

October 2025

The goal of early childhood education should be to activate the child's own natural desire to learn.

—Maria Montessori

### Dear Parents,

So many pumpkins, gourds and squashes! The Children have had a great time exploring the shapes and sizes, colours and textures. They have ordered and sized them, weighed and balanced them and created so many activities from the seeds, pulp and whole pumpkins which have developed understanding of the world around them, maths, language, science and I could go on!

Autumn is such a giving time from nature. Leaves, mud, conkers and acorns, changing landscape and weather of all kinds! There are so many opportunities to learn....

We have managed to get out on some nature walks and the children have been very excited to bring back their 'haul' and share their adventures back at the nursery.

The children have brought in lots of ideas and discussion about their adventures outside nursery too! The children use and share these with their friends to ensure that children are learning through activities that interest them. For example, from trips to the farm, caravan stays, holidays to the beach, visits to grandparents. These help us to shape

### Staff Updates

We have a new member of staff who will join us from next week. Clemmie is a primary teacher with great experience working with children of all ages. She will be working mainly during school holidays to help to cover staff holidays both at Fulford and Strensall nurseries.

Beth is returning from her Maternity Leave and will be back working in the nursery (initially for 3 days a week), in January. We are looking forward to having her back in the Toddler room. You may see Beth over the next couple of months as she eases herself back in through Keeping in Touch days.

Heather Goosetree has left the nursery, and we wish her all the very best in her future.

Elle has had her baby, and we would like to congratulate her and her family on welcoming Lettie, a lovely new sister for Mila.



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and support the activities to really engage the children in learning opportunities. So! We are not being noseey when we ask about your weekends or holidays. These conversations really do help us to encourage confident conversations, build upon existing learning by making it relevant, interesting and fun!

### Coming up....

In November we will continue to use nature to guide the children and also around Remembrance Day we will have a focus on remembrance, kindness and peace.

We realise that plenty of notice is helpful when you are trying to arrange things around work and below are dates of a few things that are coming up between now and Christmas.

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November -The great 'SPOTacular' for Children in Need

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November - Stay and Play

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November - 'Step into Christmas' Fayre and Party

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Show

### Outdoor Clothing

Please bring puddle suits and wellies that are clearly labelled as we will continue to use the outside area as the weather becomes wetter!

Thank you

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Megan will be leaving the nursery as she is moving out of the area. Megan is a key member of our nursery staff and we will definitely miss her! She will leave the nursery as we close for Christmas on 23<sup>rd</sup> December. We wish her all the best in her new life.

Our company is committed to supporting and developing staff through appropriate and necessary training. We believe this directly contributes to the outstanding care and learning experiences we provide for the children at our nursery. We currently have Courtney and Maisie working hard towards their Level 3 Early years qualification. All staff are busy reading and digesting the new guidance for the EYFS, Ofsted, nutrition and safeguarding, reading revised policies and updating the relevant training courses!

A couple of things to note around training are: **All** our staff have undergone Safe Sleep training. **All** of our staff are trained in Paediatric First Aid. **All** our staff have Allergy and Allergen training (as well as Safeguarding, Prevent, Food Safety....). We have two staff who have recently trained in Wellcomm - the language screening programme. There is a Training element in each of our monthly staff meetings and this list is by no means exhaustive! We definitely have a continuous development approach for our staff which leads to the very same for your children.

## Nursery News

### Babies

Babies have been engaged in lots of sensory activities throughout October. We have loved seeing all your Autumn photos including walks and pumpkin picking.



There have been so many activities because of these, and the children have been exposed to lots of new vocabulary and sensory experiences which supports their ongoing development. We created a pumpkin patch where the children could dig in 'soil' which was made from a variety of textures and the children could handle the

'pumpkins'. Early mathematical language was used such as bigger than, smallest and heavy. Pumpkin activities included scooping out a pumpkin with spoons and hands. The carcass was explored and then it was made into a posting game with shapes being made to post familiar items - this was great fun! The children were building their muscle strength and hand eye coordination. They were learning to take turns and also matching shapes using their fine and gross motor skills to post them into the pumpkin.



We used the seeds as the contents of one of our sensory bags which encourage the children to touch, press, pat and squeeze - encouraging muscle development which will be needed later for writing and

coordination. The children can feel the different textures and choose the ones that they like the most.



Spiders in jelly gave some lovely opportunities to smell, touch and feel. Including sitting in the jelly and fishing around for spiders!



