

To assist a child, we
must provide him with
an environment which
will enable him to
develop freely.

Maria Montessori

Dear Parents,

We have waved goodbye to our school leavers now and nursery seems very quiet without them - I am sure that will change!! We all wanted to say 'Thank you' for the very thoughtful cards, words and gifts staff have received. It means such a lot to all the staff that you have trusted us to look after your children. We have also loved seeing their 'First School Day' photos - they look so grown up - please send one in if you haven't already done so.

We are having so much fun outside at the moment and we want this to continue so please, as the weather begins to change, make sure your child has suitable clothing and footwear for the outdoors.
Thank you.

Safeguarding

Please can we remind you that as part of our Safeguarding Policy we **do not** allow the use of phones on the nursery grounds for any reason. This is to ensure our children are kept safe and no photographs are taken of any of the children whilst in our care. If you do need to take a call please let a member of staff know and step outside the gate to do so. Thank you.

Fiona and I are the Designated Safeguarding Lead's at the nursery, if you have any worries, concerns or need help and support please come and talk to us.

Nursery Events

11th Sept – Nursery Photographer
19th Sept – Talk Like a Pirate Day
26th Sept - European Day of Languages

Holidays/Closures

23.12.24 – Nursery Closes for the Christmas Break
Reopen – 2nd January 2025

Staff News

We have been delighted to welcome Holly to nursery. She has recently gained her Level 2 in childcare and hopes to get underway with the Level 3 soon. Holly is working across the nursery to get to know the setting and children. In her spare time Holly enjoys spending time with her friends.



Nursery News

Babies - the children have enjoyed lots of adventures in our community throughout August. We have continued to follow the children's interests around vehicles with a visit to the Railway Museum. Looking at the different vehicles there we talked about colours; size and the children sat in a train carriage and enjoyed their snack in the museum and ended the visit with a look at the miniature model railway, everyone had a great time. On another adventure we followed the York Trailblazers Bug Hunt around the city, the children became very excited when spotting one of the beetles!! We also visited the sensory garden in Rowntree Park. The children enjoyed exploring the grass, leaves and flowers. Bringing this experience back into nursery we explored different textures and smells in our sensory play from paint, to shaving foam and cornflour to sand, with the staff narrating what the children were doing as they played and introducing new descriptive vocabulary.





off again to find more trees! To keep cool on a particularly hot day we had made coloured ice cubes alongside different shaped ones, to explore, the children were fascinated by the colour and kept showing them to the staff. Numbers also continue to be of interest with lots of counting going on and number songs being sung.

Home Learning

Sensory play refers to activities that excite a child's senses such as touch, taste, smell, sight, and hearing. It is essential for child development since it improves sensory awareness, fine motor skills, language development, cognitive growth, and problem-solving abilities in an enjoyable and engaging manner. A range of activities and materials will help children learn and understand their surroundings. Sensory play encompasses but is not limited to:

- Play with water and sand.
- Imaginative play
- Musical instruments
- Using various shapes and things.
- Finger painting.
- Sensory Bags
- Interaction with animals

All of the above provide various stimuli and developmental possibilities, so encouraging children to explore their environment.

Please upload photos of any sensory activities you and your child enjoy.

Toddlers - Under 2's - the children have been very interested in how they can make marks this month. They have used their hands and various sized brushes with paint, in dry flour and in a new mixture where food colouring was mixed with yogurt! Conversations have carried on around holidays and your family adventures, using the photos uploaded to Tapestry as talking points. Activities have then followed relating to sea and sand. On our walks around the local area the children have been noticing trees!! They have felt the bark and looked at leaves, some of which are already falling off!! At nursery we used different materials to create our own trees before heading



Toddlers - Over 2's

- we were inspired by the Olympics which led to lots of discussions about the different sports that the children had seen on tv and flags from the different countries they also saw. We were inspired to take part in lots of physical activities ourselves and took the parachute and some balls to the park and had a great time! Our country of interest in August was Croatia. We looked closely at the flag and the children were interested in the different landscape there. It was lovely to invite one of our parents in who shared Croatian stories and songs with the children, who recognised some of the tunes. The children learnt Croatian words for 'Hello and Goodbye' and have continued to practice them. We have also explored ice and painted with coloured ice cubes and watched how it melted in our hands and in the warm sunshine. The children have been busy chefs too this month. We used an orange press to make our own orange juice - this needed lots of muscle!! The skins were added to a water tray



afterwards for the children to explore. The children also prepared carrots and peppers to make a pasta sauce. They used the knives very carefully after listening well to the safety instructions!

