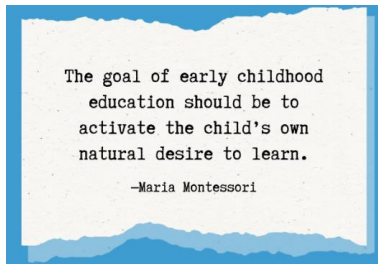


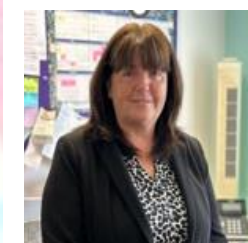
October 2023



Dear Parents,

October was another busy month at nursery. Lots of different autumnal weather to be experienced and enjoyed! Pumpkins were prominent across the nursery and the staff were creative in the many pumpkin related activities they devised for the children to enjoy, from life cycles to rolling them in paint and seeing how far the children could roll them across the paper spread out in the garden. We also enjoyed Space Week and World Singing Day!

I am delighted to introduce Karen to you all as she joins us as the nursery manager, we hope she will be very happy with us.



Hello to all our families at the Strensall Montessori Nursery. I have managed to meet many of you since I arrived and will

endeavour to introduce myself to those who I haven't yet spoken to. Thank you so very much for being so welcoming. You have amazing children who have also welcomed me with lots of cuddles and stories. They are delightful and have made my move back to working in nurseries very enjoyable. I have seen some lovely activities in all three rooms where the staff engage and support your children in developing their curious minds and nurturing their independence. I have worked for 40+ years in many roles, all except one of them linked to children and their families, including:- being employed as a manager in three other nurseries, (2 of these being NHS staff nurseries; a women's refuge with children; occupational therapy - sensory integration therapies; 2 local authorities to implement the



National Childcare Strategy and introducing Children's Centres as well as acting as an advisor to the local authority to support a transition between Local Authority.

Directly before I came to Strensall Montessori Nursery, I was a manager at a Further Education College where I was responsible for a number of areas which included Early Years, Health and Social Care and Counselling.

I had always intended to return to working directly in nurseries and I am definitely happy to have been appointed at Strensall Montessori Nursery. I am looking forward to working with you all. In my spare time I love to travel, Italy is my favourite destination.

**We hope you will come and join us for our Christmas Fayre on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December 10-12**

**There will be activities to explore throughout the nursery, refreshments and a Festive Tombola.**

**As always contributions for the Tombola or raffle will be gratefully received. We will be raising funds for The Trussell Trust**



Nursery Holidays for 2023

22.12.23 – Close for Christmas – reopen 2nd January

Staff Training Days for 2024

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> August

Nursery will be closed on these dates

Nursery News

Babies

In October we welcomed several new children to the nursery, they are all settling well and enjoying exploring their new environment. We have explored

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various sizes of pumpkin, the children particularly enjoyed washing them after they had been used for a painting activity! We have had a lot of sensory exploration in the room, the children used their hands, different sized containers and some tools to transfer rice, oats, water and pasta. The children love to fill and empty the containers and showed increasing control using the spoons. The children also enjoyed exploring paint, again using their hands and brushes to create marks on paper, the floor, the walls and themselves!! As well as inside activities we have been out and about, playing in the garden, joining in with the toddlers and pre school children. We have also been further afield and enjoyed Autumn walks to the park, having a great time playing with different leaves.



### Home Learning

Transferring is a great way for children to develop their gross and fine motor skills, their concentration and allows them to make independent choices of what to move and what to use. Wooden and stainless-steel containers and utensils are ideal and dried pasta, sand and rice the perfect items to transfer. Let us know what activities your child enjoys at home; the children love to see photos of themselves so please send them in.

### Toddlers

The children in Toddlers really embraced Space Week with lots of super activities. The children matched planets, matched rockets, read stories and learnt new songs – a favourite being '5 Little Men in a Flying Saucer'. We have talked a lot about size and texture and explored many different materials and objects. Throughout the month the children continued to explore Practical Life activities which involved pouring, transferring, scooping, sweeping and tidying. The children have enjoyed helping to care for their environment and resources. These activities help the children to develop skills that they will carry forward, serving their own food and drinks and becoming independent learners, making choices and understanding the need for routines and boundaries.

Halloween brought lots of excitement and ingenious ways to use and explore pumpkins, the children thoroughly enjoyed scooping out the flesh and looking at the seeds. They have been involved in the whole life cycle of some of the pumpkins so it was great to have this experience and I am sure we will be planting some of the seeds for next year!



