



CHK PARENT NEWSLETTER

SHARING THE LIFE AND
LEARNING OF OUR
KINDERGARTEN DAYS

**Michaelmas has arrived
with muddy boots,
bright berries and a
little fire in its belly. It is
the season of courage:
of standing tall, meeting
dragons large and
small, and carrying a
spark of steadiness with
us as the year turns
towards autumn.**

September
2026 edition

**“WHAT MUST NOW AWAKEN, NOW
THAT NATURE HAS LEFT US, IS THE
COURAGE OF THE SOUL.” — RUDOLF
STEINER**



Welcome Dear Parents

September has gathered us back together with busy hands, familiar songs and the first unmistakable signs of autumn at the door. It has been lovely to welcome returning families, new faces and all the little beginnings that come with a new term. The rooms are settling into their rhythm again, friendships are unfolding, and kindergarten life is once more full of work, wonder and the happy business of childhood.



There is a great deal of new life moving through the kindergarten just now. We have welcomed three new members of staff, along with many new children who are beginning to find their place in the daily rhythm of the rooms.

We are also waiting, with no small amount of excitement for news on the possibility of opening a fourth room: an outdoor forest kindergarten, rooted in the seasons and giving children even more space to climb, dig, build, chop and belong to the landscape around them.

Our Parent and Child group has returned too, bringing its own lovely Monday morning hum back to the site.

And, as if the community had not already grown enough, summer seems to have been particularly generous with babies. Several have arrived among both staff and kindergarten families.. a whole new crop of tiny people quietly making their entrance into the world.



News From *Spindlewood*

September in Spindlewood has not been taught so much as tasted, squashed, smelt and smeared. Autumn arrived by way of beeswax crayons, blackberry stains, pumpkin spice, handfuls of mint and warm apple bread. For our youngest children, the season has come close enough to touch, to investigate, and occasionally to wear.



There is something gloriously direct about being under two. Nobody needs to explain that autumn is beginning. The world simply changes, and you put your hands in it.

September began with beeswax crayons travelling across paper, leaving colour behind wherever small hands chose to wander. There was no picture to achieve, only the delicious discovery that movement can make a mark. (PD, EAD)

Then came blackberries and wheat, bringing late summer straight to fingertips, noses and curious mouths. Pumpkin spice playdough followed, ready to be squeezed, rolled, pressed and thoroughly investigated. (CL, PD, UW, EAD)

Later, the children gathered mint from the garden. Before mint is a word, it is a leaf to pull, a scent released beneath the fingers, something cool, green and astonishingly alive. (UW, CL, PD)

The final week of September reached the mixing bowl. Soft apple was mashed, ingredients stirred, and apple bread slowly came into being beneath busy hands. (PD, CL, UW)

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



News From *Oak*

September in Oak has been full of the sort of work that looks wonderfully ordinary until you watch closely. Apples have been chopped, paths wandered, acorns noticed, and vegetables pressed into paint.

At this age, children are beginning to test the world, and to discover what their own hands can do within it.



There is a delicious seriousness to the work of Oak. Give a child an apple, a knife and enough time, and suddenly food preparation becomes an investigation into pressure, shape, size and cause. Apples were sliced into cubes, large and small, as the children watched, imitated and discovered what happens when a tool meets fruit. (PD, UW)

The following week took that curiosity outside. On a nature walk, the children searched for familiar signs of the season, noticing fruit, acorns, leaves and the small treasures that grown ups so easily stride past. Naming what they found was only part of it. The deeper work was in stopping, looking, carrying, comparing and beginning to recognise the landscape as somewhere known. (PSED, CL, UW)

Then the harvest came back indoors, although not in the usual way. Apples and vegetables became printing tools, dipped into paint and pressed onto paper. A sliced vegetable suddenly had another possibility. It could leave a shape, make a pattern, become a mark. Fingers, brushes and stamps joined the experiment. (PD, EAD)

This is the particular magic of Oak. The world is no longer simply received. It can be handled, altered, tested and answered.

An apple can be eaten.

It can also become a print.

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News From *Maytree*

September in Maytree has been a month of colour, harvest and hands busy with meaningful work. Crayons have softened across paper, leaves have left their ghostly patterns, corn has been twisted into dollies, and lantern colours have begun to glow. Around it all, stories and Michaelmas have gathered the room into autumn.



