



Our learning

Welcome back, we hope you have all had a good half-term break.

October was an exciting month for us at Chestnut as we were lucky to be able to host Abigail, our international education student from Germany. During her three week placement Abigail shared her fascinating cultural insights with staff while also gaining a deeper understanding of the UK education system. She made a positive impact to the setting by working closely with the children and offering her support. The children enjoyed her company (especially her homemade cakes!) and she will be missed this term.



Also last month we were lucky to be able to offer some children walking excursions to Lidl, which was a fantastic way for them to apply their knowledge to real-life situations. The children helped their key workers to write and prepare shopping lists, walked to the supermarket to buy items on their shopping lists and then created their own snacks from the food they had bought. The trips provided the children with local context and enhanced their understanding and knowledge of our local community. It was also a way for them to practice their language skills. After the visits the children shared their journeys with their friends by talking about their experiences and sharing pictures from the trip with others. It was amazing to see how much they enjoyed and benefited from these visits!

Looking ahead, we are thrilled to welcome a German teacher to our school in the first week of November. Anne Lehert will be spending a couple of days with us, half day with our federated nursery school—Westexe and a couple of days at Wynstream School. Anne's visit will provide even more engaging educational experiences for our children.

Looking ahead we have all sorts of events coming up in this half term—do check the diary dates on the back page of the newsletter. Our shared events include another litter pick, where we'll be beautifying our surroundings, and a gardening club session to plant bulbs for the spring—how fun will that be? Plus, we'll be discussing bedtime routines and emphasizing the importance of good dental health, particularly brushing teeth. Finally in the week before Christmas we have invited a local brass ensemble from Exeter University to play at our shared family 'Christmas Songs and Mince Pies'. We value your support during our shared sessions with the children. It's such a joy to see everyone engaging together. These experiences are not only fun but they are incredibly beneficial for the children as they enrich their learning, foster shared experiences, promote language development, and support their Personal, Social, and Emotional Development (PSED). We hope you can make some of our shared activities and look forward to seeing you.

Tips to support your child's learning at nursery

Embrace the seasonal changes with your child.

Longer nights and darker evenings—explore how reflective materials, like shiny leaves or your child's toys, can catch and bounce light in fascinating ways—grab some torches and have a little adventure as you illuminate the night

Seasonal changes in the garden/park—take a stroll outdoors to notice how the trees have changed- talk about the different colours, go on a leaf hunt

Weather—as the weather adjusts, involve your child in choosing practical clothes that match the weather—this can be both fun and instructional. Encourage them to think about layers, what fabrics might keep them warm, and how to stay comfortable on a chilly day/ wet day/ windy day.

November's gallery



Other news

Shared bedtime story and toothbrushing

Join us for a shared bedtime story and tooth brushing session on Wednesday 19th November @ 2.40pm.

Our session will help to promote the importance of establishing a good bedtime routine with your child. Not only does a consistent routine help children wind down and prepare for sleep, but it also lays the foundation for important lifetime habits — including excellent dental hygiene.

Please provide your child with a toothbrush on the day (whether you are coming or not) and if you join us bring yours too! We will all brush our teeth together before talking about bedtime routines and sharing an end of day story.



Gardening Club

The next gardening club will be—**Tuesday 18th**

November. We will be planting bulbs for spring in the pots and beds around the nursery garden, do come and join us.



2nd hand clothes for children

We all know that children grow quickly. No sooner than you have bought your child a new all in one weather suit/ wellies they have a growth spurt and no longer fit into their clothes! Do not despair, instead make use of the increasing number of pre-loved venues and websites to keep up with your child's changing size. Or check out our own clothes exchange rail in our entrance. Not only will you save yourself some money but you will also help to stem the waste from fast fashion and unwanted clothes.

Thrift Warehouse and Secondhand Craft Shop,

2, 8 Marsh Green Rd N, Marsh Barton, Exeter EX2 8NY

Jelly, 148-149 Fore Street, Exeter, EX4 3AN

Buildabundle Kidswear, The Old Pig Shed Cleaveanger Farm, Crediton EX17 6BE

Online—Oxfam/ Vinted/ thelittleloop/ secondsnuggle

Wellies

Please can you provide your child with a pair of named wellies to wear outside in the garden.

If you have an old pair they have grown out of we would love it if you would donate them to nursery as we have very few spare pairs. Thank you.

Dates for your diary

Ongoing— every Monday stay and play session 9.30-11.00am

Monday 4th November - First day of half-term

Tuesday 18th November - Gardening Club

Wednesday 19th November - Bedtime toothbrush and story session at 2.40pm

Tuesday 25th November - Morning litter pick—come and join staff outside nursery @8.45-8.55am to help tidy up the local environment

Wednesday 3rd December - 'Play-eat-sleep-repeat' parent workshop to support your child eating and sleeping at home @9.15-10.45

Wed 10th December - staff and children's Christmas lunch

Thursday 11th December - @2.15pm Christmas songs and mince pies—come and join us for some Christmas food and festive singing to live music. Wear your Christmas jumpers

Friday 19th December - Last day of term

Chestnut Nursery School

