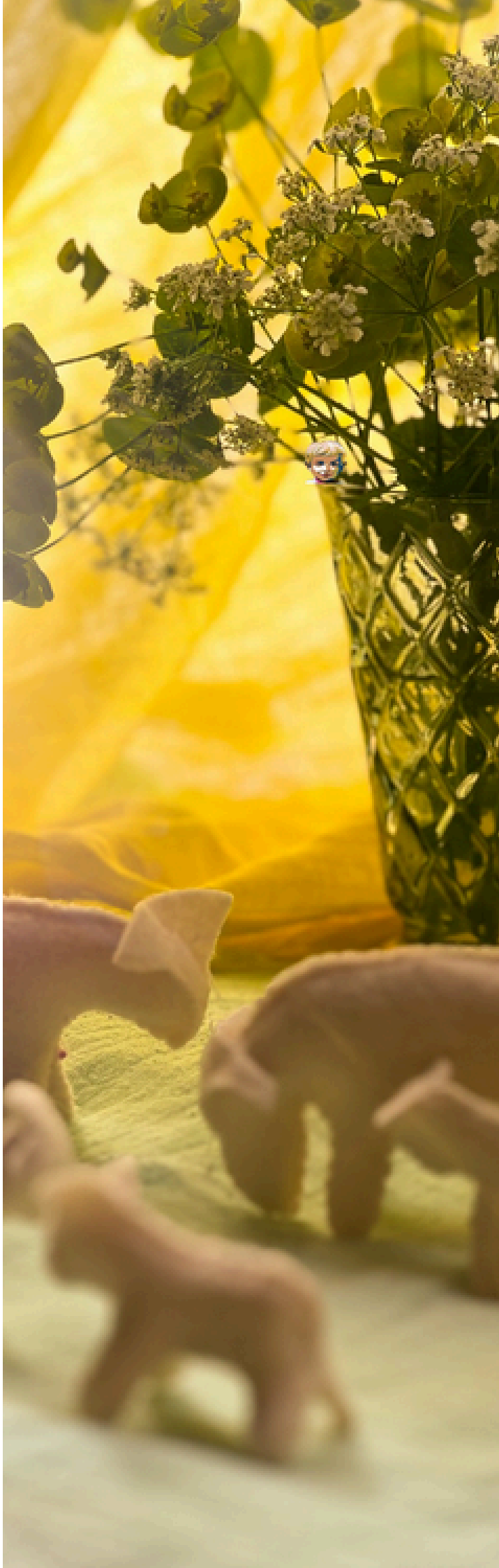
CHK PARENT NEWSLETTER

SHARING THE LIFE AND LEARNING OF OUR KINDERGARTEN DAYS

May has found us in good spirits. There has been a cheerful hum in the kindergarten: sleeves pushed up, voices raised in song, small hands busy with the work of play. The children seem to know the shape of their days so very well now.

May 2026 edition

'WE ARE FAR TOO PRONE TO CREDIT THE TEACHERS WITH EVERYTHING THE CHILDREN LEARN. WE SHOULD REMEMBER THAT THE CHILD WE HAVE TO EDUCATE BEARS HALF HIS WORLD WITHIN HIM' — RUDOLF STEINER



CHARTHAM HOLISTIC KINDERGARTEN

Welcome *Dear Parents*

Welcome to our May edition of the Chartham Holistic Kindergarten newsletter. The month has had a bright and busy feel, with the children bringing their usual mixture of seriousness, silliness, concentration and chatter to our days together. The grass we planted together with parents at the Spring Festival is growing and so too are all the children!



May has brought the kindergarten back into fuller voice. After the quieter shape of April, with its Easter pause and holiday club days, it has been good to feel the rooms filling again with the familiar sounds of children deeply at work in their play.

There is a particular kind of liveliness at this point in the year. The children know the ways of the kindergarten well, and this shows itself in small but telling ways: in how they find one another, how they settle into tasks, how a game can gather pace and become something quite elaborate before anyone has thought to name it.

This month we have also held our termly roundtable meetings for each room. These offered a chance to speak in more detail about the children's days, the rhythms within each room, and the small, careful work that sits behind what parents see at drop-off and collection. It was lovely, too, to have parents take up a craft themselves, bringing a little of the kindergarten's handwork into adult hands.



