

Children have an
absorbent mind. They
absorb knowledge from
the environment
without fatigue.

-Maria Montessori

Dear Parents,

We are really enjoying the sunshine and hope you are too! We have had lots of opportunities to get out and about and the children have been excited to see the ducklings and goslings on the pond at Rowntree Park and explore the spring flowers and blossom.

Suncream season is upon us so please apply to your child before nursery on sunny days and we will reapply throughout the day.

We will be using Nivea Kids Suncream as this is suitable for our children with allergies. If you have any questions, please speak to a member of staff.



Our school leavers should have received their school allocation which is very exciting! We are planning lots of activities to support this transition, including inviting their Reception teachers into nursery! Please let a member of staff know which school they will be attending if you have not done so already.

We will be holding two graduation ceremonies this year on July 7th and 8th. The Pre-school team will contact you shortly to confirm which date your child will be celebrated.

Nursery Holidays/Closures

25.05.2026 – Spring Bank Holiday

31.08.2026 – Late Summer Bank Holiday

23.12.2026 – Nursery Closes for Christmas

Reopen – 4th January 2027

Staff Training Day 2026 –

Friday 28th August 2026

Nursery Events

20th May - National Numeracy Day

29th May - National Biscuit Day

Staff News

The morning session of our staff training day focused on universal key messages for "Understanding and supporting young children's behaviour," with a specific emphasis on sensory integration. It was led by Sharon and Sue from the Leeds Early Years Improvement Team. We discussed, amongst other things - realistic expectations of child development, the key person role, consistency from adults (role-modelling), clear and shared expectations, enabling environment and routines of the day. The session was thought provoking and staff came away with increased confidence to support different behaviours that we may see from our children.

The afternoon session focused on Safeguarding and particularly Safer Sleep. of children and adults.

Our training days are vital to our staff development. They provide a valuable opportunity not only to share important information but also for colleagues from our three settings to gather and share best practices.

We hope you have all seen our wonderful Montessori Accreditation news on Tapestry - we are so delighted to achieved STAR Accreditation Status with Montessori Global Education (<https://montessori-globaleducation.org/star/accreditation/>).

Safeguarding

Ellie, Chloe 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.

The government have updated their guidance on Safer Sleep in the wake of the death of Gigi Meehan. There will be updates to the Early Years Foundation Stage from September. We want to reassure you that all staff complete Safer Sleep Training and we ensure our sleep mats, coracles and bedding adhere to the safety standards require.

You can find more information on Safer Sleep here - NHS advice on Sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) - NHS and on safer sleep guidance is from The Lullaby Trust.

Babies - throughout April, the babies had a fabulous time making the most of the warmer weather, venturing out to both the park and the garden. In the garden we took out some of their favourite activities and the children explored outdoor resources such as pushchairs and the kitchen area. We have been looking for local wildlife in the park and have seen ducks, geese and tadpoles. We took a story with us, and the children were so excited to spot ducks in particular! Indoors, the children have been engaging in various floor-based activities, such as large-scale painting, drawing, using the pop-up tunnel, and exploring the soft play area. Our younger babies particularly enjoyed pulling different types of fabric threaded through a washing basket. We have also practiced transferring water and enjoyed washing our toys, especially the farm animals.



Toddlers - Under 2's - what a blooming great month we've had! From flower arranging, to watering the plants and hunting for bugs! The toddlers have been learning lots about living things and how we can look after them. This has really captured their attention and as a result the children have been inspired throughout their role play! The toddlers have been working hard to complete the Brown Bear Brown Bear display board; it has been heartwarming to see the children admire their artwork! The toddlers can now recite the whole songbook independently and like to point at their display board to follow along with the characters. We have extended this interest to lots of colour sorting activities, naming the colours and matching different objects. The children have really enjoyed playing with our magnetic story books, they've done some brilliant turn taking and sharing, as we all know this can be difficult for our little ones! And to really get into the spring season, we have done some baking with the flower cookie cutter, the children enjoy taking part in baking, following instructions and again taking turns. A real spark for the toddlers at the moment is taking part in yoga, we put on some calming music and practice different poses, this really helps the toddlers focusing skills.



Toddlers - Over 2's - Spring has sprung and we have had a really busy month in Toddlers! At the beginning of the month we continued with Easter activities, such as decorating Easter pictures, using Easter cutters in our play dough, reading stories and going on an egg hunt. The children were keen to share what they had been doing as a family over the Easter weekend - which did involve chocolate! Also, with Spring as our current theme, we have been looking at new growth, enjoying spring walks to look at the changes in our environment. Minibeasts and flowers continue to be a big spark, and we have been exploring the outdoors enjoying looking for spiders, ladybirds and butterflies. We have been helping to care for our environment by watering the plants and flowers both inside and out. We have been looking at books to compliment the time of year which have sparked lots of discussions and introduction of new language. To celebrate Earth Day, we make collages of the Earth and talked about our planet. The children have had a great time in the garden making obstacle courses using a variety of open-ended resources and practicing their balancing and jumping skills



Pre School - We started April celebrating Easter! We did a variety of activities exploring Easter traditions as well as baking hot cross buns and doing a very fun Easter-themed treasure hunt in the woods! The children engaged with all the egg-based resources, and especially loved decorating the Easter tree with their self-made eggs. To celebrate Earth Day, we explored the features of our world using a piece of Montessori equipment called Land and Water Forms. This enabled the children to have a hands-on experience of how features such as lakes, islands, peninsulas and archipelagos are formed, and how rising water levels can cause flooding. We also celebrated by planting some potatoes and repotting the sunflower seeds into bigger containers, with the children excited to notice how much they have grown! Diggers have been of great interest to our preschoolers this month. As well as constructing them outside using the loose parts in the garden, the children have also enjoyed using the toy diggers to mark make. We constructed some "gravel" using flour, paint and oil, which fascinated the children and led to a lot of fantastic imaginative and communicative play. Furthermore, the children loved dipping the wheels of the diggers into paint and rolling them across the paper to see the different tracks they could make



Home Learning

Colour is a thread running through this month's room activities, linking to spring and to a favourite book. Exploring colour in early years supports cognitive development, language acquisition, and sensory exploration as children transition from black-and-white vision to recognising colours around 18 months. Activities like sensory play, sorting, painting, and nature walks foster curiosity and emotional expression while mapping colour perception to language.

Here are some suggested colour themed activities -

- **Colour Hunts:** Explore outdoors to match colours in nature (green trees, yellow flowers).
- **Sensory Play:** Use coloured rice, ice cubes, or water to stimulate senses.
- **Mixing Magic:** Experiment with mixing primary colours to create new ones (e.g., yellow and blue make green).
- **Colour Wheel Matching:** Create a colour wheel and find objects to match each colour.
- **Creative Art:** Use wax crayon rubbings or collages to explore texture and colour.
- **Books & Storytelling:** Read books that highlight colours to boost literacy and colour awareness.

We would love to see photos on Tapestry if you try any of these!

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://www.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 you will be asked to complete.

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

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 ask that you keep your child away from nursery for the first 48 hours 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.

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, and on facebook at @yorksmontessori

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

Best wishes
Rachael