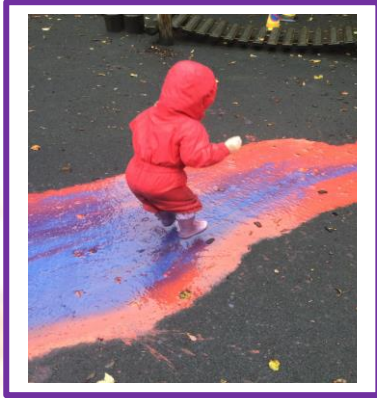


September 2024



The Yorkshire
**Montessori
Nursery**

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are officially into Autumn now and the children have really enjoyed observing all the changes of the season.

Thank you for baring with us during staff holidays until we were able to be back into our own rooms. There have been lots of transitions from new starters in the baby room all the way up to preschool. It has been a time for settling and readjusting but the children have done wonderfully!

Just a quick reminder that we do go outside in all weathers so please make sure your child is bringing appropriate shoes and clothing for wet weather. You are welcome to leave wellies and puddlesuits here if it makes your life easier! Please just label them.



Baby Room

Welcome to all our new families in baby room! It has been lovely to get to know you and your little ones and they have all settled so well.

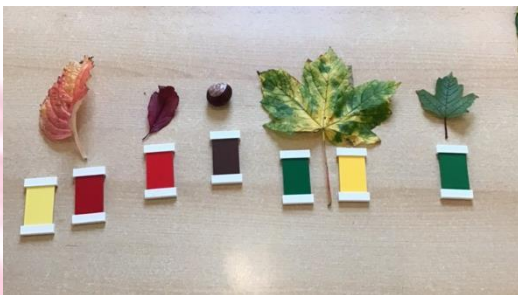
The focus over the last few weeks has been to ensure a safe and happy settle for our new babies, so there has been lots of independent exploration of activities, plenty of sensory trays, and a whole lot of messy play!

Some of the older babies have started to interact more with their peers, which has been lovely to see. Some have shared books with each other and others have started to learn how to play happily alongside others.

The babies have still enjoyed playing with their toddler friends at times too, which gives them a good opportunity to observe and mirror the behaviours of their older friends and pick up some new language or skills.



September 2024



Toddler Room

With so many exciting things to observe and explore, it's no surprise that Autumn has been a recurring topic in all rooms this month. The toddlers have been busy investigating conkers, pinecones, leaves, twigs and pumpkins. They have been talking about rain and other weather conditions too.

The children have been enjoying taking care of their environment - washing the resources, tidying up after themselves, and working towards completing a work cycle (choosing an activity, working with it, then putting it back as they found it).

The toddlers have also enjoyed a focus on movement and motor skills - exploring a trajectory schema, jumping in puddles, making footprints with paint, using spray bottles, printing using corn and apples, using tweezers and tongs, and working on hand-eye coordination.

Preschool

The preschool children have also loved the changing of the seasons. They have been out on lots of walks, looking for autumn 'treasures' and observing the changes they could see in nature. With the natural materials that they have found, the children have enjoyed using them to make crafts, engage in sensory play and observe the characteristics of the materials. Some children have enjoyed counting conkers whilst others have enjoyed lining them up to make large-scale patterns. We have also used the Montessori colour boxes to identify the colours of leaves, acorns and more.

To help with transitions, we have worked on activities related to our emotions, which has helped to give the children tools to express themselves effectively. We have also focused on independence skills - dressing, cleaning faces, preparing food, and pouring.

We have enjoyed regular music sessions where we have learnt about tempo, rhythm, and movement. Spanish classes have also restarted which are every other Tuesday!

Shared learning: Independence

We know life gets very busy and you don't always have time to watch your child struggle with a sock for 20 minutes but finding small windows of the day to help them learn to dress themselves will be hugely beneficial in the long run. If you're not sure where to start, here are some tips:

Don't do too much at once - Start by introducing one item of clothing a time. Expecting a child to put on socks, shoes, pants, and shirts all at once is asking too much. Similarly, each item of clothing could be broken down into steps. For example, putting on shoes can be broken down into at least five steps: figure out left and right, open the velcro, slide foot in, put heel in, close the velcro, and then repeat for the other foot.