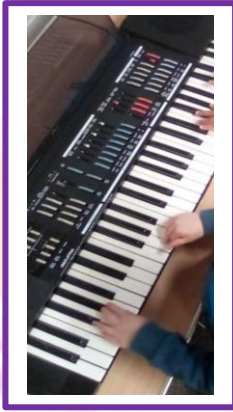
### Home Learning

The children have enjoyed looking after their nursery environment, both inside and out. They have used different tools and equipment from dusters to brushes and cloths to scrubbing sponges. Do the children help you at home? We are always delighted to see any photos you add to Tapestry so please let us know how the children help at home.

### Pre school

Autumn was thoroughly explored in Pre school! From looking at the colours of the season the children created their own autumnal colours using paint and discussed the light and dark shades they made, rice was coloured to be used in our everyday activities which the children enjoyed helping to prepare and set out for all to use. The children enjoyed Autumn walks and collected many different leaves to bring back to nursery to discuss size and colour and to use in their creative works. The life cycle of a pumpkin was also explored, and the children were able to discuss and arrange the different stages. The children are very much drawn to our Sensorial area at the moment creating marvellous buildings using the different materials, we can see great concentration and cooperative play, deciding what to use where, working out solutions and sharing ideas. This has also created lots of mathematical language opportunities, discussing size and shape. The children continue to enjoy listening to stories and can often be found in the book corner looking at books together and handling them with care – The Very Hungry Caterpillar remains a favourite and the children can now tell each other parts of the story. The children thoroughly enjoyed World Singing Day. They sang both familiar and new songs and explored different instruments.

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### Safeguarding

Karen, Tina and myself are the Designated Safeguarding Lead's at the nursery, if you have any worries, concerns or need help and support please come and talk to us.

Please remember that we go outside in all weathers. Please ensure that your child has suitable clothing and footwear for the colder weather. Also please check their spare clothes are topped up so we can change them as needed and return any borrowed spares.

### Home Learning

The children really enjoyed exploring instruments and we extended that by making our own. This website has 5 easy instruments you can make at home using everyday items [www.bbcgoodfood.com](http://www.bbcgoodfood.com). If you have a go, please can your child bring their instrument in to nursery, and we will create our very own band!



### Illness

The season of coughs and sneezes is upon us, and we ask that you please respect our policy to reduce illness spreading and keep children out of nursery who are unwell and 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. Please remember to let us know if your child has had Calpol at home when you drop them off. Thank you.

**Recipe of the month this week is a definite favourite (especially of mine!!)**

### Fish pie

Peel and dice **2 Sweet potatoes** and dice **2 White potatoes** but leave the skins on, and add to boiling water, bring back to the boil & simmer for 20 mins or until soft, drain well & add a little dairy free flora & mash.

Add **2 Salmon** & **2 White fish** fillets to a pan of boiling water bring to the boil and simmer for 3 mins

### Parsley sauce

Melt **100g dairy free flora** then add **100g plain flour** stir continuously until a paste forms. (This is called a roux). continue cooking for 1 min, add **1pt milk** to the roux gradually, (if lumpy blend with the hand blender) cook continuously until the sauce has thickened, add **1tsp Parsley** & **100g of Sweetcorn** (can be used from frozen) stir well.

Place in roasting tins & cover with mash potato. Bake 180c until **golden brown**.

**Enjoy!**

October 2023

Here are our festive celebrations.

Friday 8th December

Christmas Jumper day!

Children and staff will enjoy their day wearing their Christmas jumpers/t-shirts.

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December (4-5.30pm)

**Christmas sing-a-long** with Pre-school and Toddlers. Please let a member of staff know if you plan to attend. Children who do not usually attend on Tuesdays are welcome to attend with parents / carers.

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December

**Christmas Lunch** - the children who attend on Wednesdays will join together for a delicious Christmas Lunch.

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December

**Party Tea** the children who attend on Thursdays will be having a fun Party Tea!

[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, @yorksmontessori on Twitter and on facebook at @yorksmontessori

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 January.**

If you are applying for funding for the first time from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024, you can check that you are eligible via Childcare Choices at: <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

please do so before 31<sup>st</sup> 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!!

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.

You can contact us at the nursery on [strensall@yorkshiremontessorinursery.co.uk](mailto:strensall@yorkshiremontessorinursery.co.uk) and Allison at Head Office on [headoffice@yorkshiremontessorinursery.co.uk](mailto:headoffice@yorkshiremontessorinursery.co.uk)

Best wishes  
Debbie