

To assist a child is  
to provide him with an  
environment that will  
enable him to develop  
freely.

—Maria Montessori

### Dear Parents,

Thank you to everyone who came to our Stay & Play session. It was so lovely to see so many families enjoying their visit and the children enjoying sharing their nursery activities with you. We are so happy to be able to spend more time outdoors as the weather improves, please remember to make sure your child has appropriate clothing for all weathers – I am not sure the rain has done with us just yet!!

Thank you to all of you who helped us celebrate World Book Day by coming in to read a story to the children.

### Staff News

We are sad to be saying 'Goodbye' to Catherine this month, she has decided to pursue her love of music going forward and we wish her well.

We have welcomed Sofia to nursery and continue with our recruitment.



Hello, my name is Sofia.

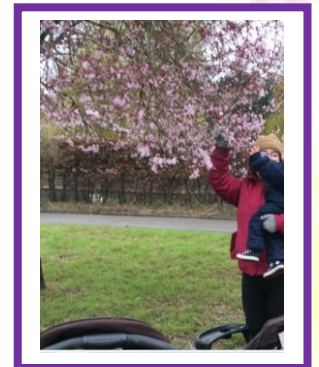
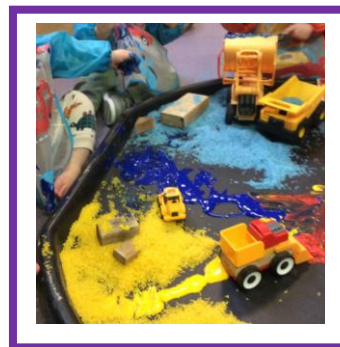
Last year I gained my Level 3 Early Years qualification while working in a Nursery. In September I moved to York to study for a degree in education. I am looking forward to meeting all the children and their families while working at the Nursery.

We are delighted to let you know that Jade has completed her Montessori training, this has involved lots of work and we are very proud of her!

### Nursery News

**Babies** - this month the babies have enjoyed lots of sensory play using various items. A favourite was dried porridge oats with added dinosaurs!!

The children moved the models around and encouraged them to 'eat', they made marks in the oats as they stamped their feet. The children also helped to colour rice using the primary colours and once dry, vehicles were added to make marks and move the rice around. The children decided to add themselves to the mix and had a great time mark making on a much bigger and messier scale!! Farms and farm animals continue to be popular sparks and we have created interactive trays with the animals and tractors to increase the children's vocabulary, we have also loved singing 'Old MacDonald Had a Farm' to practice the names and sounds! We have been delighted to be able to get back into Rowntree Park now the flood waters have receded. The children have enjoyed looking out for flowers and the ducks on the pond. They were very excited to find a horse statue in the park!



### Home Learning

Messy play is all about learning through experience. It involves using all five senses to explore how things feel, smell and taste, as well as what they look and sound like when we interact with them. You can give your child the freedom to use messy play materials in whatever way they like to help encourage them to learn independently.

Messy play can also really aid your child's physical development. Through play, they will be developing things like fine and gross motor skills, and hand-eye coordination.

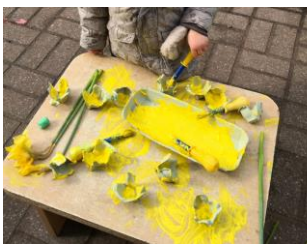
[24 Sensory Activities for 1-2 Year Olds \(funsensoryplay.com\)](https://funsensoryplay.com) - there are lots of fun ideas

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suggested here – please send in any photos if you try some out!

### Toddlers - Under 2's

Spring has definitely sprung in our room. The children have been so excited on our recent walks spotting signs that Spring has arrived. This has provided lots of opportunity for new language, names of flowers, colours and where they were found - blossom was a particular favourite when it was spotted!! This also led to lots of running and jumping trying to reach the lower branches. Back at nursery the children were keen to make their own flowers and interpretations of blossom, they also explored mark making with actual flowers! Farm animals continue to be of interest to the children and we have seen some lovely co-operative play sharing the animals. We have talked about where the animals live and the children are very good at making the noises!! Role play has been great fun this month, from bakeries to shopping this has give the children lots of opportunities to play together, explore new language and talk about their likes and dislikes - cake was definitely popular!