The Coat Flip - This is a well-known technique in Montessori settings with some very simple steps to teach children to put on their own coat. First, have the child lay the coat on the floor, checking that the label or hood is by their feet. Next, reach down, put your hands just inside the sleeve openings, and flip the whole thing over your head. It will take some practise and a little bit of adjusting at first, but it's definitely a fun way to get children interested in self-dressing.

Socks - Socks can often be trickier than shoes for toddlers. To practice the motion of putting on socks, let your child stretch hair bobbles. They can even practice pulling hair bobbles over their feet onto their ankles, and back off again. When you do introduce socks, make sure they are extra stretchy.

Undies - These are easier to get on than trousers, so start here first unless you are introducing it before they're toilet trained. First, show your child how you find the waistband and turn the label to the back. Then point out each hole where each leg goes. As with all items of clothing, do most steps for them and let them begin with the last step.

Trousers - Weather permitting, start with shorts. The shorter the leg, the easier to put on. It's also helpful to find trousers that are roomy, stretchy, and have elastic waistbands without fasteners.

Avoid leggings until they've mastered jogger-type pants! Use the same step-by-step method as with underwear.

Tops - T-shirts and tops are often the most difficult for children to put on and take off themselves. Again, start by letting them do the last step. Pull the shirt over their head and have them find one arm hole at a time. When they can get their arms in on their own, show them how to find the neck hole (biggest one) and pull it over their head. Then let them try it all together. It is easiest to start with short-sleeved t-shirts and then move to long-sleeved. The more oversized the better!

Celebrate the small wins! - When your child does figure out how to get dressed, there will likely be a lot of backwards and inside out clothing. That's okay! If it's not bothering them, let it go and don't say anything. Let them to be proud of what they've accomplished rather than frustrated about not getting it exactly right. If they are bothered by it, you can offer the least amount of help to get it right. Make sure to acknowledge and celebrate how far they've come in their self-dressing journey!

Childcare Funding

The current offer

From September 2024, eligible working parents of children aged 9 months up to 3 years old can access 15 hours childcare support. By September 2025, eligible working families with children aged between 9 months and 5 years old will be entitled to 30 hours of childcare support.

Eligible working parents and carers of children aged 3 - 4 can get an additional 15 hours of childcare support, bringing the total support they can get up to 30 hours a week. Please note that we can only offer stretched funding, as we do not offer term time only places.

You can check your eligibility via Childcare Choices at:

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

September 2024

Banana Raisin Loaf

- 165g butter
- 165g light brown sugar
- 2 medium eggs
- 2 medium bananas – mashed.
- 335g self raising flour
- 2 level teaspoons of Cinnamon
- 210g raisins
- Optional: 100g Walnuts

Method:

- Cream together the butter and sugar until light and fluffy.
- Beat the eggs in a separate bowl before whisking into the sugar and butter mixture.
- Using a spoon, mix in the mashed bananas.
- Fold in the flour and the Cinnamon using a spoon and the ‘figure of 8’ method.
- Finally, add in your raisins and, if choosing to do so, 90% of the walnuts.
- Transfer the mixture into a medium-sized, parchment lined loaf tin. Crush the remaining Walnuts with your hands and sprinkle on top.
- Bake for around 40 minutes on 180 degrees. Check halfway through the cooking time by piercing the centre with a knife or a skewer; if they come out clear, the loaf is ready.
- Allow to cool completely before slicing.

Enjoy 😊



September 2024

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, as possible, or by 15th of the month on 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 specify the payment date for the 1st of a month. A 'late payment charge' of £75.00 will be made where fees continue to be late.

Extra Sessions

Please can we ask that if you require any extra sessions for your child or need to make a change to your permanent sessions, these must be confirmed by someone in the office. We ask for 1 months' notice to any change in permanent sessions to allow for payments to be amended.

Nursery Holidays/Closures

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

Imogen Hardy: Nursery Manager

Sara Counce: Deputy Manager

headingley@yorkshireremontessorinursery.co.uk

Dates for your diary

Black History Month (all of October)

Down's Syndrome Awareness Month

ADHD Awareness Month

World Habitat Day – 7th October

Halloween – 31st October

Diwali – from 31st October



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.

Safeguarding

The designated safeguarding leads for our setting are **Imogen Hardy** and **Sara Counce**.

We are practicing fire safety at nursery in preparation for bonfire night. Please find a link below for your reference;

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z7xj2v4>