a group, help to build a sense of connection and belonging, which sits at the heart of the festival.

To help create a sense of occasion, we ask that children come dressed in white if possible, or in yellow if you do not have enough white clothing items. These lighter colours bring a feeling of brightness, simplicity and unity to the day, and the children always enjoy seeing this reflected around them.

Again this is a child only, no parent festival







CHARTHAM HOLISTIC KINDERGARTEN

General News Consultant

We are pleased to be welcoming Susanna Andrews to the kindergarten, who will be working with us on a consultancy basis over the coming months. Susanna will be supporting our team in continuing to deepen our understanding of Waldorf early childhood practice, as part of our ongoing commitment to providing a strong and authentic Steiner education..



As a setting, we place great importance on the ongoing development of our work, both individually and as a team. Welcoming Susanna into the kindergarten is part of this commitment.

Susanna brings with her a wide range of experience across early years education, Steiner settings, and community-based work. She trained as a Waldorf early years teacher at Steiner House in London, and has further specialised in early childhood pedagogy through Pikler training. Alongside this, she has undertaken additional training in areas such as Forest School leadership, nutrition, yoga, and sound therapy, all of which support a well-rounded and practical approach to working with young children.

Susanna will be working alongside our team to support staff training, CPD, and the continued development of our practice. This will include time spent in the rooms, reflective work with staff, and dedicated training opportunities. Her role is to help us strengthen and enrich what we already do, ensuring that our work remains grounded, thoughtful, and aligned with the principles of Steiner early childhood education.
We are funding this work as a clear commitment to the children and families within our care. Investing in our staff and in the quality of our practice is central to our intention to offer the best possible Waldorf education.
We look forward to the work ahead and to the ways in which this will support and deepen the life of the kindergarten.



CHARTHAM HOLISTIC KINDERGARTEN

General News

A New Face

As we continue to grow, we are very pleased to welcome Emma Elliot to Oak. Emma has joined the team full time and brings a warm, kind presence, along with a fun and energetic approach with the children. With experience in childcare and home education, and a calm, steady manner, we are delighted to have her as part of the team.



Emma brings a wealth of experience working with children in many different settings, from home educating her own children for many years to supporting children with additional needs in residential care. She has a calm and steady presence, is kind and gentle in her approach, and builds warm, natural relationships with the children. Alongside this, she brings a fun and energetic spirit, strong communication skills, and the ability to remain composed in all situations.

Her background also includes training in special educational needs and trauma-informed care, as well as an interest in yoga, all of which support her thoughtful and well-rounded approach to working with the children. We feel very fortunate to have her as part of the team.

Want to meet the rest of the team? You can see details of all 12 CHK staff members at www.charthamhk.co.uk/staff



CHARTHAM HOLISTIC KINDERGARTEN

General News

A New Face

We are also very lucky to welcome Eva Fortini to the team. Eva is a trained and experienced Steiner class teacher and will soon be beginning her Kindergarten training at Steiner House. We are delighted to have her with us as she brings her experience and understanding into the kindergarten.



Eva has recently moved to Kent from London, where she has been teaching in a Steiner school, and we feel very fortunate that her path has now brought her to us. As she begins her Kindergarten training at Steiner House, she will also be supporting CHK three days a week, primarily in Oak and sometimes in Maytree.

Eva brings a steady, calm presence to the setting, along with a thoughtful and perceptive way of seeing the world. Her experience as a class teacher, combined with her reflective and insightful nature, offers something very special to the kindergarten environment. We are very glad to have her with us as part of the team.

