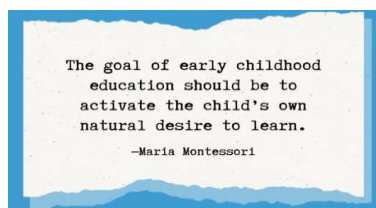


April 2024



### Dear Parents,

Welcome to our April Newsletter and what a lovely, sunny, warm month we have had! Well - the 30<sup>th</sup> was great!

The lack of sunshine hasn't deterred our outside adventurers and we have been taking lots of activities into the garden. We are excitedly putting together plans and ideas to enhance our outdoor area. This will include removal of the large climbing frame, resurfacing across the grassed area and bark.

We are starting our plans for the pre-school graduation day and will include the date in our next newsletter!

Please let us know which schools your children are moving on to in the summer as school staff are starting to contact us to arrange to visit them at nursery.

Helen, our Chef, has been working hard reviewing our nursery menus. She has planned spring/summer and autumn /winter menus, each on a 4-week rota. These have been compiled using the current NHS guidance on nutrition for babies and young children to get the balance of nutrients to support their growth and development. A part of this has been to further reduce sugar in the diet. We have been trialling many cake and biscuit recipes which replace sugar with fruit or vegetables. Through this, there are many recipes free from added sugar and where sugar IS added, it is reduced by 50% on a general recipe. We are trialling the menus at the moment and once they are finalised, I will post the full information and menus on Tapestry.

### Nursery Holidays/Closures

27.05.2024 – Spring Bank Holiday

26.08.2024 – Late Summer Bank Holiday

**27.08.2024 – Staff Training Day**

23.12.2024 – Nursery Closes for the Christmas Break

Reopen – 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2025



**This is for all parents please.**

**URGENT URGENT URGENT**

Please ensure that you have returned a signed copy of the Terms and Conditions for 24/25. These were sent in an email on March 1<sup>st</sup>. These are now overdue.

### 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.

### 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.**

April 2024

## Staff Updates

Now that Jess has achieved her Implementing Montessori Practice qualification, she has moved into Toddlers where we think that the most impact for the children will be made through Jess working with the team to develop their skills and knowledge and to create an environment which prepares the babies and toddlers as they transition through the nursery. Jess, alongside Sharon, will ensure that small groups of 'Toddlers' go over to spend time in preschool with a member of toddler staff to familiarise them with the routines and equipment before they become 'pre-schoolers'.

Sharon and Karen have begun the IMP programme and hope to be completing this time next year!

## Nursery News

*As always, our self-evaluation continues and we have input from our advisors at Hopscotch Consultancy, experts in early years who are also working Ofsted Inspectors. Following our most recent visit we would like to share some feedback with you: -*

*'In babies the staff offer lots of communication and language opportunities during the activity, the staff narrating what is happening during the activity for example Pouring water, what's that, yellow flower, daffodil.'*

*'The resources in Toddlers represent the introduction to the Montessori approach with lovely activities readily available for the children to develop those practical life skills etc. As well as the tinker table and access to the range of technology the children enjoy using, demonstrating how they use the thermometer etc. Children display confidence in what they know and can do.'*

*'Pre school activities have been planned to support the children's next steps and introducing new topics and experiences as well as opportunities for the children to be able to select their own play opportunities.'*

I am so proud of the team and how hard they work to give the very best nursery experience to our children and families. We look forward to the next visit!

### Babies

Babies have been going into the garden more often during April. They have chosen times when Toddlers and



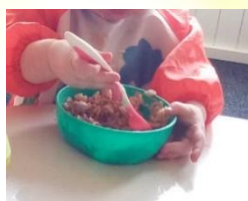
Preschool are indoors to ensure that the babies do not have unfair competition for the resources! This has been a big hit with the babies and they have enjoyed water play and using the bikes and skuttle-bugs. This, as well as

being a lovely time for the children, will help to prepare them and develop their confidence as they transition through the nursery.

Spoon control is developing well. All the babies are becoming increasingly skilled and more



progression.

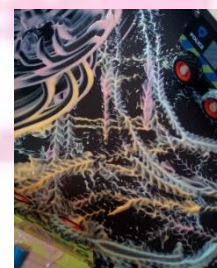


independent at feeding themselves at mealtimes. It is lovely to see this

We are loving watching the children joining in with the actions in songs. They really enjoy singing, (and are VERY forgiving!) both individually and in groups. This is great for their language development and listening skills as well as creating a love for music, rhythm and movement.



