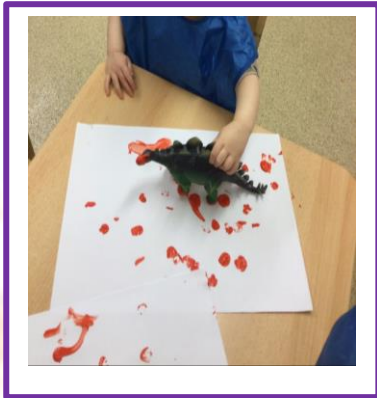


April 2024



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been lovely to feel a little more social and see all the children and parents in the garden at the end of the day now that the weather is improving, even if it is taking its time!

We have been planting and digging and learning all about the Earth and how to care for it. Sustainability and growing our own food to eat is really important.

Have a look through the newsletter to see what we will be busy with next month. Maybe you could try cooking Charlie's yummy recipe too, it is one of our favourites and super healthy!

### Funding for Childcare...

As most of you will be aware in addition to the current government funding towards childcare costs for 2, 3 and 4 year olds, from **September 2024**, 15 hours childcare support will be extended to eligible working parents of children from the age of 9 months.

It is important that you go on to the Childcare Choices website to check your eligibility - you can use the link below.

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

We recommend applying in June/July to ensure your code is valid from September.

**Everyone needs to revalidate their eligibility every three months to ensure funding continues.**



The Yorkshire  
**Montessori  
Nursery**

Listen earnestly to anything your children

want to tell you, no matter what. If you don't listen eagerly to the little stuff when they are little,

they won't tell you the big stuff when they are big, because to them all of it has always been big stuff.

Catherine M. Wallace



### Baby room

In Babies this month we have been exploring textures and new feelings (ice, bird feed, lentils, and feathers). We laughed a lot when we were hiding in sheer scarves and enjoyed the tickly sensation of the fabric.

Transporting gooey cornflour mud was great fun. The children moved the gloop using different vehicles and loved watching the marks appear from the wheels. The children enjoyed exploring cause and effect when dipping and squeezing sponges in their water play.

We have also been curious about balloons, Sasha even made us shaker balloons with lentils. Thank you, Sasha!

We have spent time outside exploring sensory play and enjoying the warmer weather, we had a great time making lots of mess!

We have been interested in under the sea and transport too and will continue to explore these sparks over the coming weeks.

April 2024



### Toddler Room

Toddlers this month we have continued to follow the children's interests in planting. We have planed cress which we can observe growing in the classroom and we planted beans, radishes, and courgettes, we will water them and watch them grow.

The children have been very interested in farm animals and their babies, we have matched the adult animal to their young and introduced some new vocabulary to the children. They have enjoyed making animal noises, singing and reading related stories.

We have made the most of the warmer lighter days and spent more time outside giving our outdoor toys a spring clean and exploring the different equipment, such as trikes, climbing frame and jumping in the tyres. We have also been looking at world events like Earth Day and World Penguin Day, using our senses to explore mud and ice.

We have been looking at our grace and courtesy activities rolling our mat, carrying a tray and sharing, along with sweeping up and washing tables - we have been very busy!!

Shapes are of great interest at the moment, and we will be exploring this along with colour next month.



### PreSchool

This month in preschool we have enjoyed learning more about Spring including life cycles and observing nature. We have planted more vegetables outside and are eagerly awaiting signs they are growing! We painted flowers using different techniques, such as still life and fork printing. We have a new loose part play area where we've experimented with properties of materials and explored our natural curiosities. We have learnt about Earth Day and how to take care of the environment, including recycling, pollution, littering, and saving energy. and courgettes and been nurturing our plants daily.

April 2024



Coming up next month

6<sup>th</sup> May - May Day

4<sup>th</sup> May - International Firefighters Day

6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> May - Screen Free week

17<sup>th</sup> May - Endangered Species Day

22<sup>nd</sup> May - National Numeracy Day

29<sup>th</sup> May - National Biscuit Day (my favourite)

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 – 2<sup>nd</sup> January

**Shared learning:**

One of the main pillars of the Montessori philosophy is a connection with the natural world. Montessori understood the important role of nature and outdoor play in a child's healthy development.

Here are some top tips for Montessori activities outdoors and in nature - we will be exploring lots of them at nursery, please let us know if you try any at home or have other outdoor activities you enjoy as a family.

**Gardening** - A garden can be an interactive playground for children that engages all of the senses. Have a go at growing your own vegetables or herbs. You don't even need to have a large garden for this! Set up a small potting station with some soil, seeds, and a watering can.

