CHK PARENT NEWSLETTER

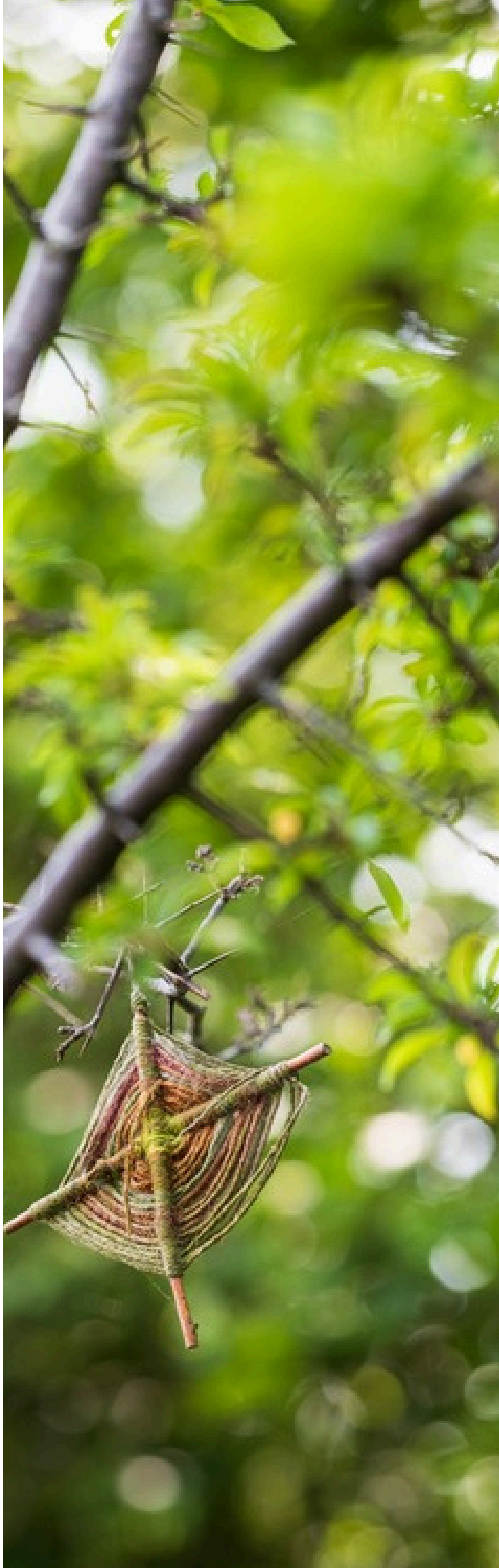
SHARING THE LIFE AND LEARNING OF OUR KINDERGARTEN DAYS

June has carried us along with full hearts and tired feet. The kindergarten has felt warm and busy, with sunhats by the door, familiar songs in the rooms, and the children moving through their days with a nearly end of term confidence.

June

2026 edition

''THE JOY OF CHILDREN IN AND WITH THEIR ENVIRONMENT MUST THEREFORE BE COUNTED AMONG THE FORCES THAT BUILD AND SHAPE THE PHYSICAL ORGANS.' — RUDOLF STEINER



CHARTHAM HOLISTIC KINDERGARTEN

Welcome *Dear Parents*

Welcome to our June edition of the Chartham Holistic Kindergarten newsletter. This month has felt full and sun-soaked, with the children bringing their usual mix of questions, laughter, strong feelings and deep little moments of concentration. We are close to the end of term now, and you can feel it in the rooms: how much has been lived, learned and grown.



June has brought the kindergarten into that rich, slightly tangled time of year when everything feels well lived-in. The children know the rooms now not just as places they come to, but as places they belong. They move through the morning with a kind of ownership: fetching cloths, carrying baskets, finding their work, joining a song halfway through as though it had been waiting for them.

There has been much to notice in the children's play. Houses have been built and rebuilt, journeys have begun with great purpose and ended somewhere quite unexpected, and small disagreements have become chances for finding new words, new courage, and sometimes a hand offered quietly after the storm has passed.

This is often where the real work of the year shows itself. Not in anything sudden or showy, but in the way a child can now wait a little longer, listen a little more deeply, care for something more gently, or find their way back into the group after needing a moment apart. These are small things, but they are not little things.



CHARTHAM HOLISTIC KINDERGARTEN

News From *Spindlewood*

Spindlewood has been very much on the move this month. Indoors and outside, the children have made use of planks, tyres and crates, turning simple materials into paths, bridges, places to climb, and little tests of balance and courage. Each child has met this in their own way, some boldly, some carefully, all gathering confidence through doing.