Pumpkins and playdough have given the children opportunities to shape and model pumpkins. They pulled and stretched the dough. Covered the pumpkins and pressed the dough onto them.

We have had water activities, space activities and discussions and some lovely shiny treasure baskets are some of the many other things that have been going on this month. Every activity that we do is prepared to support your child's development, to engage them in exciting learning opportunities

### Home Learning

Make your own sensory bags using everyday resources, You will need a large plastic bag with a zip lock fastening or sealable plastic strip.

Identify the filling - this can be something that you collect with your child such as leaves or small pebbles or it can be shaving foam, washing up liquid or breakfast cereal for example. Put a small amount into the bag and seal it. If you are concerned that it will leak, you can also use tape over the seal. Your child can squeeze, pat and move the contents around which will help to develop their curiosity and concentration as well as strengthening the hand muscles and fine motor skills.

### Toddlers

Plenty of spiders, bats and pumpkins in Toddlers this month.

We have been practicing our fine motor skills by using tweezers and scooping, pinching and cutting with so many different activities.





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We have been carefully



collecting pom-pom spiders from the web using tweezers and fingers

and avoiding the sticky web. We have collected bats, picking them out of different materials and putting them into jars. We have been brushing and sweeping oats to uncover autumn pictures so that we can talk about them with our friends – choosing



our favourites and talking about why. These activities are helping us to prepare for our next steps – whether this is



strengthening our writing muscles, developing confidence, sharing and taking turns, encouraging inquisitive minds, colours, numbers, developing our conversation – every activity has a purpose as well as being engaging and great fun! We had some great fun shaking our skeleton bones and dancing to the Monster Mash, great for developing our gross motor skills and control of movements. Early science activities to look at how different materials interact help to foster curiosity and exploration skills as well as feelings of awe and wonder.



The 'Tiny Monsters' are very popular in Toddlers. They are one of the many ways that we are supporting the children to understand their feelings and to find ways to regulate these – both by themselves and with support. Stories, books, songs, conversations, supporting discussions and negotiations and encouraging children to express themselves using words and gestures and every activity and interaction is there to guide and support your children who are making amazing progress. There are a number of children who are preparing to transition to preschool and extra support for this is ongoing. Staff from preschool have been working in Toddlers, small groups of Toddlers have been visiting Preschool weekly.



There has been focus on strengthening independence skills to support their making choices and also practical preparation such as using crockery and glasses and practicing self-service at meal times.



### Home Learning

Draw some simple expression faces and ask your child to choose the one which matches how they feel. Either in general or about something such as an activity swimming, shopping, playing with.... And ask them why they feel happy/sad/angry etc. It will help the children to feel confident speaking about their emotions and sharing this. (I have attached a printable page to the newsletter for those of you who, like me, are not convinced that the emotions would be recognisable!)

### Pre school

As you know, it is always very active in Preschool. The children love to guide and steer the activities around their interests. They enjoy making choices and are confident to discuss what is and is not a good choice as they are understanding right and wrong. They are developing great language skills with some complex vocabulary. They take part in singing and dancing, practicing sounds and letter forming as well as some lovely questions and ideas. It is lovely to watch the children develop and grow.

We have been on walks to collect autumn leaves and twigs etc and particularly enjoyed a walk around the



village to see the many Halloween decorations and displays. When we got back to nursery, we made masks to wear thinking about what we had seen.

We continue to work with the children to develop their self care skills and the importance of looking after themselves. Such as washing, cleaning their teeth and dressing for the weather. With activities and reminders, discussions and stories.

We have been looking at colours and numbers including making and following patterns.





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The children really do guide their own learning! They spotted shiny rainbow colours on preschool floor and explored the room to find where they were coming from. With a little support they identified that the sunlight was



shining in through Bob's tank and creating the colours. This gave the opportunity to look at prisms and the 'suncatchers' – a great science based, in the moment activity.

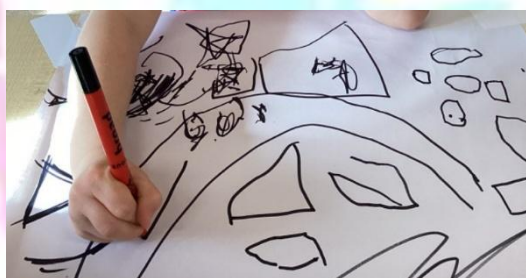
Maths and number based activities are built into many of the Montessori activities as well as being brought into prepared activities in the room.