CHARTHAM HOLISTIC KINDERGARTEN

News From Spindlewood

Spindlewood has had a practical, hands-on feel this month. The children have planted basil, podded peas, gathered interesting finds outdoors, and sung their caterpillar and butterfly songs with growing familiarity. There has been plenty of repetition, plenty of mess, and plenty of close looking.



Alongside the children's free play, there have been simple seasonal tasks for them to take part in. Basil seeds have been tucked into soil, watered, and watched with interest; pea pods have been opened and sorted into bowls; and on walks around the grounds the children have collected cones, flowers, wool and other small finds from the world around them (UW, M, PD).

Snack times have brought their own steady opportunities for independence. The children have been encouraged to feed themselves, make choices, and use familiar BSL signs such as "please," "thank you," "milk," "eat," "drink" and "water." These small daily moments support communication, confidence and self-care in a very natural way (CL, PSED, PD).

There has also been much enjoyment in song and movement, with caterpillars, butterflies and sunshine finding their way into circle time.

Through these repeated songs and gestures, the children join in at their own pace, listening, copying, moving and beginning to anticipate what comes next (CL, EAD, PD, PSED).

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



CHARTHAM HOLISTIC KINDERGARTEN

News From *Oak*

Oak has had a strong sense of doing this month. The children have been busy with wool, ribbons, beads, dough and mud, with their hands often leading the way into the work. May Day, birthdays and Whitsun have also brought colour and celebration into the room, giving a special feeling to this part of the term.



At this stage in Oak, much of the children's development can be seen in the way they manage the ordinary parts of the day. Taking off shoes, finding a place at the table, waiting for a turn, washing hands, joining a group activity, or recovering from a disappointment are all important steps towards independence and confidence (PSED, PD, CL).

We also notice changes in the children's play. Some are still happiest playing near others, while others are beginning to build shared games, negotiate roles, copy ideas, and stay with a play theme for longer. These are significant social steps, and they tell us a great deal about how a child is beginning to manage life within a larger group (PSED, CL, EAD).

Parents sometimes ask when a child is ready to move from Oak into Maytree. There is no fixed age for this transition. Instead, we look at the whole child: toilet readiness, whether they still need an afternoon sleep, how they cope with busier moments, how much help they need with dressing and mealtimes, and whether their play is becoming more cooperative rather than mainly parallel. We also consider emotional resilience.. not whether a child never struggles, but how they recover with support and return to the day (PSED, PD, CL).

These decisions are made with care and conversation. A move to Maytree should feel like a child is being met at the right moment, not hurried on because of a birthday or a date in the term.

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CHARTHAM HOLISTIC KINDERGARTEN

News From *Maytree*

Maytree has had a rich, colourful feeling this month. Beltane brought warmth, ribbons and fire colours into the room, while birthdays gave their own moments of celebration. The children have been busy with finger knitting, painting, bread making, natural dyes and wax, with the stories and songs of the season carrying quietly through the days.



This month in Maytree, colour has been everywhere. The children have painted with the warm yellows and reds of Beltane, watched yarns change in pots of natural dye, and seen how onion skins, turmeric, marigolds, madder, hibiscus and alder bark can leave their mark. There is always a little wonder in seeing colour come from such ordinary looking things (UW, EAD, PD).

Bread making has brought another kind of pleasure. The children have mixed, shaped and baked different breads, including flatbreads for the fire. It is good, honest work: hands in dough, flour on sleeves, waiting, watching, and then sharing what has been made together (PD, PSED, M).

There have also been quieter moments of concentration through finger knitting, wax modelling, drawing and, for some of the older children, form drawing. These are the sorts of tasks where you can almost see the children gathering themselves, hands busy, faces serious, and a real sense of satisfaction when the work is done (PD, EAD, PSED).

Stories and songs have carried the mood of the season, with fire, butterflies, clouds and hidden treasures appearing in different ways through the weeks. The children meet these images in their own time: in listening, in play, in song, and sometimes in the little things they say later when you realise something has stayed with them (CL, EAD, PSED, UW).

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



CHARTHAM HOLISTIC KINDERGARTEN

Festival News *May Day*

May Day brought a lovely festive mood to the kindergarten. The day had that special feeling children seem to recognise straight away: flowers on the tables, recorder music in the air, a little extra brightness, and the sense that something out of the ordinary was about to happen.



