

DATE:- October 2021



It has been a very autumnal month. As we have started Forest school again, it has been great to see the children so excited about all the changes they are seeing outside. It has been lovely to see many of you share pictures of visits to pumpkin patches and your weekend shenanigans.

We hope you have been enjoying your scheduled longer handovers. We would like to offer these to you termly as this is a fantastic opportunity for your child's key worker to share their learning with you. It has been lovely to see such a positive response to the Montessori Learning Journeys and even better to see the contributions made by yourselves.

### Staff news

The time has come to say goodbye to Tina as she starts her Maternity leave. Tina's last day with us will be at the end of November. We wish Tina all the best with the birth of her daughter and are looking forward to her visiting in the new year.

Eleanor has joined our baby room team for 4 days a week. She has a degree in language and linguistics and is excited to start her new adventure with us at nursery. Eleanor comes from a very large family and has lots of experience with babies and young children, often volunteering at children's charities.



We have recently had Katie join the toddler room team. She is working Monday's and Tuesday's and is enjoying getting to know the nursery and the children. She has experience working in childcare settings and has two children of her own.

### Stay and Plays

We have enjoyed inviting you all back into nursery during our stay and plays. We have scheduled November's "stay and play's" for the following dates:

**Babies:** Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> November

**Toddlers:** Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November

**Preschool:** Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November

### Meet Ursula!



Ursula is our Toddler room leader and nursery Special Educational Needs Co-Ordinator (SENCO). Ursula has worked closely with other professionals to support families of children with additional needs such as autism, cerebral palsy, ADHD and development delays. Ursula assists the other practitioners in providing inclusive activities to support children's development.

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### Forest School

Thank you for providing your children with their "Forest School Kit", enabling them to have the opportunity to take part in the sessions - It has been great to see them so engaged. We have been exploring the autumnal season and the differences in our environment.

**Babies** have been exploring the different textured objects. The babies gathered them and mixed them all together, with the favourite object being "stick". The babies enjoyed tapping these together to make their own sounds.

**Toddlers** were keen to explore the different insects we could find. We found many different species living under the logs, particularly the "wiggly worms". The children then worked together to create a home for the worms, using leaves, mud and sticks.

**Preschool** have been busy collecting lots of conkers, which we then used for conker rolling and to practice our counting skills. Following the recent spark around pumpkins, the children then tried to make their own pumpkin pie in the garden using leaves, mud, and anything else they could find!

### Home Learning

When your child is playing with natural resources, what can be made? Faces? Sounds? Pies? The list is endless!! We would love to see what you have been able to create, please share with us on Tapestry!



### NEWS FROM OUR ROOMS

#### Babies

The babies have been exploring a lot of natural resources associated with Autumn. They explored inside pumpkins and used small ones to help splash in the water tray! The babies have been enjoying listening and singing to a variety of different nursery rhymes, practicing their actions too! As many of the babies are beginning to show signs of early walking, there has been many opportunities provided to support the babies' taking steps and pulling themselves up on the soft play.

#### Home Learning:

As the babies have loved the outdoors, you could use this as an opportunity to develop their language as you name objects in their natural environment. You could create sounds by tapping the sticks together too!



#### Toddlers:

The toddlers have had a pumpkin crazy month! They have looked at a variety of different pumpkins, all different shapes and sizes! They have been busy painting their own pumpkins, as they explored what happens when they mix red and yellow paint together. The children have been exploring the life cycle of a pumpkin, planting their own seeds, ready for next year. They used a variety of different tools to scoop the pulp out of the pumpkin and used the flesh to make their pumpkin scones with Helen!

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### Home Learning

When out on your autumnal walks, collect leaves to bring back home. You can create holes in these with a hole punch and you can create a threading activity, all you will need is some string or a shoelace!



### Pre-school

This month we have been getting very excited about the autumn changes that we can see. Pre-School have enjoyed going on many different walks and finding lots of leaves, acorns and sticks to make our own stickmen. Julia Donaldson stories have been very popular recently with previous interest been in the Gruffalo story and the Gruffalo's child. Many children have experienced picking pumpkins and many pumpkins have been collected in preschool. The children then arranged the pumpkins in size and weight order. They have also looked at the different parts of a pumpkin such as the seeds and the pulp. This lead onto looking at the pumpkin life cycle and that of an apple tree too!

### Home Learning:

We enjoy helping to prepare snack and have been scooping out the pumpkins with various tools. Encouraging children to help prepare meals provides them with many different skills such as chopping, serving, and measuring. Please share the different meals your children have helped prepare on Tapestry!

### Meal of the month:

#### Spiced Pumpkin Scones

Heat oven to 200C.

Dice the 200g of pumpkin and boil until soft in a pan, drain well and mash.

Rub 450g SR flour with 100g butter together in a bowl to make breadcrumbs.

Add 50g sugar and  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon of cinnamon, ginger and nutmeg.

Add the cooked pumpkin and 80ml milk to the flour mixture and quickly stir everything together (Add more milk if you need to)

Tip the mixture onto a floured surface and lightly bring together with your hands a couple of times.

Roll out until 4cm thick and stamp out rounds with a 7cm cutter.

Re-shape the trimmings until all the dough has been used.

Place the rounds on a lightly floured baking sheet and brush the tops with any remaining milk.

Bake for 10-12 mins until risen and lightly browned.

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**Reminders:**

As we are trying to ensure the children have as much fresh air and outdoor play as possible please can you pack the following in their bags:

1. Warm hat/Sun hat
2. Change of clothes x2
3. Waterproofs
4. Wellies

We want to minimise any cross over between children so would prefer each child to have their own wherever possible, which therefore minimises the risk of any sharing of clothing etc.

**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](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 £75.00 will be made where fees continue to be late.

**Nursery Dates:**

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December - Nursery Closed

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022 - Nursery Reopens

**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!

**30 hours Funding**

If you currently have 30 hours funding you need to revalidate your current code with HMRC to continue to get the funding from September. 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!

**Important Information:**

Every organisation that works with children needs to have someone that takes the lead on safeguarding and child protection. For Yorkshire Montessori Nursery, it is the nursery manager and deputy. We refer to them as a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). The DSL responds to child protection concerns and oversees the training of all our staff in safeguarding matters. At Strensall the Designated Safeguarding Leads are:

- **Becca Caselton**
- **Beckie MacGregor**

Becca 😊