CHK PARENT NEWSLETTER

SHARING THE LIFE AND LEARNING OF OUR KINDERGARTEN DAYS

With March underway, the children have been enjoying outdoor play with a new energy and exploring the garden with great enthusiasm, where each day brings new opportunities for curiosity, adventure and discovery.

March

2026 edition



'THE NEED FOR IMAGINATION, A SENSE OF TRUTH, AND A FEELING OF RESPONSIBILITY — THESE ARE THE THREE FORCES WHICH ARE THE VERY NERVE OF EDUCATION.' — RUDOLF STEINER

CHARTHAM HOLISTIC KINDERGARTEN

Welcome *Dear Parents*

Welcome to our March CHK Newsletter! As the days begin to get a little brighter and the season slowly starts to change, we've been enjoying lots of special moments with the children. From busy indoor play to time spent exploring outside and enjoying the garden, the children have been making the most of each day.



With March arriving, there has been a lovely sense of energy and activity around the kindergarten. The children have been happily absorbed in their play: building, creating and working together in ways that show their growing confidence and independence within the group. We've seen many wonderful moments of cooperation, with children sharing ideas, materials and imaginative stories as their play unfolds.

Inside, the room has been buzzing with activity. The children have been busy constructing all sorts of creations, spending time at the craft table, and exploring different materials in their own ways. It's been lovely to see them following their interests with such curiosity and enthusiasm.

Outdoor time continues to be a special part of our day. The garden offers space for movement, adventure and discovery, and the children have been enjoying climbing, running, digging and setting off on all sorts of shared adventures together. These moments not only support their physical development but also help strengthen the friendships that are growing within the group.



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News From *Spindlewood*

The Spindlewood room has been full of busy play and gentle moments of discovery. The children have been enjoying a variety of sensory experiences, creative activities and movement throughout their days. It has been lovely to see them exploring different materials, following their curiosity and using their imaginations as they play and learn together.



This month the children have been enjoying lots of opportunities for movement and hands-on play. They have been climbing, balancing and stepping across beams, crates and stepping stones, helping to build coordination and confidence as they explore active play (PD, PSED).

Snack times continue to support the children's growing independence. They are beginning to feed themselves, wipe their faces, and are learning simple BSL signs such as "thank you" and "more," helping them communicate their needs during daily routines (CL, PSED).

Sensory play has also been a big part of our days. The children have explored soft playdough, experimented with spring colours during mark-making, and planted sunflower seeds These activities encourage curiosity, creativity and fine motor development (EAD, PD, UW).

Baking remains a favourite shared activity. The children have been mixing, kneading and shaping dough together, adding seeds and creating simple shapes while practising cooperation and turn-taking (PD, PSED).

Check out our blog for more curriculum insights: charthamhk.co.uk/blog



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News From *Oak*

The Oak room has been full of busy activity and creative play. The children have been enjoying a range of artistic, sensory and seasonal experiences, exploring different materials, sharing stories and taking part in activities together. These moments help encourage curiosity, cooperation and a growing sense of community within the group.



Throughout the month the children have been enjoying a variety of creative and seasonal activities. Sensory trays filled with beans and small vehicles have encouraged scooping, pouring and imaginative play, giving the children plenty of opportunities for hands-on exploration (PD, UW).

The children have also spent time being creative, making Mother's Day cards, drawing freely and experimenting with painting in warm yellow tones. These activities give them space to express themselves while building confidence with different materials (EAD, PD).

With signs of spring beginning to appear, the children have enjoyed nature-inspired crafts such as making cress people and flower crowns using both real and craft materials. Watching the cress grow has introduced simple ideas about planting and caring for living things (UW).

Towards the end of the month we will also be celebrating seasonal festivals together. Baking matzah bread and spending time with families in the garden during our Spring Festival will be a special opportunity to come together and enjoy time as a community in the Oak room (PSED, UW).

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News From *Maytree*

Life in the Maytree room has been centred around seasonal activities, shared responsibilities and growing independence. The children have been taking part in practical tasks, creative work and spending time in the garden. These experiences encourage curiosity, cooperation and help the children connect with the changing rhythms of the season.