The children began by making their own flower crowns, choosing from seasonal flowers and greenery. Some worked very carefully, placing each flower just so, while others simply enjoyed the fullness of colour and scent in their hands. Once crowned, the children gathered for the maypole dancing, with recorder music and song accompanying each group as they took their turn.

It was a pleasure to see the children joining in across mixed age groups. Some danced with confidence, some watched closely before stepping in, and some took part through singing, clapping or simply being held within the circle of the celebration. These festival days offer so much more than the activity itself: they bring waiting, watching, listening, moving together, and feeling part of something shared.

After the dancing, everyone came together for a special May Day cake and a puppet show, giving the morning a warm and satisfying close. Later this term, the Oak and Maytree children will also visit Lightroot to watch their maypole performance, carrying the thread of the celebration a little further into the wider school community.



CHARTHAM HOLISTIC KINDERGARTEN

Festival News *Whitsun*

Whitsun brought a quieter kind of festival feeling to the kindergarten. After the colour and movement of May Day, this celebration had a softer mood, with the children dressed in whites and pale colours, and the day carrying a sense of lightness, peace and togetherness.



Together, the children baked white dove biscuits, pressing and shaping the dough before sharing them as part of the celebration. Outside, each child had a bamboo dish and a willow bubble wand, and there was also a large central wand for making great floating bubbles. The garden was soon full of dipping, lifting, chasing and laughing, with bubbles rising over the children's heads and disappearing into the sky.

What made the day so lovely was the mixture of stillness and delight. One moment a child was watching a bubble float away in complete silence; the next, a group of them were running after a huge one, calling out as it wobbled above the grass.

In Steiner Waldorf kindergartens, Whitsun is held as a festival of light, peace and community. Rather than explaining this to the children in an abstract way, we meet it through image and experience: white clothes, doves, shared food, air, breath, movement and the feeling of being together.



CHARTHAM HOLISTIC KINDERGARTEN

Festival News *Whitsun*





CHARTHAM HOLISTIC KINDERGARTEN

Festival Ahead St John's

Wednesday 24th June

Later this term we will celebrate St John's Festival with the children, marking midsummer with warmth, colour and light. The children are invited to wear fiery colours for the day — reds, oranges and yellows, bringing something of the summer sun into the kindergarten.



The children will enjoy flower-shaped biscuits, strawberries and cream, fairy decorating, and singing together around the fire. They will also have the chance to add wishes to the flames, a simple gesture of sending hopes and thoughts into the summer air.

In the Steiner Waldorf tradition, St John's is one of the festivals that helps children feel the turning of the year through experience rather than explanation. Coming close to midsummer, it carries images of courage, warmth, light, transformation and joy. For young children, these ideas are not taught as concepts, but met through colour, song, story, movement, shared food and the living presence of fire.
It is a bright, outward-looking festival, full of summer energy, and offers a lovely counterpoint to the quieter mood of Whitsun.



CHARTHAM HOLISTIC KINDERGARTEN

General News *tax free*

Are you missing out on Tax-Free Childcare?
Many families are currently paying their kindergarten invoices directly from their own bank account. This is absolutely fine, but some families may not realise that they could be saving money by using a Tax-Free Childcare account instead. For every £8 you pay into your childcare account, the government adds £2.



You then use that account to pay your childcare invoice. This can be used towards your regular fees and also towards the Waldorf Supplement, as it forms part of your childcare costs.

For example, if you need to pay £500 towards childcare, you would pay £400 into your Tax-Free Childcare account and the government would add £100. That full £500 can then be paid to us through the childcare account.

The scheme can be worth up to £2,000 per child, per year, or up to £4,000 per year for a disabled child, depending on eligibility and childcare costs. Tax-Free Childcare is not automatic; parents need to set up an online childcare account through the government website. Once your account is active, you can send payments to CHK through that account rather than paying directly from your bank.

Tax-Free Childcare cannot usually be used at the same time as Universal Credit for childcare, Tax Credits, or childcare vouchers, but can be used along side KCC funding so do check what is best for your family before applying.
We also have several blog posts on the subject of funding, so do head over to the blog page on our website for more information.

www.charthamhk.co.uk/blog



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 a Steiner Waldorf kindergarten practice, learning does not always look like formal teaching. A visitor may see a teacher kneading bread, sweeping the floor, folding cloths, mending a doll, preparing snack or tending the room, while the children move in and out of play around them.
At first glance, it can look very simple. But for the young child, these ordinary gestures are full of meaning.

