

The child gives us
a beautiful lesson—that
in order to form and
maintain our
intelligence, we must
use our hands.
—Maria Montessori

@weareteachers

Dear Parents,

February has flown by, and we all enjoyed celebrating Chinese New Year, Pancake Day and Valentines Day. We have also been delighted with the change in the weather and seeing some sunshine and early signs that Spring is just around the corner!! We are excitedly waiting to hear that Rowntree Park has been able to reopen as the flood waters have finally gone down. This is one of our favourite places to explore with the children along with the Reading Café so you can be sure we will be back there very soon!



We would like to invite you to our next Stay & Play events. These will be Wednesday 20th March, Babies and Toddlers from 4.30 to 5.45p and Tues 26th Pre-school. We will be celebrating all things Spring and hope you can join us. You will be able to enjoy activities in your child's room as well as visit the other rooms and chat to staff.

Nursery Holidays/Closures

28.03.2024 – Staff Training Day

29.03.24 & 01.04.2024 – Easter Bank Holidays

06.05.2024 – May Day Bank Holiday

27.05.2024 – Spring Bank Holiday

26.08.2024 – Late Summer Bank Holiday

27.08.2024 – Staff Training Day

23.12.24 – Nursery Closes for the Christmas Break

2-, 3- & 4-Year-Old Funding

You can check your funding eligibility via Childcare Choices

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

once you have applied and received a code please bring that into nursery along with your NI number and child's passport, Birth Certificate or Red book. Please return your completed declaration form as soon as possible – Sent out on Tapestry 26th February.

Please let us know if you have any questions. If you have already applied, please make sure you revalidate before the end of March as **you cannot** access funding for the first time if it is over three months since you initially applied!!

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

Reopen – 2nd January 2025

Immunisations

As you will be aware there is some national concern around the increase in infectious diseases such as measles. As a part of this we will be updating our immunisation records by re-completing the immunisation forms that were initially completed when your child came to the nursery.

If you would like to find out more about immunisations and the current concerns, the QR codes below may help.

Scan here:

MMR for all leaflet
qrco.de/MMRFORALL



Preschool

immunisations

qrco.de/PreSchool



You can also access the QR codes as links in the nursery entrances.

Nursery News

Babies - February was a very messy month in the baby room!! Shaving foam was a favourite with added paint, this was used to decorate the children, the floor, the toys and some walls - a great time was had by all! The children have also made marks in flour, some using their hands and vehicles, others their whole selves. The children looked like ghosts at the end of the activity!! We have explored different sounds using musical instruments and using words loud, quiet, and soft to describe what we could hear, this also led to some interesting dance moves and very loud singing! We have enjoyed getting out and about in our local community and visited the river, walking along the path looking for leaves and sticks. The children continue to show great interest in vehicles with to play with and to spot on our walks. Soft play has been very popular, particularly crawling through our tunnel and 'surprising' everyone when they pop out of the end.



Home Learning

Like all the best learning experiences in early childhood, music activities simultaneously promote development in multiple domains. Singing a lullaby while rocking a baby stimulates early language development, promotes attachment, and supports an infant's growing spatial awareness as the child experiences their body moving in space. Music, because it is so often shared with others in singing, dancing, and playing instruments together, is by its very nature a social experience. Our children love to listen to different genres of music as well as their

favourites songs! They also love to explore sound with the different instruments, as well as pots and pans! You can make a variety of shakers using empty bottles and by adding things such as rice, dried peas, buttons etc the children hear different sounds. What music does your child enjoy, favourite songs – these don't have to be children's songs either!! Let us know so we can share them at nursery – I feel a disco coming on!!

Toddlers - Under 2's

We have enjoyed spending time outside with the children as the weather has improved. We have been developing our gross motor skills, running and jumping and creating balancing opportunities for the children to explore. Shapes have been a big spark for the children and they have been able to recognise and name circles, squares and triangles and make arrangements and patterns with them, we have extended this with lots of puzzles which they have really enjoyed. We introduced the Insets for Design to the children, this is a Montessori activity to develop hand/eye co-ordination and mark making, the children had a great time using these with the help of staff - the triangle was a particular favourite. We took this spark outside too with shapes on a larger scale!! Bouncing balls along the floor to create splashes and bubbles was great fun! The children also explored shape and colour using our large construction blocks and duplo - so much conversation about what they were building and the colours of the resources.