Alongside their own play, the Spindlewood children have been offered simple invitations for the hands and senses. They have drawn with sun colours, filling the page with warm marks of yellow, orange and red, and have spent time with treasure baskets, exploring natural objects and materials in a careful, absorbed way (EAD, PD, UW).

These quieter moments sit alongside the more physical work of the obstacle courses. One child may be testing a plank with their whole body, while another is turning a shell, pine cone or piece of wood over and over in their hands. Both are important. In Spindlewood, learning often begins with touch, movement, repetition and wonder (PD, M, CL).

We have also welcomed a number of new children this month, and the room is now larger than it has ever been, with 12 babies, which is the maximum number for Spindlewood. Settling sessions can be tender and sometimes difficult, as children find their way into new rooms, new rhythms and new relationships. They do get there, slowly and surely, held by the warmth, patience and kindness of our wonderful team (PSED, CL).

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



CHARTHAM HOLISTIC KINDERGARTEN

News From *Oak*

Oak has been full of small, careful work this month. The children have been cutting, snipping, threading, chalking and painting, with busy hands finding their way through yarn, paper, card, leaves and colour. There has been a lovely mixture of concentration and freedom in the room, as the children worked with real materials and made their own discoveries along the way..



At this stage in Oak, so much of the children's growth can be seen through their hands. Cutting a leaf, pressing a hole punch, threading yarn through card, choosing a chalk, or finding the patience to try again all ask for coordination, attention and will. These may look like small tasks, but they are full of important work for the young child (PD, EAD, M).

There has been a lovely variety of making this month. The children have snipped paper, yarn, card and leaves, used hole punches to make tiny openings, and threaded with yarn and pipe cleaners. Some made necklaces, while others used threading blocks to build bridges and structures, letting the materials become something new through play (PD, EAD, M, UW).

Outside, the patio and mini chalkboards have been busy with marks, lines, shapes and stories. The children have also shared drawing and painting together in the open air, as well as hand painting with sun colours. These shared activities bring their own social learning too: making space for one another, watching what a friend is doing, borrowing an idea, and sometimes finding the words to say, "I'm still using that" (CL, PSED, EAD).

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CHARTHAM HOLISTIC KINDERGARTEN

News From *Maytree*

Maytree has been filled with sun work this month. The children have painted in warm yellows, golds and oranges, then used their painted papers to make boxes and summer spirals. There has been weaving, bees made from alder cones, and mixed media hangings in shades of yellow, with ribbon, fabric and yarn bringing the brightness of the season into the room.



This month in Maytree, the work has followed the sun. The children have painted wet-on-wet in yellows, golds and warm reds, watching the colours move across the page before the papers found new forms as boxes and summer solstice spirals. There is something lovely in this kind of work, where a painting is not finished once it is dry, but becomes part of the next thing (EAD, PD, UW).

The room has also been full of thread, fleece, ribbon and fabric. The children have made mixed media hangings in shades of yellow, and have worked together on a collective sun weaving with yarn and fleece. These shared pieces ask for patience, care and a willingness to add one's own part to something larger (EAD, PSED, PD).

There have been smaller treasures too, with bees made from alder cones and simple natural materials. The children meet the season through these little gestures: the warmth of colour, the roundness of a spiral, the hum of summer held in a tiny bee. In the Steiner Waldorf kindergarten, this is often how understanding grows — not through explanation first, but through hands, image, rhythm and doing (UW, CL, EAD).

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CHARTHAM HOLISTIC KINDERGARTEN

Festival News St John's

St John's Festival came to us in the bright fullness of June, with flowers on the tables, strawberries being prepared, and children arriving in reds, oranges and yellows. There was a real midsummer feeling in the kindergarten: lively, warm, colourful, and full of small preparations made by many hands.



In the Steiner Waldorf rhythm of the year, St John's is a festival of light, warmth and courage. This year, we met it in a quieter and more limited way than usual. With the extreme heat and red alert weather warning, alongside the continued suspension of water play and other sensory activities during the sickness outbreak, we could not hold the full festival as we ordinarily would.

We did, however, do what we could to honour the day. We began outside early, while the air was still kind, before coming indoors for our special snack. Fresh flowers were placed on the tables, and the children shared strawberries and cream. No biscuits were made this year as the room was too hot to have the oven on.

Later, the children painted together on large sheets with watery reds, golds and oranges. The colours spread and met one another like little flames across the paper, with each child finding their own way into the work. It was a simple gesture, but one that still carried something of St John's: colour, warmth, courage and shared doing.