Children learn deeply through imitation. They notice how adults move, speak, care, repair, comfort and begin again. They take in the atmosphere of the room, the rhythm of the day, and the way tasks are carried out. Later, these experiences often reappear in their play: baking becomes mud pies, mending becomes wrapping and healing, sweeping becomes “getting the house ready,” and a kind phrase heard from an adult may return in a child’s own words.

This is not passive copying. It is one of the young child’s most natural and intelligent ways of learning.
In the Waldorf kindergarten, we try to offer children real, purposeful work and gestures that are worthy of imitation. Through these, they meet care, patience, responsibility, beauty, usefulness and belonging...not as abstract lessons, but as lived experiences.

If you would like to explore this topic further, you may enjoy reading our blog post ‘Why “Just Copying” Isn’t Just Copying: Imitation in the Steiner Waldorf Kindergarten’ which can be found at:

www.charthamhk.co.uk/why-just-copying-isnt-just-copying-imitation-in-the-steiner-waldorf-kindergarten/



CHARTHAM HOLISTIC KINDERGARTEN

General News *Last few things*

Changes to Booking Patterns

We would like to kindly remind everyone that any changes to your child's booking pattern need to be sent in writing to info@charthamhk.co.uk at least one month in advance.
This includes any changes to days, hours, or sessions.
Even if you have already spoken with a member of staff about changing days or hours, please make sure this is followed up by email so we have the request clearly recorded.

Invoice Payment References

When paying invoices, please could we kindly ask that you use a clear payment reference so we can easily match your payment to your account.
References such as "CHK Fees" or "Kindi Invoice" are too general and can make it difficult for us to identify who the payment is from.
Please use either your child's name or the invoice number as the payment reference.



CHARTHAM HOLISTIC KINDERGARTEN

General News *Last few things*

Moving House?

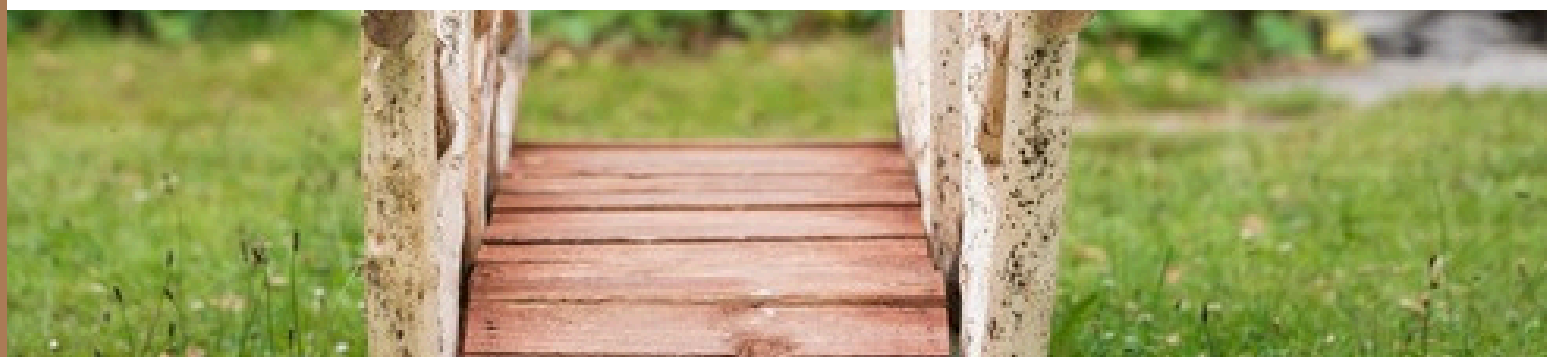
Please could we kindly ask you to let us know if you have recently moved house or changed your phone number.
It is important that we have the correct contact details on file and keep our records up to date.
If any of your details have changed, please let us know as soon as possible.

Happy news

We are delighted to share the lovely news that our staff member Justine gave birth to a baby boy at the beginning of this month. She has named him Benjamin. We are sure you will join us in sending Justine and her family our warmest congratulations and best wishes at this special time.

info@charthamhk.co.uk

www.charthamhk.co.uk



CHARTHAM HOLISTIC KINDERGARTEN

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.

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 THE QUIET BEGINNING OF WHO WE BECOME. WHERE WONDER TEACHES THE HEART BEFORE THE WORLD TEACHES THE MIND

.- UNKNOWN