In Maytree, September has felt less like a list of activities and more like a slow gathering of the season. The month opened with drawing, adults modelling how beeswax crayons can be blended and turned on their sides so colour spreads rather than merely outlines. The children watched, imitated and discovered how much can happen when colour is given room to move. (EAD, PD)

Leaves then became printmakers, their veins and edges emerging through rubbing on painted paper. Autumn was no longer only outside the window. It had left a trace in the children's hands. (UW, EAD, PD)

By mid month, corn was twisted and tied into dollies, bringing an old harvest craft into young fingers and asking for patience, dexterity and care. (PD, UW, EAD)

Lantern work began too, with paper painted in warm yellows and oranges, colours that seem to hold a little sunlight as the evenings close in. (EAD, UW) Then came Michaelmas.

September in Maytree has been full of making, but never simply for the sake of producing. Each piece has been a way of meeting the season, slowly, beautifully, with both hands.

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



Festival News *Michaelmas*

Michaelmas does not arrive politely. It comes with sharper mornings, reddening leaves and the old question: when the light begins to thin, what do we carry within us? In the Steiner tradition, Michaelmas is a festival of courage not swagger, but steadiness; not fearlessness, but the willingness to meet the dragon anyway.



By afternoon, the kindergarten was ablaze in reds, golds and oranges, as if autumn itself had wandered in and joined the party.

Parents came too, and Michaelmas became wonderfully practical. Sleeves were rolled up, hands went into the earth, beds were tended and apples met the press with great enthusiasm and very little dignity. There is something deeply satisfying about a festival that asks everyone to do something useful.

The children had already done their share of the work that morning, baking apple bread together and filling the rooms with the warm, sweet smell of autumn. There was juice to taste and plenty of evidence that good things rarely emerge without a certain amount of flour, mud and sticky fingers. There was even apple bread to break, baked that morning by the children, although in the happy whirl of the afternoon we somehow managed to forget to serve it at all.

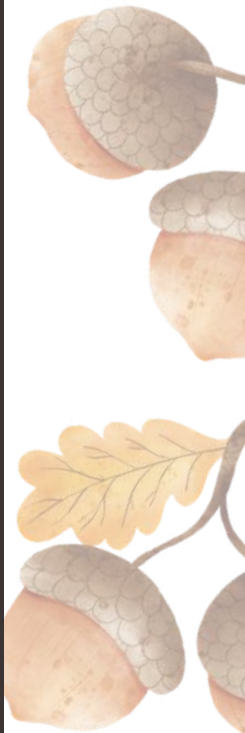
And perhaps that is why the afternoon felt so perfectly Michaelmas. Courage, after all, is not always found in grand gestures. Sometimes it looks like joining in, trying something new, carrying the heavy basket, pushing the apple press, getting your hands dirty and discovering that you are more capable than you thought.

So we gardened, pressed, ate, talked and laughed beneath the turning trees...a whole community dressed like fire, busy with its hands and very much alive.



CHARTHAM HOLISTIC KINDERGARTEN

Festival News *Michaelmas*



Festival Ahead *Martinmas*

Wednesday 11th November

Martinmas comes softly. As the days draw in, we make lanterns, gather close and carry a little light into the evening. It is a festival of quiet courage, generosity and steadiness, a reminder that even a small flame matters when the world grows dark.



Before the lanterns can glow, there is one important piece of work to be done.

The children will make their lanterns in the kindergarten, and on 4 November at 7pm we invite parents to join us for a special workshop to assemble them and make them ready for the festival. We very much hope every family can be represented. There is something rather beautiful in the children beginning the work, and the grown ups quietly helping it towards the light.

On the festival afternoon, families will gather in the garden as daylight begins to fade. Lanterns will be lit, warm apple juice poured, and the garden will settle into that particular kind of stillness that only seems to arrive when everyone knows something simple and meaningful is about to begin.

Then we will set off together.

Children, parents and siblings will walk around the site singing, while families from Lightroot and Heartwood line the path to greet us. Their presence makes the walk feel less like a procession and more like a thread of light being passed from one part of our community to another. We will return together to the kindergarten garden for our closing circle and sweet bread beneath the evening sky.

