

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

**Spring Term Ends – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020**

**Summer Term Starts – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

**Bank holiday – 8<sup>th</sup> May**

**Half Term – Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May – 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

**Week commencing 2<sup>nd</sup> March – Dress up for World Book day all week**

**21<sup>st</sup> March – An evening with a medium, more details to follow**

**Fundraising Dates**

**Bucket Collection at Tesco Fulborn – Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March**

**Cake and Book sale - 5<sup>th</sup> March morning & 6<sup>th</sup> morning and afternoon**

**Next Committee Meeting – 12<sup>th</sup> March**



## Playgroup News

Wow!! What a busy time we have had in the last 6 weeks. I can't believe we have managed to fit in so much over such a short space of time. I would firstly like to welcome all new families to Chestnuts. We very much pride ourselves with the family environment we give, and we hope your starting to feel at home with us.

We started this half term off with looking at animals from around the world. The children have very much enjoyed singing our 7 continents song, whilst looking at animals from around the world and where they come from. The children will confidently look at the world map and question about different countries and which ones have certain animals. With this great interest some of the children were given a wonderful experience by having Zoo Lab come in (we had chosen the theme rainforest, given the children's interest) they children were shown a range of animals, there were frogs, spiders, snakes, cockroaches and African giant land snails. The children had an amazing time and learnt so much they went on that afternoon to re create their own zoo lab, which was beautiful to watch.



Meeting the snakes



Saying hi to the cockroach

The children have had the dentist ladies pay a visit where they came and read a story to the children about a crocodile and his teeth. The children were then shown how to clean to their teeth and where, they then practiced on the crocodile. The 3-year olds were invited to have their teeth checked. The children then had a lovely day full of activities from dentist role play to cleaning the dinosaur's teeth. We looked at items of food and drink that were good for our teeth and those that are more of a treat. The children did a great job at identifying which things were good for us.

At the end of half term we were looking at Chinese New Year. The children had a wonderful time playing with noodles, having their very own Chinese restaurant



Making lucky envelopes

using chop sticks as writing tools to write Chinese numbers in flour. We had also arranged for 'Little Mandarins' to come in and spend some time with the children. Little Mandarin, came in and spent an hour with the children. They taught the children Chinese songs and words whilst also using sign language. They told the children the story of the Chinese New Year, they then went onto to do the Lion Dance taking in turns and creating music. The children finished the end of the session off with making Lucky Envelopes where the children were then given a special treat inside. The children absolutely loved this, and their engagement and attention

showed throughout the whole session. We have been so very proud of all the children this term. What a fantastic and busy time they have had.

We wish you all have a wonderful half term.

We look forward to seeing you next week

Thank you all for your continued support with the playgroup.

Chestnut Playgroup



Wearing a Chinese Dragon costume

## Staff News

Dear parents/carers,

We have had a very busy start this year which has resulted in us employing new staff. We welcome Emily, Kirsty and Molly to Chestnut Playgroup. The children have made some lovely relationships with the staff which just shows how well they are settling into their roles at playgroup. There is a little update with regarding the staff.

Emily is currently studying at university to be a primary school teacher and has always worked in early years and didn't feel she is quite ready to move from this age group. Emily was currently working every Monday but recently her tutor has informed her that she will be expected to go into University on a Monday from now on. Emily will be staying on as bank staff as she doesn't want to leave the setting. We are pleased that she won't be leaving us as she is an asset to the setting.

Kirsty is working 4 days a week Tuesday to Friday and Molly is currently working 3 days a week Monday, Wednesday and Friday but will be increasing to 5 days a week after Easter.

With Emily no longer working Mondays we have had to have a little jiggle around with staff so here is the up to date weekly rota for staffing

Bank Staff:

Sam. T, Sam. R and Emily

Monday: Charlene, Tracey, Kate, Teresa, Molly and Bank (to cover Charlene paperwork day)

Tuesday: Charlene, Tracey, Kirsty and Kate

Wednesday: Charlene, Tracey, Kirsty, Kate, Teresa and Molly

Thursday: Charlene, Tracey, Kirsty, Kate

Friday: Charlene, Tracey, Kirsty, Teresa and Molly

## Training

Charlene- Designated Child Protection refresher

Tracey- Parental involvement

## Meetings

### Staff meeting:

- Feedback from staff regarding training they have been on
- Feedback from the cluster meeting
- Early Years advisor visit on 11<sup>th</sup> Feb
- Fire practice and Lock down practice will be happening after half term covered on all days of the week, so all children are aware of what to do.
- Ideas for cooking activities
- Linton Book festival and world book day discussed
- New weekend book packs

### Cluster meeting:

- Home learning
- How we use funding e.g. EYPP
- Cultural Capital
- Healthy eating

We will have our next cluster meeting with the infant's school in April on the agenda we will be discussing more about healthy eating and getting the children ready for eating meals at schools and we will also be discussing transitions for the summer.

At our next staff meeting we will be when we return after half term and we will be discussing our new planning and talking about visitors and outings we are planning. We will also be doing some work around the quality framework and looking at our new action plan for this year.

Please feel free to speak to any member of staff at anytime if you have any queries.

Best Wishes

Charlene Hayes  
Pre-School Leader