The children have been enjoying a range of practical and seasonal activities this month that encourage creativity and care. Craft work has included special Mother's Day cards, felt balls, flower hammering and making their very own butter from cream, including an impressive batch of wild garlic infused butter, alongside drawing and other artistic activities. Working with different materials helps develop careful handwork, patience and self-expression (PD, EAD).

Gardening has also become an important part of our days. The children have been helping to prepare the vegetable patch and plant seeds, beginning to notice how the garden changes and grows as the season moves into spring (UW, PSED).

We have also introduced a new morning rhythm for the Maytree children, starting the day indoors before heading outside later in the morning. The children have settled into this change very well, creating a calm start to the day while still allowing plenty of time for outdoor play and exploration.

Stories, verses and songs about seeds and the coming of spring continue to be shared during circle time, gently marking the rhythm of the day as we move towards our spring celebrations (CL, UW).

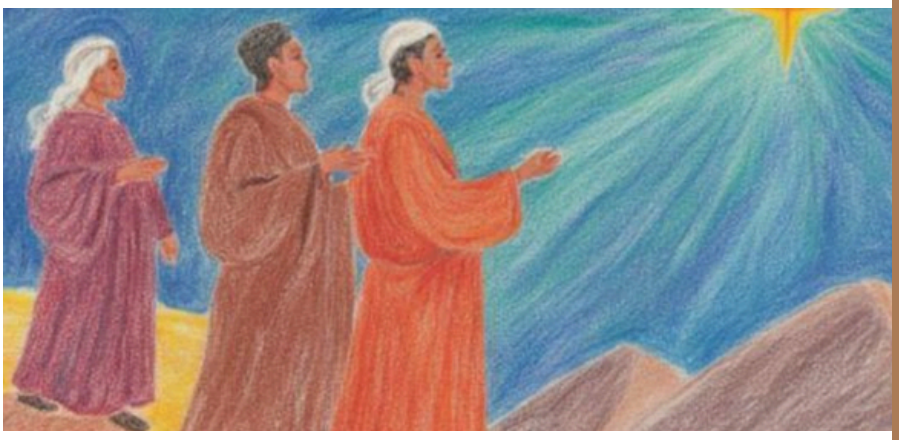


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Festival Ahead Passover

Wednesday 1st April

We are looking forward to celebrating Passover — a gentle moment in the year that honours the journey from constraint toward freedom, and the hope that comes with new beginnings. The children will prepare ahead through simple stories and quiet, purposeful activities that reflect themes of movement, waiting, and togetherness.



Passover enters the year as a festival of movement and transition. It carries the image of setting out on a journey — leaving what is familiar and moving forward together. For young children, this is not approached as history, but as a lived experience of change, supported by rhythm, repetition, and shared activity.

In the early childhood setting, Passover is experienced through the body and the senses. Through preparing simple food, shaping dough, and creating a quiet journey space, the children take part in meaningful work that reflects cooperation and care. These activities allow them to experience continuity and belonging, as each small gesture contributes to the whole.

The central image of the journey supports the children in meeting change with trust. Walking a path, placing objects along the way, and sharing in preparation all offer a sense of forward movement without hurry or explanation. The emphasis rests on doing rather than telling, allowing the meaning of the festival to unfold naturally.
Passover also carries a strong social gesture. Working side by side and gathering around a shared table, the children experience togetherness as something steady and reassuring. In this way, the festival offers an early sense of freedom — not as an abstract idea, but as a feeling of being supported, capable, and connected as the year continues to unfold.



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Festival Ahead Spring

Thursday 2nd April

We are also looking forward to celebrating our Spring Festival, when parents are invited to join us for an afternoon in the garden. Together we will spend time tending the garden and sharing a simple snack. These moments help the children experience a sense of community and connection as we welcome the new season together.



The Spring Festival arrives as a quiet celebration of renewal and shared care for the living world. As the season turns and the earth begins to stir, it offers the children an experience of tending, preparing, and welcoming new growth together.

