

Dear Parents,

We hope you all enjoyed our October Stay and Play events as much as we did? We want to thank everyone who attended and joined in with the Halloween fun. You will see fruit and vegetables have been a common theme running through all our rooms in October. The children have enjoyed exploring pumpkins, learning about the life cycle of apples and printing with vegetables. We want to thank everyone who has contributed to our food bank collection. This will be donated to the local community.

Toddlers would like to make their own natural terrarium, gathering soil, seeing how long worms and woodlice take to eat cardboard, what plants grow etc. If anybody has an old fishtank to get rid of, let us know please!

As the weather becomes colder and possibly wetter, please make sure your child has suitable clothes in their bag so we can continue to enjoy activities outdoors.

Nursery Holidays/Closures

23.12.25 – Nursery Closes for the Christmas Break Reopen – 2nd January 2026

Staff Training Days 2026 –
Tuesday 7th April 2026
Friday 28th August 2026

Nursery Events

10th November - Odd Sock Day

11th November - Armistice Day

13th November - World Kindness Day

14th November - Children in Need Day

16th - 27th November Road Safety Awareness

Christmas Activities

6th December - Christ<mark>mas Fayre - 10-</mark>2

9th December - Pre-school Nativity

11th December Toddlers & Babies Festive Sing
Christmas Jumper Day



Staff News

Ursula and I joined our sister nursery managers and deputies, Debbie and Helen on a full day of training preparing for new Ofsted Early Years Inspections. We looked at the new grading system, safeguarding requirements and how the manager will lead the day from the planning call the day before to accompanying the inspector round the nursery whilst they observe activities, behaviour, wellbeing, health and safety and talk to staff. Lots to take in and disseminate to all our staff.

Baby Week Leeds 14 - 20 November 2025

Baby Week was born in Leeds and is celebrating 10 years in 2025! Baby Week was established by Working with Child Friendly Leeds, NHS and partners across the city to support the ambition to make it the best place to grow up in and we know we can't do it alone. Baby Week has one aim, to make the UK the best place to grow up in and we can only do this if we start thinking, planning, working with the lens of a baby, toddler, child and young person. This year the theme is Healthy Parent, Healthy Baby so we're focusing on free and low-cost events, taster activities, wellbeing and health talks and sessions and reducing barriers and inequalities.

For information about the many free and low-cost activities happening in leisure centres, libraries and children's centres throughout the week, please visit promote the best start in life, bring sectors together and celebrate babies!

https://wearechildfriendlyleeds.com/2025/10/22/the-child-friendly-leeds-2025-autumn-guide/#baby-week-leeds-2025

Funding for Childcare...

It is important that you go on to the Best Sta<mark>rt in</mark>
Life website to check your eligibility - you can use
the link:- beststartinlife.gov.uk

If you will be new to funding from January, you will need to send a code to nursery along with your National Insurance number and take in your child's

Birth Certificate or their passport so we can validate their date of birth.

If your child attends another setting or childminder in addition to our nursery, please let us know and fill in their details on the Parent Declaration form.

Everyone needs to revalidate their eligibility every three months to ensure funding continues.

Please let nursery have your code as soon as you receive it.



<u>Babies</u> - Our babies have been very busy this month learning to share and take turns. We had a lovely time when we visited the dentist, sitting in the chair and looking at the different instruments the dentist uses. Thank you to Cherwood Dental Care for having us! Our Diwali celebrations involved lots of colour! The children had a great time body painting with different bright colours, they repeated colour names and used hands, brushes and rollers to paint themselves, the floor and each other! Thank you to everyone who came to our Halloween Stay and Play. We had lots of fun cleaning the pumpkins and making magic potions and spider webs. We explored the texture of the outside and inside of pumpkins using our hands to empty them and feel the slimy insides. For space week we enjoyed painting rockets and reading lots of stories. The children enjoyed exploring Forest School and spending time there with the Pre school children who were excited to help us explore!







<u>Toddlers</u> - our younger Toddlers have enjoyed exploring all things orange this month. Pumpkins have been of great interest, and they helped to scoop out the insides of a large pumpkin and we separated the seeds from the flesh. Staff created a transferring activity where the children scooped pumpkin seeds out of orange water - such great concentration! We celebrated Diwali with songs and crafts and tried our hand a scratch art which was quite tricky.

Our older toddlers have been learning about Black History Month. We celebrated female black artists and created a mosaic in the style of Alma Thomas. The children worked together placing all the small pieces onto the paper to make a beautiful display.

As part of our discussions about Halloween we talked about spooky autumn wildlife, such as bats, spiders, owls and centipedes. We looked at their habitats, how they move and when we might see them. We have all been very active too this month, from designing our own obstacle courses outside to creating a soft play area inside. We enjoyed exploring Forest School climbing into the hut and looking through the coloured squares and creating potions using natural resources we collected!









<u>Preschool</u> - We have been learning about the importance of looking after our teeth and what foods are good for us and which are not. A dental nurse came to visit us and showed us how to clean our teeth and keep them strong and healthy. The children have really enjoyed exploring our refreshed Activities of Everyday Living shelves, self-selecting, completing their work cycle and returning the activity to the shelf. A favourite activity has been water colour painting. Following the clocks changing we have explored light with our disco light, glow sticks and have talked about day and night and the early Sun sets. We have collected lots of Autumn treasures from Forest School and from our walks, we brought them back to nursery and added them to activities looking at the smallest to largest leaves, colours and the different shades and counting conkers. So much discussion about the changes of the season and life cycles, also animals we may see in Autumn and what they need to survive the coldest months.

We celebrated Halloween with a lot of dressing up, stories, activities and a dance party and pumpkin carving. The children really enjoyed our photo shoot amongst the pumpkins and spider webs!!







Home Learning

This month, autumnal fruits and vegetables have been a major theme across the nursery. Our activities have included children helping to prepare these for snack and mealtimes, focusing on practical life skills such as washing and cutting them.

Our Preschool children have been learning about knife safety and are now cutting their own snacks, while the Toddlers have been using an apple cutter to prepare their apples into slices.

We would love to see how your children help with cooking, baking, and food preparation at home. Please share any photos on Tapestry.

Safeguarding

Ursula and I are the Designated Safeguarding Leads at the nursery, if you have any worries, concerns or need help and support please come and talk to us.

> Best wishes Christine

Invoices and payments

Could you please ensure that all new Government Tax Free Childcare, Tax Free Childcare Payments, Vouchers and Bank Payments are made by the 1st of the month, in line with our terms and conditions.

If you are changing the way you pay, e.g. With the Tax-Free Childcare payments, please let our accounts team know as soon as possible, or by 15th of the month on

headoffice@yorkshiremontessorinursery.co.uk so we can locate your new payments quickly and easily. Thank you for your help.

Notice re payments after the 1st: Some payments have been increasingly irregular, such as Tax-Free Childcare, bank payments and voucher payments. Please check your account and payments, as you may need to specify the payment date for the 1st of a month.

A 'late payment charge' of £100.00 will be made where fees continue to be late.