We had hoped to light a small St John's fire, but with the heatwave warning in place we chose to save this for another day. Fire asks for respect as well as wonder, and we hope to share this gesture with the children soon, when it can be held safely.

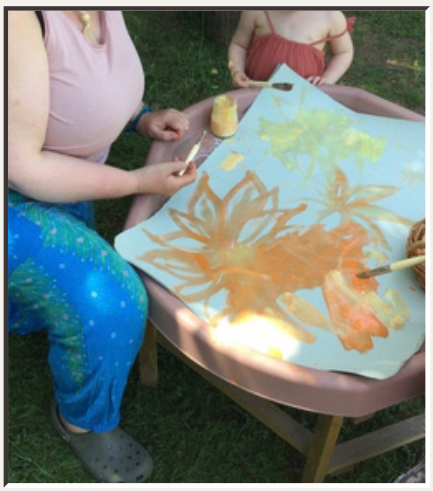
In the afternoon, we gathered for stories in the garden as we were unable to have the usual puppet show in Maytree as the room was too hot to use. It was not the full celebration we had imagined, but it was still a day held with care, and sometimes that is its own kind of festival work.

CHARTHAM HOLISTIC KINDERGARTEN

Festival News St John's













CHARTHAM HOLISTIC KINDERGARTEN

Festival Ahead Sports Day

Thursday 9th July

Later this term we will join Lightroots for Sports Day, a lively summer gathering of movement, encouragement and shared excitement. The children will have the chance to watch the races, cheer on the Light Root children, and enjoy being part of the wider site community.



We will be taking the Oak and Maytree children along to watch and enjoy the Lightroots Sports Day. This is always a lively occasion, with plenty for the children to take in: the movement of the races, the sound of cheering, the older children taking part, and the feeling of being gathered together as a wider community.

Parents are very welcome to come and join us. If you attend and would like to stay with your child, please do remember that you will need to sign them out from kindergarten and take them into your care for the event.

We will not be taking the Spindlewood children as a group on this occasion, but Spindlewood parents who would like to attend with their child are warmly welcome to do so.

More details around timings to be given closer to the time once Lightroot have confirmed this with CHK.



CHARTHAM HOLISTIC KINDERGARTEN

General News *Waldorf UK*

We are really pleased to share an important step in the life of the kindergarten. From the beginning, our work has been held by a Steiner Waldorf impulse, in the way we shape the day, care for the rooms, mark the seasons and protect the children's play. We are now able to stand more clearly within that tradition, and to name the work more fully.



As parents will be aware, earlier this year we were granted certain exemptions from the EYFS. This was a significant first step for us, allowing us to move more fully towards the Steiner Waldorf provision we have been working to build.

We are now very pleased to share that, as members of Waldorf UK, we are officially able to call ourselves a Steiner Waldorf kindergarten, rather than Steiner Waldorf inspired. This feels important not because the kindergarten is suddenly becoming something different, but because the work already living here can now be held with greater clarity and recognition.
For the children, much will remain beautifully familiar: the rhythm of the day, the songs and stories, the seasonal festivals, the natural materials, the garden, practical work, handwork, and long stretches of play. These are not extras, but the substance of early childhood in a Steiner Waldorf setting.

Being part of Waldorf UK also gives us guidance, connection and accountability within the wider movement. There is a cost to taking this step, and we have considered that carefully, but we believe it is a worthwhile investment in the integrity of the provision and in the kind of childhood we want to protect here: warm, imaginative, unrushed and deeply human.



CHARTHAM HOLISTIC KINDERGARTEN

General News *Sickness Bug*

June has asked a great deal of everyone in the kindergarten community. The sickness bug has lingered far longer than any of us would have wished, and we want to thank parents sincerely for the patience, care and understanding you have shown while we work to bring it to an end .



You may have noticed that the kindergarten has looked much barer than usual. Many of the soft, homely things that help the rooms feel warm and familiar... sheepskins, muslins, dressing-up clothes and other soft furnishings have had to be removed, as they are so difficult to clean thoroughly during an outbreak.

We have also had to pause activities like bread making, water play and sand play for the time being. This has felt especially hard in the warmer weather, when water play would usually be such a welcome part of the day. We know these changes have altered the children's experience of the kindergarten, and we are grateful for the way families have supported the measures.

Thank you for keeping to the 48-hour rule and for washing hands carefully on the way in and out of the building. Our staff have worked relentlessly each day, cleaning the rooms and disinfecting high-touch points every 2–4 hours, alongside the ordinary care of the children.

We have been advised that once the last case connected to the setting has passed 48 hours since they were last unwell, we can officially declare the outbreak over. Please do keep us informed of any further illness so that we can manage this safely.

