

NEWSLETTER from the NURSERY

November 2020



Welcome to November's newsletter.

It's not going to be long before Christmas is here and hopefully, we will all be able to spend some time with our loved ones indoors or in the garden.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of you for your patience and support during the second lockdown period. We understand that it isn't easy always for you to drop your child/children at the door and leave, but we do appreciate you following our procedures.

The nursery is slowly getting ready for the festive season: the decorations are going up and we are playing Christmas songs.

We have Christmas jumper week (rather than day) starting on Monday 7th December. If you would like to donate £1 towards Save the Children during this week, we would appreciate it. Thank you

Leeds City Council notices

Reception applications for September 2021

The 15th January 2021 is the national deadline for parent to apply for Reception places (for children starting school for the first time in September 2021). All the information families need about the process, admission criteria and our online application portal, is available at www.leeds.gov.uk/apply.

Admission policy consultation

We are seeking parents and carers views on proposed changes to the September 2022 to July 2023 admission arrangements for Leeds Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools. The consultation is open until 13 December 2020 - find out more at: www.leeds.gov.uk/SchoolAdmissionsConsultations.

Pre School Christmas Concert

This year, as parents cannot enter the building to watch the concert, we thought we would offer you the chance watch it via zoom.

Pre school will be performing on **Thursday 17th December at 10.30 am and at 3.30pm**. Zoom links for both times will be sent to all preschool parents, so you can choose the time most convenient for you. We look forward to seeing you!

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New staff

We are delighted to announce that Connie Doyle has joined the Pre School team. In her previous life she trained as a playworker and has experience in working with SEND children.

Pram shed

We are pleased to announce that we will shortly have a new wooden pram shed.

We will keep it locked during the day, but please understand that we cannot be responsible for any left in the shed by parents.

How children learn to play: 6 stages of child play development

Play is much more than just a fun activity for your child! As a child grows, they go through different stages of play development. While playing, children learn and develop important skills they will continue to use throughout their lifetime. Problem solving, creativity, and willingness to take risks are just a few of the skills developed through play.

Children who use their imagination and 'play pretend' in safe environments are able to learn about their emotions, what interests them, and how to adapt to situations. When children play with each other, they are given the opportunity to learn how to interact with others and behave in various social situations. There are 6 stages of play during early childhood, all of which are important for your child's development. All the stages of

play involve exploring, being creative, and having fun.

This list explains how children's play changes by age as they grow and develop social skills. These stages are general guidelines for what to expect of your child's play skills.

1. Unoccupied Play (Birth-3 Months)

At this stage baby is just making a lot of movements with their arms, legs, hands, feet, etc. They are

learning about and discovering how their body moves.

2. Solitary Play (Birth-2 Years)

This is the stage when a child plays alone. They are not interested in playing with others quite yet.

3. Spectator/Onlooker Behaviour (2 Years)

During this stage, a child begins to watch other children playing but does not play with them.

4. Parallel Play (2+ Years)

When a child plays alongside or near others but does not play with them this stage is referred to as parallel play.

5. Associate Play (3-4 Years)

When a child starts to interact with others during play, but there is not a large amount of interaction at this stage. A child might be doing an activity related to the kids around him

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but might not actually be interacting with another child. For example, children might all be playing on the same piece of playground equipment but all doing different things like climbing, swinging, etc.

6. Cooperative Play (4+ years)

When a child plays together with others and has interest in both the activity and other children involved in playing, they are participating in cooperative play.

The who's who of our Staff teams This month Pre School



**Room leader, Early Years
Teacher & Deputy Manager**
Denisa Cermakova
PGCE (Early Years Teacher)
BA Early Years
International Diploma in Montessori
Pedagogy



Deputy Room Leader & QTS
Katie Hodgson
BA Primary Education with
Qualified Teacher Status (QTS)



Early Years Educator & QTS
Julia Guiseley
BA Primary Education with
Qualified Teacher Status (QTS)



Early Years Educator
Connie Doyle
BA Childhood Development &
Playwork

Montessori at home Vegetable preparation

As you are all aware, the children love to help whenever possible.



Following on from last month's suggestion of helping to lay the table, an activity you could consider is vegetable peeling. Carrots are great for this!



And, it doesn't matter if the carrot ends up wafer thin. The skills that the children will have been practicing and their joy at helping make it all worthwhile.



Bringing food to nursery

We do our best to ensure that the nursery environment is free of

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allergens that do/could/may affect any of the children.

Therefore, please do not send any food with your child to the nursery either in their bag or as something to snack on. Birthday cakes or celebration food can be arranged in discussion with Verity.

Thank you.

Dates for December

7th-11th Christmas Jumper week

16th Children' Christmas Dinner

**17th Pre School Xmas show via
zoom 10.30 am & 3.30pm**

24th Nursery closes at 1pm

25th Christmas day

**26th Boxing day – Bank holiday
Monday 28th**

4th January Nursery re opens

Explorers

The babies have enjoyed a small celebration for Bonfire night, Diwali, Thanksgiving and St Andrews Day. As part of these celebrations the babies have experienced exciting new foods.

A few of our little explorers have started walking this month. It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow and how happy they are to now be stomping around the room!

Throughout December we will of course be celebrating Christmas with lots of festive crafts which will be sent home for everyone to enjoy.

Inventors

The Inventors have started doing a forest school session once a week with Binte. In the first session they learnt the rule no pick, no lick which means we do not pick things up and put them in our mouths. All children involved have really enjoyed their session so far.

We have also been making our own toast at breakfast time. We have learnt about the safety of the toaster and to always use it with adult support. We have also made are own sandwiches for tea one afternoon which were very yummy.

Next month we will be welcoming, four new children that are moving down from the baby room.

We will also be doing lots of Christmas activities and learning some Christmas songs.

Pioneers

Pioneers have been so busy in November. Firstly, we learned a lot about India and North America while celebrating Diwali and Thanksgiving. The children learnt the history, stories, and traditions behind each festival, as well as making divas and rangoli as a part of Diwali celebration. They tried some traditional Indian and American food prepared by our chef Kelly.

Pioneers did lots of art and craft activities such as making the countries flags, paper lanterns and paper turkeys. We also discussed the importance of being thankful for what

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we have, following the idea of Thanksgiving.

We also went on litter picking outings as a part of our recycling project. We are working on raising the children's awareness of recycling and looking after our environment. In the classroom the children were using different materials such as boxes, bottles, and other recyclable materials. The children made mostly cars and musical instruments out of these materials.

Next month will be all about celebrating Christmas. The children will be involved in art and craft activities, sing Christmas carols and will be focussing on the Nativity story.

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. Thank you.

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 £75.00 will be made where fees continue to be late.
Our thanks again for your help.

Nursery Holidays for 2020

Christmas Eve- Thursday 24th
December close at 1pm
Christmas Day- Friday 25th December
Boxing day bank holiday- Monday 28th December.

We reopen on Monday 4th January 2021.

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 hrs following initial medication.

Instagram/Twitter/Facebook

Follow us on social media!
We're very excited about our new look Instagram account with its updates and news, and comments on these fantastic early years with some useful connections too.

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Facebook continues to give you all our daily news and information. Instagram and Twitter will always provide links to newsletters and Helen Gratton's blogs. Enjoy!

Thank you very much

Verity Irvin

Manager

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