Want to meet the rest of the team? You can see details of all 12 CHK staff members at www.charthamhk.co.uk/staff





CHARTHAM HOLISTIC KINDERGARTEN

General News

A New Face

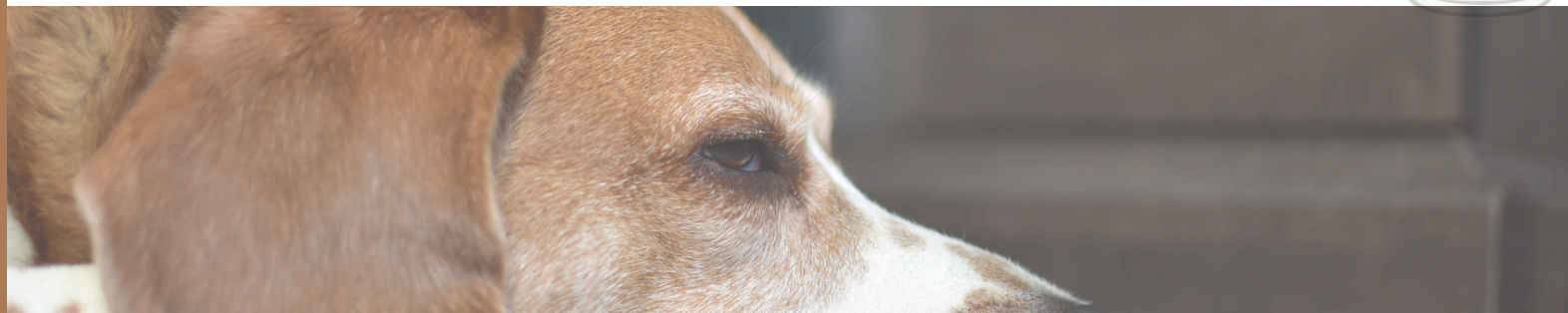
We are pleased to welcome Donna Smith to Spindlewood, where she will be joining the team full time. Donna brings a warm and open nature, a love of the outdoors, and a genuine enthusiasm for learning something new. With a particular love for animals and caring for others, we are very glad to have her as part of the team.



Donna brings with her many years of experience in childcare, having worked closely with families as a nanny for over twenty years. During this time, she has cared for children of all ages, from newborns through to school age, creating safe, happy, and well-held environments where children can grow, play, and develop at their own pace.

Donna has a natural ease with both children and adults, building trusting relationships and supporting each child's development in a thoughtful, attentive way.
Alongside this, Donna brings a calm, capable presence, a good sense of humour, and a genuine enjoyment of being with children. We are really pleased to have her join Spindlewood and become part of the life of the kindergarten.

Want to meet the rest of the team? You can see details of all 12 CHK staff members at www.charthamhk.co.uk/staff



CHARTHAM HOLISTIC KINDERGARTEN

Wise Words From *Wolfram*

Wolfram has been a steady presence here for many years, quietly tending the grounds with patience, purpose, and deep respect for the living world. His work is more than maintenance — it is thoughtful, attentive care. With gentle wisdom and a holistic understanding of nature's rhythms, he nurtures the land with empathy and reverence. Here he shares reflections gathered from years of listening to the earth and its seasons.



I would like to present the following inspiration to the community here at Chartham Holistic Kindergarten, The Light Root Hub, Oast Studios, and Garlinge Theatre…

The Sun shines always. The Earth has a particular place in the Realm of the Sun, and moves sublimely, continuously turning Eastward - thus presenting us with ever-changing qualities of sunlight, daylight , times of opportunity and challenges , and times of darkness , starlit nights, and time for rejuvenating sleep.

We may light a candle to dispel darkness , or to show our gratitude and appreciation, for an occasion that is special to us.

We too are Lights - living lights of human love and ingenuity on Earth. Each new year for every human being, is a new opportunity, to shine forth with splendour, and enlighten the darkness in this world. Thus is fulfilled on Earth , the Light , of the Ever-Shining Sun .

CHARTHAM HOLISTIC KINDERGARTEN

Parent Waldorf *Insights*

Each month, this page will offer a short reflection drawn from Waldorf education, sharing some of the thinking that guides our work with the children. These insights are not intended as instruction, but as gentle windows into the philosophy — supporting connection, understanding, and shared language between home and kindergarten.



As part of our recent staff training, we spent time working with storytelling and puppetry, exploring how these live within the daily rhythm of the kindergarten. We wanted to share a little of this with you, as it is such a central part of the children's experience. Above is a photo of the puppets made by staff as we learnt more about the art and delivery of stories in kindergarten.

