

October 2023



Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you all enjoyed our October Stay and Play events as much as we did. We want to thank everyone who attended and joined in with the Halloween fun.

You will see fruit and vegetables have been a common theme running through all our rooms in October. The children have enjoyed exploring pumpkins, learning about the life cycle of apples and printing with vegetables.

Thank you everyone who has contributed to our food bank collection. This will be donated to the local community.



New staff

We would like to welcome Sara to our team. She is a qualified Early years teacher with lots of experience in Montessori settings from London to Leeds. Sara has a passion for music and art which she will incorporate to her teaching here. She will be working in the Preschool Room and be our nursery Third in Charge.



The Yorkshire Montessori Nursery

Baby room

During October we have been exploring Autumn fruits and vegetables. We used apples, potatoes, and pumpkins to print with, turning the shapes into spooky ghosts for Halloween.

We have continued with our spark of colour mixing from last month and explored this further creating a large artwork outside exploring different colours of powder paint.

We explored the texture of the outside and inside of pumpkins using our hands to scoop them out and feel the slimy inside.

We would like to thank everyone who joined us for our Halloween stay and play.

We enjoyed painting pumpkins and exploring jelly with bats and spiders.



Toddler room

Throughout October Toddlers have enjoyed learning about different celebrations including Harvest Festival, Halloween, and the National Day of Spain.

We have developed our language skills introducing some Spanish words such as "Hola" for hello and listened to some Spanish

October 2023

flamenco music with some of the children even having a go at Flamenco dancing.

We have been developing our role play based on home life experiences and set up an office space in the role play area. This has allowed us to explore different technology and widen our imaginations.

We have added a musical wall to our outdoor area using everyday objects, where the children created lots of different sounds, some of which were very loud!!



Preschool

This month Pre school have been focusing on caring for the world around them. We took part in recycling week where we explored the textures of different materials and helped to organise them into recycling and rubbish. We talked about the importance of not littering and used the litter grabbers to clear up any litter we found outside!

We have learnt all about apples! We created a tree on our classroom floor where we could go apple picking, taking turns to carefully walk along the lines. We used knives to safely cut open apples exploring how they look inside and made our own life cycles learning about how apples grow.

We have extended our learning to the wider community this month with a visit to a local nursing home. We dressed up in costumes and went trick or treating at the resident's doors. We loved getting to know the nursing home residents and are planning another visit soon.



Shared Learning.

Autumnal fruit and vegetables have been a big theme this month and this has included the children helping to prepare them for snack and mealtimes.

We help to prepare the children with practical life skills such as cutting up fruit, using different tools such as knives and apple cutters. They have also been learning how to use the tools safely. Toddlers have been using an apple cutter to cut their apples into slices for snack.

We also use fruit and vegetables when baking with the children, which all ages enjoy. Babies like to be involved in the mixing and Toddlers and Pre school can be involved in collecting the ingredients, following a recipe, and measuring out how much is needed.

We would love to see how your children help cook, bake, and prepare food at home.

Coming up this month

November 22nd - Preschool Alumni Stay and play 4.15- 5.30pm

November 16th and 17th - Children in need pyjama days and activities. There will be a collection box for donations.



Cookie Monster Treats

Ingredients :-

For the cookies

250g butter
350g brown sugar
2 large eggs
350g self raising flour
100g cocoa
200g chocolate chips

For the filling/decoration

Edible eyes/chocolate buttons
Cadbury's chocolate icing

Method

For the cookies:

Beat the sugar and butter until fluffy, before whisking in the eggs.

Fold in the flour and cocoa with a spoon, then add chocolate chips.

Chill mixture in the fridge for 30 minutes.

Roll into 70g balls and place onto a baking tray well spaced apart, then flatten slightly.

Bake at 180 degrees for 12 – 15 minutes, or until the edges turn crisp.

To create the MONSTER:

When cookies are fully cooled, slice them in half evenly.

Fill a piping bag with the chocolate icing. On the flat edge of one half, pipe a thick line from one side to the other.

Sandwich the cookies together on an angle.

Using a dab of the chocolate icing on a butter knife, stick the eyes to the top cookie facing outward.

(If using chocolate buttons, stick a white chocolate button inside the milk chocolate button using the icing, then stick to the cookie.)

3 & 4 Year Old Funding

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

If your child has their third birthday between 1st September 2023 to 31st December, your child will be eligible for funding from January. You can check your eligibility via Childcare Choices

at: <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

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!!**

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.

Facebook

If you'd like to follow us on Facebook, we'll keep you up to date with lots of activities here and other related interests too. Search for Yorkshire Montessori Nursery. Photos follow our strict guidelines, and we never identify a child by name or photo.

October 2023

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.

Extra Sessions

Please can we ask that if you require any extra sessions for your child or need to make a change to your permanent sessions, these must be confirmed by someone in the office. We ask for 1 months' notice to any change in permanent sessions to allow for payments to be amended.

Safeguarding

The designated safeguarding leads for our setting are **Imogen Hardy** and **Katie Hodgson**.

If you ever have any concerns about a child, or need any support please come and talk to us in confidence.

Nursery Holidays for 2023

Christmas Friday 22nd December - close
Reopen Tuesday 2nd January

Nursery Training days 2024

Thursday 28th March
Tuesday 27th August
Nursery will be closed these days for staff training

Imogen Hardy Nursery Manager

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