In the early childhood setting, spring is experienced through practical activity. Preparing the garden, planting seeds, and working with soil allow the children to take part in meaningful work that connects them directly to the rhythms of the natural world. Through these simple gestures, they experience patience, responsibility, and the quiet satisfaction of caring for something that will grow over time.

The shared work of gardening also carries a strong social element. As families join us to help prepare the garden and share a simple snack together, the children see the adults in their world working side by side in cooperation and care. These moments strengthen the sense of community that holds the kindergarten and help the children feel that they belong within a wider circle of people and place.
In this way, the Spring Festival becomes more than a seasonal activity. It offers the children a lived experience of renewal, cooperation, and connection — gently marking the arrival of a new season within the steady rhythm of the year.



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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…

We have to be well to meet our daily requirements and fulfill our true potential and purpose on Earth.

Where else are we going to live, to fulfil our purpose effectively ?
Our orientation and quest begins with a true knowledge of the human being, and the requirements for its wellbeing in all aspects of life.
Since the very beginning of this existence, there have been remedies, plants, and substances, to cure every ailment that may befall a human being / and , there have also been prominent and outstanding practitioners since then, that have imparted these benefits to those in need.

Today, there is a vast knowledge of "grandmother's remedies", food and remedial supplements and practices, that far surpass our everyday common awareness of them.
To bring this richness into our lives, I am trying to establish a more readily available access to the Global Knowledge and Practice of Healthology, and Ingenuity .

Such a Mission Statement requires actual active support and involvement of many others, inspired by the richness inherent in our existence .





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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.



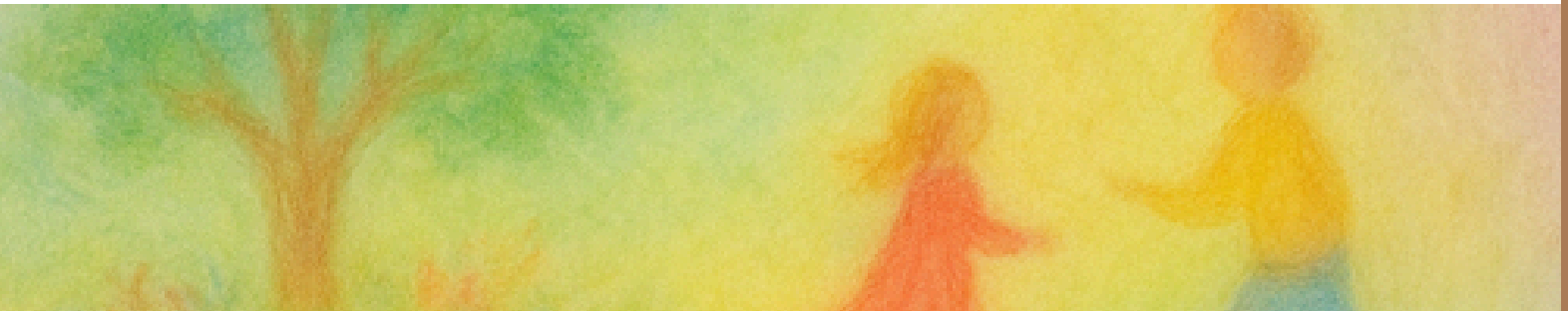
In Waldorf education, simple toys and natural materials play an important role in supporting a young child's development. Rather than toys that are highly detailed or have only one purpose, children are offered open-ended materials such as wooden blocks, cloths, baskets, shells and other natural objects. These simple items leave space for the child's imagination to lead the play.

When a toy doesn't tell the child exactly what it should be, it can become many things. A silk cloth might turn into a river, a cape, a blanket for a doll or the roof of a little house. Wooden blocks may become towers, roads or homes for animals. In this way, the child becomes the storyteller and creator of the play.

Natural materials also offer rich sensory experiences. Wood, wool, cotton and stone all feel different in the hands, with their own textures, weight and warmth. As children handle and explore these materials, they begin to understand more about the physical world while also developing coordination and care in their movements.

Through this simplicity, children are able to play more deeply. With fewer distractions, they can return to the same materials again and again, allowing their ideas to grow and change over time. These experiences gently support imagination, creativity and a growing confidence in their own abilities.