### Home Learning

We witness role play daily; the majority of the scenarios are rooted in children's own experiences. Role play enables them to enact these experiences in a context that gives them control of the play scenario. This type of play helps children to address emotional and social issues that other types of play may not facilitate. It provides tools for learning about resolution of conflict and

opportunities to address anxieties that may lie buried in the subconscious. Shops, cafes and tea parties are the most popular at nursery and the children love to use natural and real objects. Please send us any photos of you and your children engaging in role play – they love to share these with their friends.

### Toddlers - Over 2's

The children have also enjoyed exploring Spring on walks to the park and along the riverbank. At nursery the children enjoyed exploring flowers, looking at and naming the different parts, arranging mark making and creating still life works of art. As we celebrated St Patrick's Day Ireland was our country of the month. We explored the colours of the flag, creating our own by mixing prime colours to match them. We also found a delicious recipe for potato scones, leaving out the salt but adding some herbs. Cleaning has been a great spark this month! The children have cared for environment by washing tables, chairs, wellies, cupboard doors, the floor and frankly anything they came across! They have used cloths and dustpans and brushes with increasing control. They have also shown increasing control with pouring and transferring activities refining their skills beautifully. The children really enjoyed being scientists during British Science week - a favourite experiment being what would make bubbles when added to water - including toothpaste! This led to all sorts of discussions about changes and floating and sinking.





### Home

Spring clearly well at nursery.

children are keen to help in lots of ways from baking to washing and putting things away. All these are practical life skills that we encourage the children to take part in on a large scale initially but then introducing resources to refine these skills and encourage independence.

We would love to know what jobs they like to help you with – cooking, the washing, dusting, hoovering? Please upload any photos to Tapestry for us to talk about with the children.

### Pre school

We really enjoyed celebrating World Book Day, the children loved listening to parents read stories to them and in turn 'read' stories to each other. Using inspiration from familiar stories some of the children made their own books, dictating their stories for staff to write and creating their own illustrations - these were amazing, and they loved sharing them with their friends. During Science week we looked at the life cycle of an apple, we also made predictions as to what changes may occur to an apple left for a period of time - there were some interesting thoughts and ideas and lots of fabulous discussions. The children are eagerly awaiting the first signs that their sunflower seeds are starting to grow! The children have enjoyed lots of walks along the riverbank and in the park, keen to be the first to spot more signs of Spring! The children have been very keen to prepare their own snack and have used tools safely to cut various fruit and vegetables. They also worked together weigh, mix, transfer and grate to make a carrot cake muffins which were delicious!

### Learning

cleaning is under way  
The



### Home Learning

The children really enjoy experiments, making predictions and talking about what happens. Lots of experiments can be conducted at home using everyday household objects. You can download an Early Years Science pack here which is full of great ideas. Remember to upload your photos to Tapestry for us to share.

[www.britishscienceweek.org](http://www.britishscienceweek.org)



### Safeguarding

As we are out and about a lot more as the weather improves we need to remind the children of road safety and the need to be aware of their surroundings when walking on footpaths, near parked and moving vehicles. Please help us by having these conversations with your children as they approach and leave nursery to help develop their traffic awareness.

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.

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.

### Potato Scones

We used the recipe from BBC Good Food website

#### Ingredients

- 450g (1lb) Flourey potatoes, peeled and cooked
- Pinch of herbs
- 2oz butter
- 4oz self raising flour

#### Method

Mash potatoes, add herbs and butter and flour to give a stiff mixture.

Turn out onto floured surface, knead lightly and roll out to a thickness of 1cm (1/2inch).

Cut into shapes and cook on a hot greased griddle for 4-5 min on each side.

Serve hot

#### 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@yorkshireremontessorinursery.co.uk](mailto:headoffice@yorkshireremontessorinursery.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

#### Nursery Holidays/Closures

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

Reopen – 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2025

#### 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@yorkshireremontessorinursery.co.uk](mailto:fulford@yorkshireremontessorinursery.co.uk)

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Allison at Head Office on  
[headoffice@yorkshiremontessorinursery.co.uk](mailto:headoffice@yorkshiremontessorinursery.co.uk)

Best wishes

Rachael