The messy play goes on! We LOVE messy play! We like to see the children really enjoy their activities by exploring the messy activities. We have had edible paint,



foam soap, painting and playdough to name a few. We know that you are very aware of these activities from the colour of your child's feet or their clothing. Think of all the fun they are having, and the rich descriptive language they are hearing and sensing!!! We do also try to use colourings etc that do wash out but realise that this sometimes takes a couple of washes!



## April 2024

### Home Learning

Some of the babies have begun to use some single words. When you are reading books with them, singing and constantly repeating words such as names of people and 'things', colours etc., this is reinforcing their use of language. Remember to post on tapestry any new words so that we can continue their learning.

### Toddlers

Toddlers have enjoyed exploring their creative side this month; making beautiful butterflies, sun catchers and spring flowers, whilst exploring colours and developing their fine motor skills.

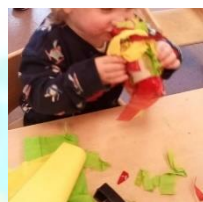


We have been looking at the world around us as new life has sprung up and we have tended our newly planted herb garden and celebrated Earth Day by making our own planet Earth with paints and paper.

As fine, delicate movements have been practiced, children have sorted the knobless cylinders into size order and rolled and cut out playdough with Spring Cutters.

On St George's Day, we had great fun making fire breathing dragons and explored how our bodies work to make the dragons breathe and the flames flicker.

We have continued to enjoy our outings – especially to the 'curly whirly bridge' to watch the trains and to the park to play on the swings.



### Home Learning

It has been great seeing your tapestry posts and discussing the pictures with the children. It makes the children feel very proud sharing their experiences with their friends. Keep them coming! Continue to encourage your children to use rich descriptive language to support the development of a wide vocabulary. For example, instead of 'an apple' – 'a big juicy apple' or instead of 'a dragon', 'a bright fiery dragon'. We love to hear the children describing what they have seen and what they have been doing.

### Pre school

Another busy month in pre-school who now have a few additions. This has been a good opportunity for our established pre-school children to help their new friends to get used to the routines. They have been demonstrating how to roll a mat, where to take their practical life activities and how to set the tables for lunch. This is helping the confidence of both established and new pre-school children and ensuring that we continue to support sharing and kindness.



Space has been a big focus this month as children have been asking lots of questions about rockets and the moon. We have been exploring the planets with our adventure table where there has been a lot of information, pictures and descriptions of the planets as well as physical 'crochet' planets that we have been able to place in order of distance from the sun.



There has been lots of tactile play with pasta, rice, bark, and our super mud mixture which the children love to hide bugs in and then to search for them.

Transferring has also been a theme with opportunities to practice existing skills and also to develop with more complex moves and equipment on the practical life trays. This is really developing concentration and individual resilience as well as encouraging a shared goal with paired and group work.



### Home Learning

Your tapestry posts are really helping children to proudly share their experiences and to then follow on with further exploration which support deeper learning. Please keep them coming!

Getting your children to help to set the table, check what cutlery is needed etc will not only help their confidence but also their mathematical ordering and number skills.

**April 2024**

### **Safeguarding**

Karen, Tina and Sharon are the Designated Safeguarding Leads at the nursery, if you have any worries, concerns or need help and support please come and talk to us.

Just a reminder.... Please do not have your phones out in any area of the nursery. This is part of our Safeguarding Policy and it would be really helpful if you could complete any call before coming in to collect your child. Thank you 😊

### **Illness**

We ask, in line with our policies, that any child who has sickness or diarrhoea does not attend nursery for a clear 48 hrs after their last 'episode'.

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 dose.

Please remember to let us know if your child has had Calpol at home when you drop them off. Thank you.

### **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 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.

### **Sun Cream**

We are ever hopeful that we will see the sunshine!

As you will be aware, we do provide suncream for your children at the nursery. As we have a number of children and staff with allergies, some very severe, these have been selected to ensure that they include no products to create a reaction in most people. If your child is unable to use these products, please speak

to a member of staff as you are welcome to bring your own suncream but we would need to ensure that its ingredients do not create a risk for any children or staff.

These are the suncreams that we will be using this year. It is important that if you are applying



suncream to your children before they arrive, you use these creams (or other agreed ones) again, to avoid adverse reactions from other children and staff. Thank you.

You can contact us at the nursery on [strensall@yorkshiremontessorinursery.co.uk](mailto:strensall@yorkshiremontessorinursery.co.uk) and Allison at Head Office on [headoffice@yorkshiremontessorinursery.co.uk](mailto:headoffice@yorkshiremontessorinursery.co.uk)

Best wishes,  
Karen