If you would like to explore this topic further, you may enjoy reading our blog post on toys in early childhood which can be found at:
www.charthamhk.co.uk/the-value-of-simplicity-in-toys-and-materials



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Photos Of The Month





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General News

A New Face

A very warm welcome to Laurie Hyde, who has recently joined our team on a part-time basis, working across the setting. Laurie brings a wealth of experience in early years and outdoor learning, and we are delighted to have her as part of our team.



Laurie brings a strong background in early childhood education and outdoor learning, with over ten years of experience working with young children. As a qualified Forest School Leader, she has developed and led nature-based learning experiences that encourage curiosity, creativity, and confidence. Her work often combines arts, crafts, storytelling, and sensory exploration with outdoor play, helping children build a meaningful connection with the natural world.

Alongside her forest school work, Laurie has experience leading early years rooms and supporting teams to create calm, nurturing environments where children feel secure and inspired to explore. We are very pleased to have Laurie joining us across the setting and look forward to the experience and creativity she brings to our community.

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



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General News *Last few things*

Hot Desks

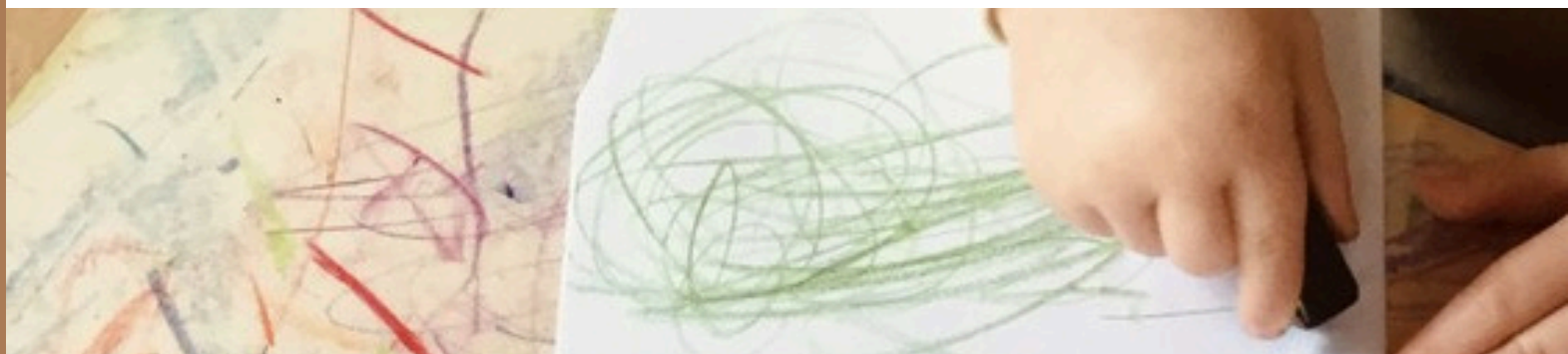
The co-working space has now moved to the theatre. The space will be available Monday to Friday for parents who would like a quiet place to work while on site.
The cost is £5 per day, payable in cash via honesty box, and there is a sign-in book available in the theatre for those using the space.
We hope this continues to be a helpful resource for families within our community.

Good News

We are pleased to share that the Department for Education has approved our application for exemptions to certain Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) learning and development requirements. The decision was confirmed on 4 March 2026 and takes effect immediately. This approval recognises our Steiner-inspired approach to early childhood education while continuing to meet all safeguarding and welfare requirements. Thank you to all families who supported the consultation process.

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www.charthamhk.co.uk



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CHK Community Ads





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CHK Community Ads



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.

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CHK Community Ads





Call us for an informal chat
01227 766555

or Email us
team@parkersdesignprint.co.uk

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Harvey Drive, Chestfield
Whitstable
CT5 3QY



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.

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KINDERGARTEN

A CHILD FLOURISHES MOST WHEN MET WITH PATIENCE, CONNECTION, AND QUIET UNDERSTANDING.
- UNKNOWN