Martinmas is humble in the best possible way. It does not ask us to banish the darkness, only to meet it with a small light, carried carefully, and carried together.



General News *4th Classroom*

Many of you have been asking about our hoped for fourth classroom. The idea is still very much alive, but one practical question must be solved first: parking. Until we can welcome more children without making arrival and collection harder, we cannot responsibly move ahead.



The vision is for an outdoor forest kindergarten for children aged four and over, offering a further 12 to 15 places. It would not be a conventional classroom carried outside. The day would belong to the woods, weather and seasons, with a wooden structure providing roof, walls, warmth and a fire when shelter is needed. In spirit, it would remain gloriously indoors outdoors.

The frustrating part is that the classroom itself is not what is holding us back. The car park is already working at its limit, and opening another 12 to 15 places without first finding a sensible parking solution would simply shift the problem onto families. However excited we are by the idea, that would not be responsible.

We are working hard behind the scenes to find a solution. As soon as the parking question is resolved, we can move much more confidently towards making the fourth classroom a reality.

If it does go ahead, current kindergarten families will be offered first refusal on places before we begin offering them to families on our waiting list.

We know the uncertainty is frustrating. We feel it too. For now, we would rather give you the truthful picture than promise something before the foundations are properly in place. The moment we can confirm more, we will.



General News *JustSo*

You may have spotted a few of these personalised lunchboxes appearing around the kindergarten lately. They are made by JustSo, a family run business belonging to one of our own parents, and they have rather caught our eye.

Practical, cheerful and unmistakably theirs... And we do so like a labeled belonging here at CHK

JustSo creates personalised and branded clothing, stationery, sportswear, workwear and plenty more besides, but it was the lunchboxes that first caught our eye.

We love being able to support businesses that grow from within our own community. There is something rather special about knowing that the people making, printing, sewing or creating the things we use are also the people we pass at drop off, chat to at festivals, or stand beside in the garden.



So, if you run a business, make something beautiful or useful, offer a service, or simply think there may be a way that Chartham Holistic Kindergarten could support what you do, please get in touch. We would love to know more.

This is not about turning the newsletter into a catalogue. It is about noticing the skill, enterprise and creativity already sitting within our community, and giving it room to be seen.



JUSTSO

CLOTHING & MERCHANDISE

General News

A New Face



There is a new face behind the scenes at Kindi. Laura has joined us as our new Kindi Administrator, bringing years of experience in finance, office management, compliance and the thousand practical things that keep an organisation quietly turning. She will be helping bring even more order to the beautiful chaos.



Kindi life may be full of bread dough, muddy boots and children carrying extremely important sticks, but somewhere behind all of that somebody still has to answer the emails, organise the paperwork, keep systems moving and remember where everything lives.

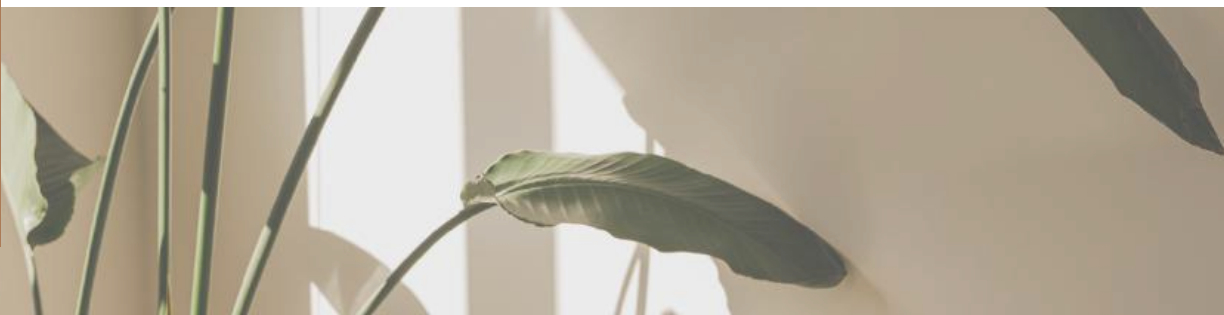
That somebody is now Laura.

Laura joins us with a strong background in finance, administration and business management. She is an AAT qualified Accounting Technician and has worked across bookkeeping, payroll, pensions, HR, compliance, office management and the creation of systems and procedures. In other words, she is unusually well equipped for the mysterious machinery humming away behind a busy kindergarten.