The knobbed cylinders were used as a group activity so as well as comparing and sorting cylinders with differing depth, size and diameter, the children also worked to develop cooperation and teamwork skills to identify where each piece belonged.



We have had a focus on collaboration, sharing and working together to prepare children for the future and to help to build and promote our preschool community. One lovely example was a group of children who worked together to plan, design and build a boat using

the wooden bricks. They discussed and negotiated what they would build, where and how. It is always a treat to observe these interactions.



We have been exploring 2D and 3D shapes and have been practicing drawing them to expand our pre writing skills. We have drawn shapes using stencils and insets as well as practicing our freehand.



We have looked at letters in lots of different ways. We have been matching letters, practicing the shapes in the sand and salt, feeling them on the sandpaper letters. We have been searching them out, using a hole punch to follow the shapes as well as listening for the sounds and making the shapes.



We have made, shaped, rolled, stamped and cut playdough with patterns, shapes, letters and



numbers. We have been counting with conkers and matching them to the numbers and hunted for spiders in jelly using tongs and tweezers.



Diwali was a great opportunity for us to talk about different views, ideas and cultures, we made diwa for lights, read the story of Rama and Sita and the power of

good over evil. We drew mehndi patterns on hands, rangoli patterns with coloured rice and had some lovely conversations about respect.

We have been sizing and sorting shells, weighing and measuring conkers (and a whole range of other objects!) We loved playing with the cars which had letters on the top and driving them into the matching parking bays was great fun!





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### Home Learning

When they are working on self care at home, you could ask them about why it is important, and it would be great to gather some photos of the children when they are cleaning their teeth, washing their hands, putting on their coats and wellies etc. if you share these on tapestry we can share them with the children who will be very proud for their friends to see them taking care of themselves.

### Safeguarding

Karen, Tina and Laura 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.

If your child has had a bump or fall etc at home, please remember to pass this on to staff so that we are aware.

Just a reminder.... Please do not have your phones out in any area of the nursery. This is part of our Safeguarding Policy and it would be really helpful if you could complete any call before coming in to collect your child. Thank you 😊

A recent change in the EYFS is our requirement to have an attendance policy. This has been introduced in response to a number of national incidents where had attendance been followed up, it is likely that there would have been a different outcome for children and families.

As you are aware, our Safeguarding Policy already means that if we are expecting you to bring your child, and you do not arrive or contact the nursery by 10am, we will give you a quick call to check that everything is okay. There will be no change to this other than we do now need to record the calls to confirm that you have been contacted. Please do your best to let us know when your child will not be attending.

A copy of the Attendance Policy can be found on Tapestry.

### Illness

We ask, in line with our policies, that any child who has sickness or diarrhoea does not attend nursery for a clear 48 hrs after their last 'episode'.

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 ask that you keep

your child away from nursery for the first 48 hrs following initial dose.

Please remember to let us know if your child has had Calpol at home when you drop them off.

Thank you.

### Immunisations

As you will be aware there is some national concern around the increase in infectious diseases such as measles. As a part of this we will be updating our immunisation records by re completing the immunisation forms that were initially completed when your child came to the nursery.

If you would like to find out more about immunisations and the current concerns, there are QR code links in the nursery entrances.

### Parking and drop off reminder.....

As you are all aware, there are sometimes in the day when the area outside the front of the nursery can become quite congested. To keep all of us safe, the area is a one-way - drop off area. Please drive as far towards the exit as you can and if you are dropping your child off or picking up, please try to keep your time parked on the area to a minimum. If you know that you will be more than a couple of minutes, please park on the road (please avoid the neighbours' driveways!) or across by the church. This means that more people can benefit from using the drop off area and no-one needs to reverse out onto the busy road. Thank you for supporting with this and helping to keep everyone safe.

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### Funding for Childcare...

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](https://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.**

#### **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](mailto: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.

You can contact us at the nursery on [strensall@yorkshiremontessorinursery.co.uk](mailto:strensall@yorkshiremontessorinursery.co.uk) and Allison at Head Office on [headoffice@yorkshiremontessorinursery.co.uk](mailto: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 (X) and on facebook at @yorksmontessori

### Nursery Holidays/Closures

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2025 – Nursery Closes for the Christmas Break  
Reopen – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2026

Staff Training days (Nursery Closed)  
Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2026  
Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2026

Best wishes,  
Karen