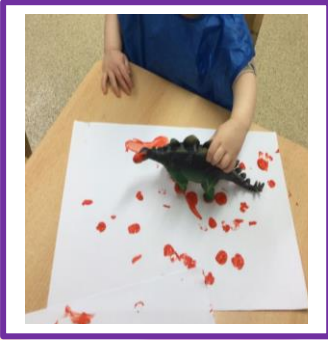


February 2024



The Yorkshire
**Montessori
Nursery**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy March, thank goodness we are beginning to see a little sunshine!

The children have been getting out a little more and soaking up some much-needed vitamin D! Soon we will be gardening, planting vegetables and so much more.

As you can see, we have new staff members joining us, I know you will all make them feel at home in our little community. We are also welcoming a few new children to make friends with the children at nursery.

We would like to invite you to our Spring themed Stay & Play sessions this month. We hope you can join us.

- **Babies - 19th March 4.30-5.30**
- **Toddlers - 21st March 4.30-5.30**
- **Pre School-20th March 4.30-5.30**



We would like to welcome our new Deputy Manager Amanda. Amanda will also be the new room leader in Toddlers. We are looking forward to her becoming a part of the team and sharing her Forest school expertise with us all over the spring and summer.



Johana will be joining us as an Early Years Educator and working across Babies and Toddlers.

My name is Johana and I feel privileged to positively impact children's lives during the most precious developmental years.

I like spending quality time with my family and friends and to exercise.

I'm very happy to be part of the team. And I look forward to start caring and connecting with the children and meeting you all.



To celebrate Red Nose Day, we would like to invite everyone to wear red on Friday.

Would like the children to bring in their favourite joke to share with their friends. This can be all children over the week not just on Friday.

There will be a pot for donations.

Please remember that nursery will be closed on 28th March for Staff Training

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Nursery News

Baby room

Babies have been following sparks based around 'things that move'. They have been exploring with cars, boats, buses and trains, making marks in flour and paint. They have loved singing The Wheels on the Bus and are now fluent with the action! The children have enjoyed trips out to look at vehicles and visited the train station to watch the trains come and go. This will be continued into March.

Babies have also enjoyed celebrating Chinese New Year and Valentines Day, hopefully you liked your gifts!

Independent food preparation is also something the babies love to do. They have been exploring the outside of some new fruit and chopping and tasting lots of fruit and veg!



Home Learning

Independence and self-care have also been a focus. They have been washing hands, wiping faces and trying to put their shoes on independently, perhaps you can practise some of these skills at home

too! Please upload any photos' to Tapestry so we can share them with their friends.

Toddler Room

In Toddlers we have been enjoying and exploring different celebrations such as Chinese New Year and St Valentine's Day. Following on from these celebrations we have thought about kindness and love and different ways we can help ourselves and others. We also looked at numbers written in Chines and tried to create them ourselves.

The children have been also investigating playdough using different textures (softer and harder) and using different tools such as knives, baking trays, natural resources... etc

The children have been spending more time outdoors moving their whole body coordination in obstacle courses. It was lovely to see them challenging themselves and growing in independence.



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Home Learning

The children are very interested in numbers at the moment and love to sing number songs.

Do you have any favourites at home - we would love to know so we can add them to our repertoire!!

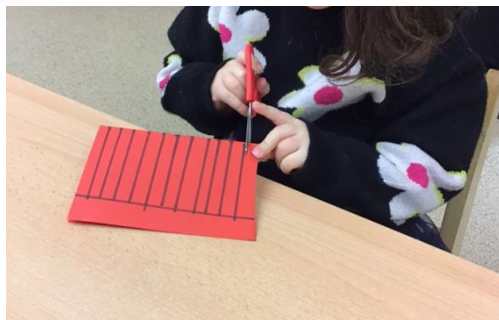
Pre School

Pre school also had a busy month celebrating! The children really enjoyed the story of The Great Race and naming the animals in the Chinese zodiac. They explored lots of different Chinese New Year crafts, making, fans, lanterns, and dragons. There were some great cutting skills on show!

For Valentine's Day the children continued to practice their cutting skills, cutting out hearts and they all worked together to make cornflake buns. A favourite activity was matching number and quantity using heart shapes.

The new vocabulary in Spanish has been focused on love, hugs and kisses.

Many of the children are showing interest in looking at letters and the sound they make. We have been using our Sandpaper Letters and the children enjoyed matching uppercase and lowercase letters to help them with writing their name. There is lots of mark making happening too.



Home Learning

The children are really enjoying helping to prepare snack for themselves and their friends. They can peel a small orange, use appropriate tools to cut bananas, apples and pears. Do they like to do this at home? Please upload any photos to Tapestry so they can share these skills with their friends.

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

20.12.24 – Nursery Closes for the Christmas break

Reopen – 2nd January 2025

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.

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.

Please return your completed declaration form as soon as possible – let us know if you have any questions.

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Blueberry Slice

Ingredients:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| - 150g Self Raising Flour | - 4 Large Eggs |
| - 150g Margarine | - 100g Oats |
| - 150g Light Brown Sugar | - 85g Blueberries |

Method:

- Cream together margarine and sugar until soft and fluffy.
- Add in the flour and whisked eggs. Combine thoroughly.
- Stir through the oats, leaving a handful to the side, and all of the blueberries.
- Line a medium sized square baking tray with parchment paper. Add your mixture to the pan, level it out with the back of the spoon and sprinkle the remaining oats on top.
- Bake at 180° for approx. 20 minutes. Pierce in the centre with a skewer or knife to
- Check - if it comes out clear, your bake is ready!
- Enjoy



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

Coming up next month

- Ramadan starting 10th
- Martin House Bunny hop
- Healthcare Science Week 11th-15th
- Red Nose Day 15th
- World Oral Health Day 20th
- International Colour Day 21st

Safeguarding

Parent phone use in nursery

Safeguarding your children is our top priority. We would like to remind you not to use your mobile devices whilst in the nursery. Please ensure that your devices are put away before coming into the nursery.

The designated safeguarding leads for our setting are **Imogen Hardy** And **Amanda Brookshaw**.

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

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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.

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.



Imogen Hardy Nursery Manager
Amanda Brookshaw: Deputy Manager
headingley@yorkshiremontessorinursery.co.uk