**Movement** - Climb trees, balance on logs, or try 'walking on the line'. Walking on the line is a traditional Montessori exercise for grace of movement.

**Numbers and counters** - Go for a walk to the local park and collect acorns, conkers, stones, or pinecones, and then use these as counters for numeracy activities.

**Notice the beauty of the outdoors** - Watch insects at work, raindrops on leaves, all the colours in a sunset, ripples in a lake, the wind in the trees.

**Cloud spotting** - Find a place to sit and watch the clouds. Use your imagination to talk about what shapes or things the clouds look like.

**Treasure hunts** - Make a list of prompts (find something spiky, find something green etc.), head to the local park, and work together to find all of the items on your list.

**Outdoor art** - Use mud, water leaves, flower petals, seeds, grass, and whatever other interesting materials you can find. Lay them into patterns and shapes or work together to make a face or an animal.

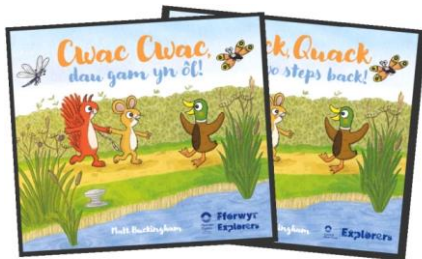
**Stick rafts** - Using twine, tie sticks together to make a raft and then float it in a suitable puddle. You can also make this a fun STEM activity by placing different objects on the raft (such as stones or pinecones) to see what it holds before sinking.

April 2024

### Safeguarding

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

It is coming to that time of year where you will all be taking your little ones out for walks to see nature unfolding. New life appears and feeding the ducks is a thrilling experience. We all love spending time around water, but it is never too early to start talking about safety around water. We will be learning all about water safety in an age-appropriate way using the wonderful resource that the Canal and River Trust have put together. You can share the story at the root of all the activities at home too. Follow the link below: <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/support-us/our-campaigns/safety-on-our-waterways/water-safety-tips-for-parents>



### Oral Health

Giving your child the best start in life is vital to their development. Looking after their teeth as babies and small children will ensure they do not suffer pain or the experience of having to go into hospital to have teeth removed. "Embedding good healthy habits at an early age, will give them the tools they need to keep their mouth healthy throughout life. In this short video Dr Ranj and Supertooth talk about the importance of keeping our teeth healthy!

<https://youtu.be/owbp5F0K45c?si=H4fkzRBTMCqDcoLW>

### 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.

**If you have given your child Calpol before a nursery session please remember to tell a member of staff.**

### 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](mailto: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.

**Imogen Hardy** Nursery Manager  
**Amanda Brookshaw:** Deputy Manager  
[headingley@yorkshiremontessorinursery.co.uk](mailto:headingley@yorkshiremontessorinursery.co.uk)

April 2024

## Sweet Potato and Chicken Burger – Makes 6

### Ingredients:

- 500g minced chicken
- 30g plain flour (for rolling)
- 1 egg, beaten
- Spices: ½ tsp cumin, ½ tsp smoked paprika, 1 tsp garlic granules, dash cracked black pepper. Dash salt (optional)
- 250g sweet potatoes
- ½ large white onion

### To Serve:

- Sliced wholemeal burger buns
- 2 beef tomatoes
- Baby gem lettuce

### Method:

- 1- Line a large baking sheet (or 2 small) with parchment paper. Add the flour to a small bowl.
- 2- Peel and half the sweet potatoes. Skewer a couple of times with a knife and pop into the microwave, working at two minute intervals until they are soft.  
Alternatively, you can oven bake the sweet potatoes although this will take much longer.
- 3- Whilst they are in the microwave, finely dice the onion and add into a large bowl with the minced chicken.
- 4- When the sweet potatoes are softened, mash them together before adding to the mince and onion mixture.
- 5- Add in your spices and the beaten egg. Using your hands, mix together until fully combined.
- 6- Divide into 130g balls and gently compress on the baking sheet so they resemble patties. This is where the flour comes in handy – if the mixture becomes difficult to work with, douse your hands in the flour and use it to aid you in rolling.
- 7- Bake at 200° for 25 minutes, making sure to check the temperature in the centre before removing from the oven.

### To Serve:

Slice up the beef tomatoes and pull apart the baby gem lettuce. Place the lettuce and tomato in the burger bun with the burger. Add a sauce of your choice and enjoy 😊



**Please send a photo if you try this recipe at home!**