Storytelling is not approached as something to be explained or analysed, but as something to be lived and absorbed. Stories are told simply, often repeated over time, and carried through gesture, rhythm, and voice. In this way, they meet the children in a way that supports their imagination, rather than directing it.

Puppetry sits closely alongside this. A simple puppet, moved with care, allows the story to unfold in a visual and sensory way, without becoming fixed or overstated. The children are not given a finished picture, but are invited to meet the story inwardly, each in their own way.
This approach supports the development of language, attention, and imagination, but just as importantly, it creates a shared experience within the group. Sitting together for a story, held in a calm and familiar rhythm, brings a sense of connection and quiet focus.
The children are given space to wonder, to picture, and to return again and again to something familiar. It is in this repetition and simplicity that the deeper value of story is found.

If you would like to explore this topic further, you may enjoy reading our blog post on stories in early childhood which can be found at:
www.charthamhk.co.uk/silks-stories-and-puppets-a-steiner-inspired-approach-to-early-childhood/



CHARTHAM HOLISTIC KINDERGARTEN

General News *Last few things*

A Brief Fairwell

At the end of April, our much valued Justine will be heading off on maternity leave. She will be greatly missed by both the children and the team, and we send her off with our warmest wishes for this special time. We are very much looking forward to welcoming her back to us in September.

Good News

We are pleased to share that we are beginning to make plans to open a fourth classroom, which we hope to run as a forest school kindergarten. We will share more details as these plans gently take shape.

Labelling Items

A gentle reminder to please label all of your child's belongings clearly. It makes a real difference in helping us keep track of everything throughout the day and ensures items find their way back home.

Collections

Just a small reminder that collections from the side gate are only for the 2:30–3:00pm pick-up. All other collections should be from the main door. Thank you for helping us keep things running smoothly.

info@charthamhk.co.uk

www.charthamhk.co.uk



CHARTHAM HOLISTIC KINDERGARTEN

CHK Community Ads





CHARTHAM HOLISTIC KINDERGARTEN

CHK Community Ads





CHARTHAM HOLISTIC KINDERGARTEN

CHK Community Ads



Massage & Spinal Flow Sessions

Parent and staff member Bex Morley hires one of the kindergarten rooms once a month to offer private massage and/or Spinal Flow sessions.



To book a session with Bex, you can contact her directly on 07762 068255

Tea and Tend

A group of volunteers come together each week to care for our beautiful site.

The aim is to increase biodiversity, grow food and flowers for all, connect to nature, strengthen community ties and then have a lovely cup of tea and some cake together.
We would love for you to join us!

When?
9.30am - 11.30am Wednesday mornings all year round!
Where?

The Light Root Hub, Garlinge Green Road, Chartham CT4 5RU
Please contact Jess on 07734 294989 for more details.

CHARTHAM HOLISTIC KINDERGARTEN

CHK Community Ads

SUNDAY SOCIAL COMMUNITY DANCE AT THE GARLINGE THEATRE!

HANA JOY WILL BE DJ

AS WELL AS LUNCH TO NOURISH OURSELVES WITH AFTER DANCING, SERVED TO US BY OUR WONDERFUL KITCHEN CREW.

IF YOU'RE FREE AND FANCY IT, TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE HERE:

HTTPS://WWW.EVENTBRITE.CO.UK/E/SUNDAY-SOCIAL-COMMUNITY-DANCE-26TH-APRIL-2026-TICKETS-1987079705891



CHARTHAM HOLISTIC KINDERGARTEN

CHK Community Ads





THAT'S ALL FOR NOW

WITH HEARTFELT THANKS FOR YOUR CONTINUED WARMTH, SUPPORT, AND PRESENCE IN OUR CHK FAMILY

Parents are always welcome to make an appointment to speak with their child's key person at any time, and please don't hesitate to WhatsApp or chat with a member of staff during drop-off — we are always happy to connect.

CHARTHAM HOLISTIC
KINDERGARTEN

> CHILDHOOD IS NOT SOMETHING TO BE HURRIED THROUGH. BUT A QUIET SEASON TO BE LIVED IN
> .- UNKNOWN