What particularly stood out to us was the breadth of her experience. Laura has worked closely with many different kinds of businesses and describes herself as someone who enjoys understanding how all the parts fit together. She is practical, adaptable and clearly not frightened by a complicated spreadsheet, which already makes her something of a heroine in our eyes.

Parents will increasingly come across Laura through the office, inbox and general administration of Kindi.

We are delighted to welcome her into the community, bringing calm hands, a sharp mind and a little more order to the wonderfully unruly business of keeping Kindi running.



General News

A New Face

There is a new face joining the rhythm of Kindy. Mel will be with us three days each week, spending most of her time in Spindlewood and Oak.

She arrives with many years in education behind her, and, we suspect, plenty of curiosity for the very different world of early childhood.



Mel comes to us with a wonderfully broad life in education already behind her. She has spent many years teaching languages, leading departments, supporting pupils pastorally, mentoring teachers and working in boarding communities, alongside completing a Masters in Educational Leadership. Her professional world has often involved older children, but the thread running through her career is strikingly familiar to us: relationships matter. Good education begins with knowing the person in front of you, building trust, noticing what they need and creating the conditions in which they can grow.

Now Mel is stepping into a rather different landscape. There will be fewer timetables and considerably more mud. Fewer exam papers, more bread dough. Possibly fewer verbs to conjugate, although we make no promises. She will be with us three days a week, primarily in Spindlewood and Oak, getting to know the children, the rhythms of the rooms and the curious little rituals that make kindergarten life what it is.

We are delighted to welcome someone with such depth of experience into this new chapter.

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

General News

A New Face

We are also delighted to welcome Iona, who will be joining us three days each week, primarily in Maytree. For Iona, Steiner education is familiar ground. Having travelled through kindergarten, lower school and upper school herself, she arrives with something particularly precious: an understanding formed from the inside out.

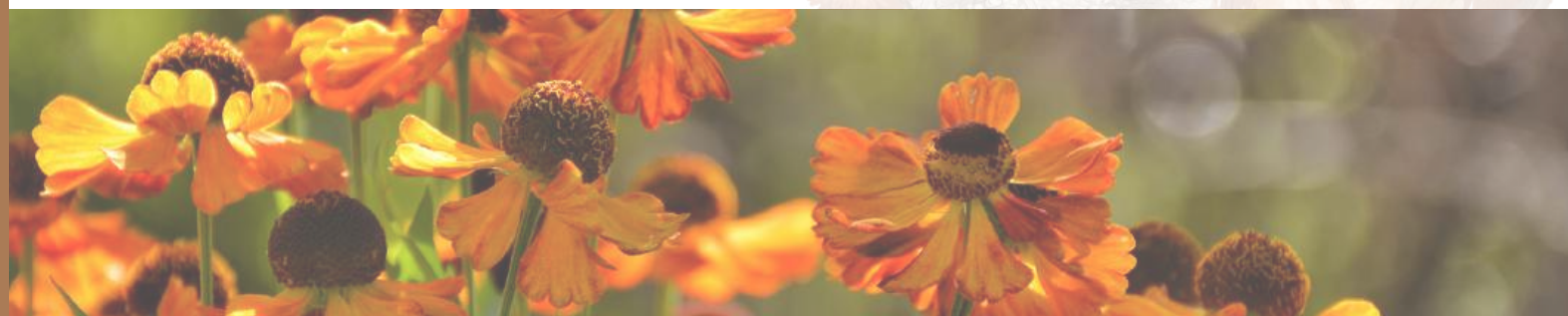


Iona's path to kindergarten has been wonderfully crooked in all the right ways.

She has worked as a gardener, sourdough baker, reflexologist and artist, alongside caring for children, supporting home education and spending time in a Steiner kindergarten. Her qualifications and experience stretch through horticulture, permaculture, art and practical craft, with a strong thread of nature, rhythm and hands on work running through them all.

Iona was once a child at Canterbury Steiner School herself, beginning in kindergarten and continuing through lower and upper school. She therefore knows this kind of education not simply as an idea, but as something lived. There is a lovely circularity in that. The child who once moved through a Steiner kindergarten is now returning to work alongside children at the beginning of their own journey.

