

February 2024



Dear parents and carers,

The weather is beginning to take a slight turn for the better and the days are getting a little brighter and longer and the children are enjoying exploring outdoors at nursery and further afield.

We do go out in all weathers so please can we ask that you check your child's nursery bag regularly to ensure they have clothes they can get changed into and that they have a coat and wellies to ensure they stay warm and dry when we are outside. Thank you.

As it is World Book Day on 7th March, I wanted to share this lovely website with you all.

Lovemybooks is for parents, carers, teachers, schools, and early years staff, created by literacy experts. Free and ad free with over 250 activity pages full of creative book-based ideas. There may be things on there to interest you and your children - have a look and let us know if you find anything exciting!
www.lovemybooks.co.uk

Events to come:

7th March - World Book Day
8th - 17th March - Science week.
19th March - Preschool stay and play.
21st March - Babies and toddlers stay and play
28th March - Nursery closed for Training Day.
29th March closed for Good Friday.
1st April closed for Easter Monday.

Funding for Childcare...

As most of you will be aware in addition to the current government funding towards childcare costs for 3 and 4 year olds, from April, there will be new funding for 2 year olds.

It is important that you go on to the Childcare Choices website to check your eligibility - you can use the link below. (Please...remember to bring in your codes!!)

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

A brief summary of the new funding is below.

*From **April 2024**, eligible working parents of 2-year-olds will be able to access 15 hours childcare support.

*From **September 2024**, 15 hours childcare support will be extended to eligible working parents of children from the age of 9 months to 3-year-olds.

*From **September 2025**, eligible working parents of children under the age of 5 will be entitled to 30 hours of childcare a week.

Please remember to revalidate your code every three months for it to remain valid.

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

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initially completed when your child came to the nursery.

If you would like to find out more about immunisations and the current concerns, there are QR code links in the nursery entrances

Nursery News

We have welcomed Kaysie to our Toddler team:-



Hello, I am delighted to have joined the team here. I have a level 2 childcare qualification and am working towards my Level 3. I have an interest in supporting children with special needs having spent time working as a 1:1 support. In my spare time I love to travel and shop! I am looking forward to getting to know everyone.

Baby room

We were tremendously busy throughout February in the Baby Room. We spent time learning about Chinese New Year which the children really seemed to enjoy! For this, we made our own lanterns, fans and tiger masks. Lots of the children in the baby room have also been very interested in animal books recently and they have started to learn and understand lots of the different noises that certain animals make. We have also enjoyed sensory tuff trays and trips to the local park to try and spot wildlife. The children have really been enjoying the sensory play with their hands and feet to explore new materials and textures. We have had more messy play in baby room and noticed a new love for slime and water play.



We have been sharing lots of books and the children have been loving all things animals! We would love to continue this at home and if your child has a favourite book or story please let us know.



'Dear Zoo' is one of our favourite books in the baby room and, if you happen to have this story at home, we would like to encourage parents to read it with their children at home and try to introduce puppets or animal toys to accompany the story in order to help the children's understanding of the story and to help them follow it along.

Toddler room

We have been exploring the season of Winter and spending time looking at various winter animals and their habitats. We have also been spending lots of time outside and

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enjoying all the different elements of Winter.

The children particularly enjoyed exploring forest school, looking for signs of spring and minibeasts!



Chinese New Year was also celebrated in the toddler room and the children loved creating lanterns and trying some traditional Chinese snacks with their friends.

They have also been very noisy, singing at all times of the day and learning lots of new songs. They have loved singing songs about animals, 5 Little Monkeys and Leo the Lion are the favourites. Because of all the singing we have been doing lots of animal activities; naming animals, animal habitats and animal families.



With the weather changing and getting brighter we have been spending more time outside and going on trips out of nursery to the

park collecting resources for our painting and messy play. We are planning trips to Tropical World and to The Little Gym for new adventures.

We are delighted to have Arlo the hamster joining the room for us to look after and learn about; he is very gentle!



We are focusing on independence in toddler room, encouraging children to try things first before asking for help, self-serving, dressing themselves i.e. coats, socks, trousers etc. and toileting. We would love to wsee what the children can do for themselves at home, please upload any photos to Tapestry for us to share with their friends.

Preschool

Preschool children were very busy celebrating throughout February - Chinese New Year, Valentines Day and Pancake Day as well as several birthdays! We also joined in with

National Story Telling Week
For Chinese New Year, we tried some Chinese food and practised using chopsticks in order to pick up and transfer different objects.

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Numbers have been a real spark for lots of children. We expanded our knowledge of counting by using concrete materials like beads and buttons as counters as well as exploring the Montessori maths materials.



Our upcoming topic is going to be about 'Care of the Environment'. For this, we are going to be doing lots of planting of flowers and vegetables at nursery and furthering our understanding by exploring the life cycle of a plant.

If you have any pictures of the children doing some planting at home, or just spending time outdoors in nature, then please share these with us on Tapestry.

Nursery Holidays for 2024.

28th March - Nursery Closed Staff Training
29th March - Good Friday
1st April - Easter Monday
6th May - May Day Bank Holiday
27th May - Spring Bank Holiday
26th August - Summer Bank Holiday
27th August - Nursery Closed Staff Training

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.

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 £100.00 will be made where fees continue to be late.

The annual fee increase will take place on 1st April 2024 Many thanks.

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