Some items will remain in quarantine for 28 days, so the rooms may look a little different for a while yet. Other things, including water play, should return much sooner, and we are looking forward to gently bringing the kindergarten back to itself.



CHARTHAM HOLISTIC KINDERGARTEN

General News *Our Staff*

We would like to take a moment to recognise our wonderful staff team. This has been a demanding half term in many ways, and yet each day the children have continued to be met with warmth, steadiness, humour and care. So much of what makes the kindergarten what it is comes from the quiet work of the adults holding it.



The sickness bug has made this last month particularly difficult. Staff have cleaned relentlessly, taken on extra duties, followed infection control measures carefully, and worked hard to keep the setting safe for everyone. Many have also been unwell themselves, or have needed time away to care for their own poorly children, while others have stepped in, covered shifts and taken on overtime to support the wider team.

Alongside this, we have had extreme weather that is unusual for this country, with room temperatures reaching up to 27 degrees and the added challenge of not being able to use water play to cool the children down. Still, the staff have carried on positively and professionally, keeping the children hydrated, shaded, safe and in good spirits.

This has also been a term of real growth in the kindergarten, with more children joining us and many new little ones finding their way into the rooms. Settling can ask a great deal from everyone, but the newcomers have been met with such kindness, patience and care.

Every day, our staff work tirelessly to maintain the beautiful environment and provision we are so proud of. What is offered here is truly unique in the local area: a childhood held with rhythm, imagination, practical work, nature, beauty and deep human relationship. So much of that lives in the magic the staff create, often so quietly and naturally that they may not even realise they are doing it but we do and we salute and thank them for every day that they are just their amazing, caring, gifted selves.



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.



In early childhood, children do not only learn from what we tell them. They learn from what they live inside.

The rhythm of the day, the objects within reach, the way a room feels, and the calm or busyness of the adults around them all quietly shape a child's experience of the world.

This idea sits beautifully within Steiner/Waldorf early years education, where the environment is seen as part of the child's learning.

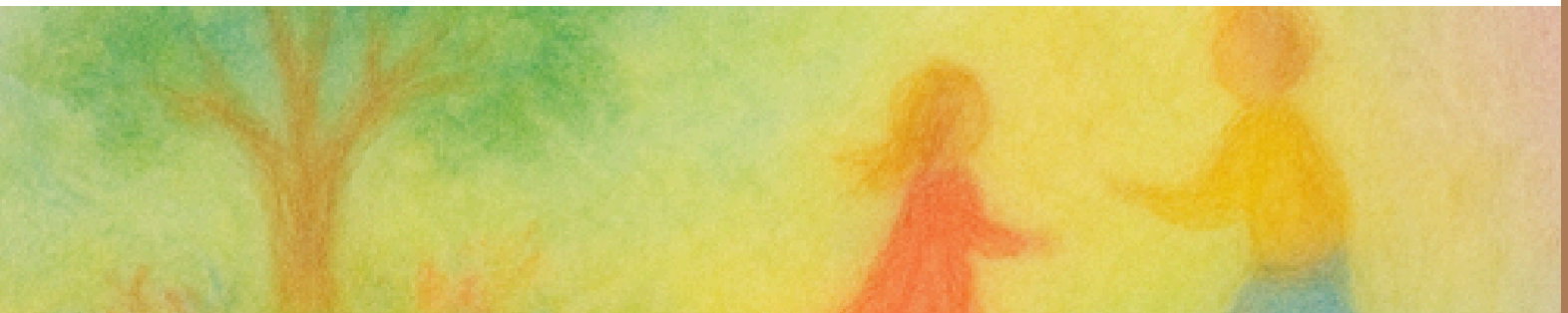
A low hook by the door can say, you can do this yourself.
A basket of pinecones can say, nature is worth noticing.
A candle before story time can say, now we gather.
A song for tidying can say, there is rhythm here.

Small things speak to children. They help create a feeling of safety, belonging and possibility.

Perhaps the question is not, is this space perfect? but:
Is this space worthy of imitation?

If you would like to explore this topic further, you may enjoy reading our blog post 'The Room as the First Teacher: What Children Learn From the Spaces Around Them' which can be found at:

https://charthamhk.co.uk/the-room-as-the-first-teacher-what-children-learn-from-the-spaces-around-them/



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CHK Community Ads





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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





Call us for an informal chat
01227 766555

or Email us
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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

> BEFORE A CHILD UNDERSTANDS THE WORLD WITH WORDS, THEY MEET IT THROUGH WONDER, WARMTH, MOVEMENT AND TRUST.
> .- UNKNOWN

