

NEWSLETTER from the NURSERY

October 2021



Welcome to October's newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading about all the different activities and other things that have been happening in the nursery this month.

A note from Helen Gratton Regarding Ofsted's visit

Another huge thank you to you all for your tremendous support and kind words over the last few months. As you know, I contested every part of the first inspection and hope that we were given an early re-inspection with a very experienced Inspector because someone senior recognised the inequity of what had happened. Who knows. But we hope you enjoyed reading our latest (draft only) report and we'll update you again when it has been published. I feel it really captures the essence of the nursery here, as well as the spirit of your children. Neil has said that, even over such a short time, it was clear that we had a loving, caring environment and how wonderful all the children, staff and families are too.

Sincere thanks
Helen

Staffing

Sadly, we are saying goodbye to Kim and Ryan shortly, but we all wish them well in their new endeavours.

This month we have welcomed Ruby to the baby room, Christianna and Amy to Preschool and Humaira to the toddler team.

They have all settled in really well and are enjoying meeting you all and spending time with your fantastic children!

Safeguarding Lead

Neil is the Safeguarding Lead for the nursery. When Neil is absent, Amy is the Safeguarding Lead.

Should you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact Neil or Amy or phone Leeds 'Front Door' on 0113 222 4403 or for out of hours phone: 0113 535 0600.

Dates for November

4th Diwali
5th Bonfire night
11th Remembrance Day
13th World kindness Day

The children really enjoy their Montessori activities here. So for some simple ideas to encourage more Montessori at home, try these:-

- Matching up socks after doing the washing
- Find a selection of boxes or containers with lids, remove lids and encourage your child to match them and replace.
- Folding clothes

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Preschool

Preschool have been practising their baking skills this month, making a selection of different bread and cakes. We have also been using our senses to explore pumpkins and other natural objects through smell, taste and touch.

Next month we will be learning about more celebrations such as bonfire night and Diwali.



Toddlers

Toddlers have enjoyed learning about Autumn and the changing seasons by collecting different colour leaves, conker rolling, making leaf crowns, and exploring pumpkins with all our senses! Toddlers have also been busy in the baking department, making cinnamon cupcakes and spooky potions. Lots of fun was also had at our Halloween disco. Thank you to all of you who were able to come to our Stay and Play session. We enjoyed seeing you!



Babies

This month the baby room have been focusing on fine and gross motor skills. We have been pouring, painting, sticking, grasping, crawling and using different textures for play.

As Halloween approaches we look forward to welcoming you to our stay and play on Tuesday 2nd November at 4.15pm, for some spooky fun!



Funding reminder

30 hours funding

If you currently have 30 hours funding you need to revalidate your current code with HMRC by 31st December continue to get the funding from January 2022.

If you are applying for funding for the first time from 1st January 2022, you can check that you are eligible via Childcare Choices at: <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

please do so before 31st December and bring in your code, National Insurance number and child's Birth Certificate. If you have already applied, please make sure you revalidate before the end of December as you **cannot access funding for the first time** if it is over three months since you initially applied.

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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 2021

We close for the Christmas break at 6pm on 23.12.21 and re-open 4 January 2022.

Covid

A polite reminder to please keep your child at home if they show any of the main symptoms of Covid 19. The symptoms are: a high temperature, a new, continuous cough (this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours); a loss or change to sense of smell or taste. Children showing any of these symptoms at nursery will need to be collected as soon as possible and a negative PCR test will be needed before they can return, alternatively they can isolate for 10 days. We have attached the up to date Covid Policy to this newsletter email.

Thank you all very much for helping to stop the spread of covid and keeping us all safe.

Twitter/Facebook

Please remember to 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.

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

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Safeguarding – mobile phones

Can I please remind everybody that under no circumstance are they allowed to use or get out their mobile phone whilst inside the nursery building. If you do need to use your phone, please step outside before doing so.

Thank you for helping to keep all of our children safe and your understanding on this matter

Finally I would just like to say what a pleasure it has been getting to know all of your amazing children and gradually getting to meet you all as well. Thank you for being so warm and welcoming! The office is always open, so please pop in any time.

Thank you

Neil Collins

Acting Manager

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Sensory play in the baby room



Pipette pumpkin painting in the toddlers



Constructive triangles and caring for our environment in Preschool

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

Maria Montessori