Iona will be with us three days each week, primarily in Maytree, bringing with her a natural affinity for growing things, making things, baking things and noticing the quiet rhythms beneath them. It feels rather fitting that someone whose life has wandered through gardens, bread ovens, art studios and Steiner classrooms should find her way back to 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.



A Sun blessed Summer has passed.

Our daytimes are now only 11 1/2 hours, what makes the days shorten like this ? ... decreasing our active "time of opportunity", in which the challenges that this Earth-Life presents and confronts us with, are intensifying.

There was a time, when Life on Earth may possibly have been more congenial, but not so anymore today.

More and more contrary occurrences are confronting us , requiring our utmost abilities, to maintain our humanity.

We are today experiencing firsthand what was portrayed by past artists, of an Angelic Being, thrusting an untoward creature down to Earth.

It is on us today, to bear and order the turmoil in the world, and to develop ways and means, to maintain, and further, true humanity, in the ever-increasing turbulent times yet to come.

Thus, in the course of the remaining part of this year, we will be preparing for the Sunlike Birth, when Earth's daytime is the darkest .



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.



Childhood has become extraordinarily colourful, but not always in the ways we imagine.

We are used to rainbow rugs, bright plastic, busy walls and toys designed to seize attention before a child has even decided where to look. Somewhere along the way, we began to confuse stimulation with nourishment.

Steiner asked a more demanding question. What does colour actually do? For the young child, colour comes before language. Blue is not yet called blue. Red is not yet a fire engine. There is simply light, shadow, warmth, movement and the strange magnificence of a world gradually becoming visible.

Our latest Parent Waldorf Insight explores how Steiner thought about colour, where modern science supports him and where it does not, and why natural materials, wet on wet painting and quieter visual environments still matter in the daily life of our own rooms. It also wanders through Goethe, Pikler, toddler bears made from blue cloth, beetroot with no respect for sleeves, and the rather radical possibility that children do not need every inch of their world shouting for attention.

The aim is not beige childhood. Far from it.

It is to leave enough space for colour to remain alive.

Read the full piece, *The Colours Children Live Inside*, on our website at:

<https://charthamhk.co.uk/the-colours-children-live-inside-why-colour-is-never-just-decoration-in-early-childhood/>



CHARTHAM HOLISTIC KINDERGARTEN

Photos Of The Month



General News *Last few things*

Lost Property

Our lost property is waiting just outside the main door, and it is beginning to develop quite a personality of its own. Please do have a rummage and reclaim anything familiar.

A small plea too: please label belongings. A name is often all it takes to stop something wandering off into the mysterious world of lost property in the first place.

Side Gate

A quick reminder that pick ups from the side gate are only between 2:30pm and 3pm. Outside of this time, please come to the main door.

Please also do not open the side gate yourselves. Wait for a member of staff to let you through so that we can keep the garden secure and know exactly who is coming and going.

Slippers

With the colder weather creeping in, please take a moment to check that your child's slippers still fit comfortably and replace them if needed.

For children in Spindlewood, cosy slipper type socks are absolutely fine instead of full slippers if you prefer.



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We created HomeopathyAQ Agency to build real momentum in the homeopathic world, connecting more people to the holistic treatment they've been searching for, and giving practitioners the support they need to grow.

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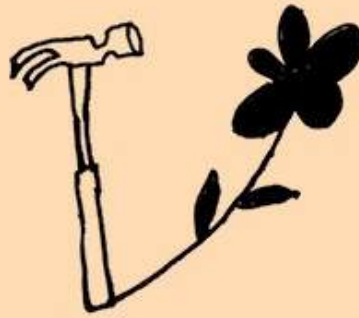
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GENERAL GARDENING & D.I.Y

No Job Too Small

ross.rgb@gmail.com

Have a business, service, craft or idea you
would like to share with the Kindi community?

Advertise in our newsletter for free

We would love to support the people, skills and small
businesses within our own community. If you would like
to be featured in a future edition, just get in touch.

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.



CHILDHOOD DOES NOT ASK US TO HURRY IT
TOWARDS TOMORROW. IT ASKS US TO BE
PRESENT ENOUGH TO NOTICE THE
EXTRAORDINARY WORK OF BECOMING THAT IS
HAPPENING TODAY.

- UNKNOWN