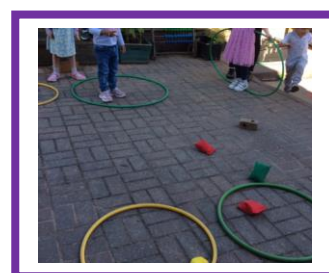


Home Learning

Whilst the weather is still reasonably good we will be enjoying the outdoors as much as possible. Through a supportive outdoor play environment, the children are exposed to best support for children's emotional, social, physical development and ways of acquiring communicative and language skills so that they are exceptionally well equipped for school and next steps in their learning. We feel so lucky that we have The Yard, Danesmead Woods, Rowntree Park and the riverbank so close to nursery for us to explore and enjoy. With very little, or no, equipment you can create fabulous outdoor experiences for your children. There are lots of activity ideas online for toddlers – a couple of our favourites are bubbles and scavenger hunts. Please send us any photos to Tapestry if your family enjoying the great outdoors.

Pre school – the children were really interested the Olympics, and we created different 'sports' at nursery, a very popular one was throwing bean bags into hoops and creating obstacle courses and having races with each other. Sea creatures have been a big interest for the children too, with lots of discussions about the different varieties. The children chose different aquatic animals to create, using craft paper, clay and play dough and shared their knowledge and ideas with each other. The Gingerbread Man has been a favourite story in recent weeks which has sparked lots of activities from crafty ones to retelling of the story and culminating in baking some delicious gingerbread men biscuits by following a recipe. The children were fascinated by making a volcano and watching it erupt in the classroom! They went on to make their own volcano from clay. The children have been busy

exploring lots of number activities and choosing objects from around the room to quantify. Everyone helped towards creating a tea party to say a final farewell to our school leavers. They helped make decorations, including bunting to string around the room, made sandwiches and chose music and everyone had a jolly good time! The children are very much looking forward to welcoming Louise, our French teacher, back to nursery and have been practicing their colours in French which led on to book making and writing the French words – we are sure Louise will be impressed!



Home Learning

The Montessori classroom is referred to as the prepared environment. It is a meaningful structured learning space where everything has a purpose and a place. Furniture is light and child-sized, learning materials are designed to fit in children's hands, and everything is designed to be open and accessible. We encourage the children to handle resources carefully and to return them to the shelves once they complete their activity to ensure the resource is in place for the next person. It would be wonderful if you could encourage tidying away activities as they complete them at home. This will lead to the children caring for their environment and being respectful of the resources – and save you from a massive tidy up at the end of the day! Caring for the environment also involves cleaning which our children love – especially wiping tables ready for lunch! We would love to see any photos of your children caring for their environment at home.

A favourite of the children and a very versatile, veggie packed sauce great for freezing

Tomato sauce

Roughly chop **3 courgettes, 1 punnet of jumbo mushroom, 1 large punnet of tomatoes, 3 onions, 4 cloves of garlic, & 3 peppers**, add a little oil & roast 190c for 30-40 mins or until veg is soft, add **4 tins of tomatoes, 2 veg stock**, then blend with the hand blender.

The sauce is great with pasta, here at nursery we also use it with chicken, the base for the pizza, & gnocchi.



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.

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.

You can contact us at the nursery on fulford@yorkshiremontessorinursery.co.uk

Allison at Head Office on headoffice@yorkshiremontessorinursery.co.uk

Best wishes
 Rachael