

March 2024



The Yorkshire
**Montessori
Nursery**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to those of you who came to our stay and play sessions, we hope you enjoyed your visit, it was lovely to see you. It is so important for the children to be able to welcome you into 'their' nursery and share their experiences with you.

Our new staff members felt it was so valuable to be able to get to know you all a little better, we hope you felt the same way too.

We are all embracing the sunshine and beginning to focus on springtime and all the new life it brings!

Baby room

Our babies have been busy exploring the weather this month as the season changes. They have focussed on the rain, having fun puddle jumping and colour mixing. They have been reading stories and talking about animals and flowers in springtime. Babies have planted seeds so that they can watch them grow, made their own duck pond in the garden and made bird feeders too.

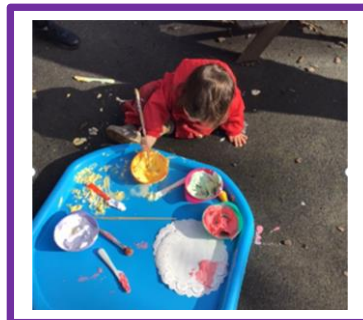
The children gain so much from messy play, it's lovely to see them taking it outside again where they can explore the natural resource. We hope you enjoyed our stay and play and getting to know Emma a little better, she certainly enjoyed chatting to you all.

We have been talking about our feelings and identifying and naming emotions using The Colour Monster book. This will continue into April along with weather and under the sea.

New Staff Member



Hi! My name is Ilana. I have a degree in Childhood studies and many years of childcare experience, mainly in nursery settings. I am working towards an Early Years Teacher qualification. In my free time I enjoy baking, reading, travelling, and spending time in nature. I look forward to meeting and getting to know all the children and parents and working with the other practitioners to provide a positive and enriching environment for the children to learn.



Home Learning

Playing outside is fun, exciting, and important for children's learning and development. From enjoying a walk with your baby in their pram, to pushing your toddler on the swings. The great outdoors gives children plenty to explore. They'll embrace the freedom and space the outdoors gives them to shout, toddle, jump, run around, hop and skip. Being outside is an exciting sensory experience for babies and toddlers. Babies will enjoy the

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exciting visuals on offer as you take them for a walk outdoors. Toddlers love the chance to explore different spaces and touch natural objects. Leaves, pinecones, and puddles included. Playing outside is important as it gives your little one the chance to look around and learn. While you're having fun as a family, taking your children outdoors and supporting their play is also helping their development.

What are your favourite outdoor activities to do as a family? We would love to see your photos on Tapestry.

Toddler Room

In Toddlers we have been busy exploring Spring, enjoying activities and looking for seasonal changes when we have been outside.. We have been planting, learning about flowers and their life cycle. We will be continuing this into April as we observe everything come to life. We have had lots of fun with sensory activities including gloop, playdough, sand and water play, using all our senses to explore different textures. We have also added herbs into our sensory play to stimulate our sense of smell. We have been exploring Montessori equipment and in particular the Pink Tower and Broad Stair. The children have been able to order from large to small and use mathematical language such as big, bigger and biggest and small, smaller and smallest, they have taken this vocabulary out into the garden too, looking for the biggest and smallest sticks and leaves.



Home Learning

Spring is such a great time for Montessori work. There's so much you can do with items found in nature and it's a good excuse to slow

down your walks, talking the time to explore and notice all the little details.

Most children going through the Sensitive Period for Small Objects (~3 months to 4 years) really enjoy noticing and collecting small items so many of these activities will satisfy that need.

Outdoor practical life work also satisfies children's needs for maximum effort work, where children use all of their mental and physical energy to complete a task. Here are a few suggestions for you to try:

A colour hunting walk.

Choosing one wild flower of each colour to cut an arrangement.

Help with garden maintenance, children love to push wheelbarrows, carry watering cans, plant their own seeds.

Make one of the bird feeders we shared with you previously.

Pre School

Pre school have been super busy with lots of cultural celebrations this month. We explored Ramadan and Holi customs, and looked at the Asian climate, animals, food, and homes. Europe was another continent of interest as we learnt about St Patricks Day and Easter.

These have inspired learning across all curriculum areas. Amruta shared Holi celebrations with us linking colours to the continent map. We also read different stories linked to the celebrations. Pre school have also enjoyed gardening and planting activities, and these will continue throughout April. Recent sparks have included medical professions and measurements which we will also explore in the coming weeks. If you are a medical professional and would like to come and talk to the children about your job please let us know - we would love it!



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Home Learning

There is an outdoor theme running through the newsletter this month! All our children have enjoyed exploring our garden and we have begun the task of preparing the garden for planting for lots of tasty vegetables we hope to grow.

Here are some super simple ideas to get the children involved at home: -

- **Give them their own space.** I wouldn't recommend letting you kids loose in the flower border, yet, but giving them a pot or small area that's just for them is a fab idea.
- **Let them explore.** Give them opportunities to explore the world around them from the soil to the skies. Investigate the mini life in the soil with a magnifying glass, search out bugs and wildlife and how they can help.
- **Let them decide** what they want to grow. Take time to research and learn what those plants need to grow and flourish. Talk about plant life cycles and how plants affect the world around them.

More tips can be found here - [Fruit & veg for kids to grow | Good Food \(bbcgoodfood.com\)](https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/fruit-veg-kids-grow)

Sun hats

It is getting to that time of the year (fingers crossed!) when we are going to be spending more time outside. Therefore, could you please add a named sun hat to your child's bag, along with changes of clothes.



Coming up in April

2nd April - International children's book day

9th/10th April - Eid ul – fitr

22nd April - Earth day

23rd April - St George's day

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

20.12.24 – Nursery Closes for the Christmas Break

Reopen – 2nd January 2025

Safeguarding

ABSENT CHILDREN

There has been a case in the Media about a child absent from nursery, but no procedures were put in place to try and find out why. This child was found alone two weeks later with a parent who had sadly died. A profound situation but one which must be reflected in every Safeguarding Policy. It is important that you let us know if your child is not attending nursery for any reason.

If a child we are expecting has not arrived at nursery we call the parents on the enrolment form at 10.00am. If we cannot contact the parents, we will try the emergency contacts. If that does not produce an answer for the absenteeism, we will phone the police to report the situation and we will hand it to the police to do a check on the child and family.

The designated safeguarding leads for our setting are **Imogen Hardy** and **Amanda Brookshaw**. Please come and talk to us if you have any concerns or need support - we are here to help.

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Let us know if you try Charlie's March recipe at home!

Shortbread biscuits

Ingredients:

- 150g plain flour
- 100g butter
- 50g caster sugar

Method:

- Combine flour, butter and sugar together in a mixing bowl.
- Once the mixture starts to look like breadcrumbs roll it out on a lightly floured surface. Use a rolling pin to roll out the dough to ½ cm thick. Cut the dough into fingers and place onto a lined baking tray.
- Chill the dough in the fridge for about 20 minutes before baking at 170c for 15 – 20 minutes (or until golden brown).



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.

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.

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

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