The Yorkshire Montessori Nursery

"Any child who is self-sufficient, who can tie his shoes, dress or undress himself, reflects in his joy and sense of achievement the image of human dignity, which is derived from a sense of independence."

Maria

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to autumn!! The children are enjoying exploring all that nature gives us this season and particularly the natural resources that we can incorporate into both indoor and outdoor activities.

Everyone is settled back into the nursery routine after room transitions, holidays and changes to the dynamics now the older children have moved along. It is lovely to see them all grow in confidence and their provide in mastering new skills.

Date for your diary

Our Christmas Fayre will be on 28th November – further details will be sent out nearer the time – we hope you can join us.

Nursery Holidays/Closures

23.12.2026 – Nursery Closes for the Christmas
Reopen – 4th January 2027

Staff Training Days 2027 –

25th March
31st August

Safeguarding

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

Please remember to let us know if your child has had medication – such as Calpol, prior to coming to nursery, you will be asked to complete a medication form for us to keep for our records. If your child becomes unwell at nursery with a temperature we will call you to check if you would like us to give Calpol and confirm their last dosage.
We are only able to administer one dose at the nursery, after this time, medical attention should be sought if the child does not improve.

We have been asked to share this information from Leeds City Council –

Winter Vaccinations 2026-27 campaign

Free flu vaccinations are available for eligible groups, including people with long-term health conditions, pregnant women, children aged 2 and 3, people aged 65 and over, people experiencing homelessness and other eligible groups.

Other free winter vaccinations, including COVID-19 and RSV vaccines, are also available for eligible people.

Check eligibility and book a free vaccination through your GP practice, a participating community pharmacy, the NHS App, or online.

Find out more https://bit.ly/wintervacs26-27-outreach

Funding for Childcare…

If you are new to funding from January it is important that you go on to the Best Start in Life website to check your eligibility - you can Use the link:- **beststartinlife.gov.uk**

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.

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Babies – this month the children have explored fruit and vegetables with different activities. Firstly, the explored them hidden in soil using small gardening tools. They then washed them using brushes and sponges with lots of discussion throughout the activities, introducing new related vocabulary. Sensory play is always popular with the children exploring different textures, from soil, water and shaving foam to paint, sand and a selection of filled bags and bottles. We also have some sensory mats which change colour when the children stand on them – these are a great favourite. The children love listening to stories and sharing books. We have noticed recently a lot of independent interest in books with children handling them carefully when turning pages, pointing to things in a page, 'reading' to themselves and sharing with their friends. We have been supporting children to independently wipe their nose and wash their hands at mealtimes. The children have practiced these skills using the dolls and are beginning to ask for a tissue when needed and use the flannels to wash their hands and faces.







Toddlers – September has been a lovely and busy month here in toddlers. We have been welcoming and celebrating the change of the seasons by taking part in lots of autumnal activities, such as bean and pumpkin sensory trays, making and enjoying spiced cinnamon playdough, and playing outdoors in all the weather September has had to offer. We have been dancing lots and moving our bodies to help regulate our big emotions and listening to our toddlers' favourite songs from home so please do let us know if there are any tunes your toddlers love to dance to! We are of course loving the home corner, babies and role play, and are carrying on our play-based learning focussing on kind and gentle hands. We created some large autumn art. We used different shapes and colours and introduced mathematical language around sizes; there was lots of discussion about colour and texture too







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Preschool – we have been investigating seasonal changes throughout September, looking at falling leaves, pinecones, and conkers to see how nature shifts as autumn begins. This included discussions on decomposition & bugs where we explored what happens when leaves decay, learning how this impacts the environment and discovering leaf-eating mini-beasts like isopods. We turned into mini naturalists by observing outdoor habitats including watching a real spider in action after a fly landed in its web! We collected natural items and created our own leaf-and-pipe-cleaner bugs

Family Photo Request: Please send in a framed photograph of your child or family. These will be proudly displayed on our shelves and walls to help every child feel a strong sense of home and belonging and to further help understand timelines and history.

We were excited to be able to read a new book – Gruffalo Granny! The children enjoyed adding ingredients to make Gruffalo Granny some soup!

We have started our new Italian and Greek language sessions led by Kelly and Juliana, which the children – and staff - are really enjoying! We are also developing our Makaton skills and have learnt 6 new Makaton songs and signs to build our inclusive communication skills. We have also been talking about the importance of hand washing and germs!!







Home Learning

"Care of Self" is a foundational pillar of the Montessori **Practical Life** curriculum. It refers to purposeful, everyday activities that empower children to independently manage their own physical needs, personal hygiene, and daily routines.

Common Examples of Care of Self

- **Personal Hygiene:** Washing hands and face, brushing teeth, brushing hair, and blowing one's nose.
- **Dressing and Grooming:** Practicing with dressing frames (zips, buttons, poppers, ties, buckles), putting on coats and shoes, and choosing appropriate clothing.
- **Feeding and Nutrition:** Preparing simple snacks, washing and slicing food, pouring water, and setting the table.
- **Toileting:** Managing independent bathroom routines and cleaning up afterward.

Developing these skills helps a child to build independence, developing motor skills and foster dignity and confidence.

We develop lots of activities to support the children with these skills right through nursery. The children are always so proud of themselves when they master a new skill.

We would love to see what the children can do for themselves at home and would love to see any photos you can upload to Tapestry for them to share with their friends.

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Illness

We ask that you **please respect** our policy to reduce illness spreading and keep children out of nursery for 48 hrs after their last bout of sickness or diarrhoea. This is to help prevent everyone else catching it, including staff who offer the continual care valued by your child. If antibiotics are being used, we kindly as that you keep your child away from nursery for the first 48 hrs following initial medication

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.

What is happening in Leeds?

Join us at local libraries across Leeds for fun sessions of sharing stories and rhymes with time to play in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

A great opportunity to meet with others and join the library as part of your visit. Free event for under-fives and their grown ups, just turn up.

You can also join us at a community stop on our colourful Story Buses, Sam and Nelly. Hop aboard for a Story & Rhyme session, share stories, play and borrow books. Find our community stop locations and time information here: bit.ly/StoryBusStops

Tuesday
10:30-11:30 – Beeston, Hunslet, Moor Allerton, Morley, *Story Bus (BITMO – Belle Isle)

Check the website for other libraries and sessions across the week

You can contact us at the nursery on moortown@yorkshiremontessorinursery.co.uk
Allison at Head Office on headoffice@yorkshiremontessorinursery.co.uk

Instagram, Facebook and Twitter

If you'd like to follow us on Instagram and Facebook, we keep you up to date with lots of activities here and any other interests too. We are Yorkshire Montessori Nursery on Instagram, @yorksmontessori on Twitter and on Facebook at @yorksmontessori

Best wishes
Christine