Home Learning

One of the most important benefits of toddlers learning about shapes is that it helps them develop early literacy and numeracy skills. The shapes that we see all around us in our everyday lives are the same shapes that make up the letters and numbers in our alphabet and number system! What shape activities does your child enjoy at home? When we are out and about we also discuss the shapes we see in the environment – the children love to look for a given shape. Do they have a favourite puzzle? Please send a photo of them with them so we can share these with their friends.

Toddlers - Over 2's

To extend our Chinese New Year celebrations we have looked further at China. This involved making our own noodles with Dawn's help and trying to use chopsticks to transfer noodles from one pot to another. We looked at the flag of China and a world map to see where the country is in relation to us and saw that it is much bigger and on the continent of Asia. We looked at Chinese numbers and had a go painting them using water colours and fine paint brushes - such concentration!! Outside the children worked together to build the Great Wall of China. We have been further afield too and the children were excited to spot some early spring flowers and spent a long time looking at the shape of their petals and the colour - lots of purple ones were spotted!!



Home Learning

When we are out and about the children love to have something specific to look for, this month it has been flowers, but it could be shapes, vehicles, animals, or fruit and veg in the shop. These 'treasure hunts' encourage communication observational skills and are great fun! These activities can also be used on car journeys – I am sure you do this. What do your children like to look for, please let us know and we can create some spotter sheets for the different things - our children love a clipboard!!

Pre school

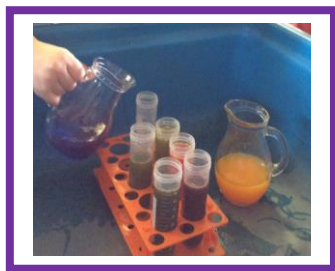
Chinese New Year was also celebrated in Pre school and we were delighted to have Evelyn's parents come and join us. They explained to the children how they decorate their home for the celebrations, the children listened really well and went on to make their own Chinese lantern decoration to take home. The children particularly enjoyed performing a dragon dance and were fascinated by 'The Great Race' story which created the zodiac, they were all eager to know what animal they were. For Valentines Day we talked about emotions and lots of activities and discussions were sparked by the book 'The Colour Monster'. The children talked about the people we love and how we feel when we are with those people. This also led to discussions about other emotions we may have. Colour mixing was also sparked from the book and the children experimented with two primary colours and made predictions about what colour they would make when mixed together and compared the shades they had made. Jewellery has also been a big spark! So many bracelets and necklaces have been made and threading skills have improved no end and the children have gone from needing help to thread to be able to do this independently. Outdoors the children have been helping to tidy the garden and Yard, lots of sweeping and collecting leaves and making both

February 2024

areas look ready for Spring and lots of exciting



activities!



Home Learning

Threading can be a challenging activity that takes a while for children to master and is very much dependent on their maturity and fine motor development. Our children have enjoyed threading heart shaped pasta but there are so many things you could use:- set of plastic or wooden beads and string, thread macaroni onto a string, large buttons or spools onto a string, pierce a hole into flowers or leaves and make a nature necklace, thread cereal loops to make an edible necklace – threading onto dried spaghetti takes some skill!!! Let us know if you have a go at any of these at home!

Safeguarding

Please can we ask that you **do not use** your phone whilst in nursery premises. This is part of our safeguarding policy, and we appreciate your help in keeping all our children safe. Thank you

Fiona and I are the Designated Safe guarding Lead's at the nursery, if you have any worries, concerns or need help and support please come and talk to us.

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.

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.

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

You can contact us at the nursery on fulford@yorkshiremontessorinursery.co.uk

Allison at Head Office on headoffice@yorkshiremontessorinursery.co.uk

Best wishes

Rachael

