

"The creation of something new is not accomplished by the intellect but by the play instinct." – Albert Einstein

Dear Parents,

We have had a very busy August with lots of exciting activities both on site and further afield. The weather has been kind to us, and the children have enjoyed spending lots of time outside.

It has also been a time for 'goodbyes' as we have waved off the school leavers as they take their leave of nursery for 'big school'. Pre school enjoyed uniform days where their friends could see what they will all be wearing at school, this provoked lots of discussion and excitement.

As we move into Autumn we hope the weather remains to be kind (though we do love a good puddle to jump in!!) and we can continue with our visits to the park, woods and riverbank. Please remember to pack suitable clothes and wellies for your child so they can stay warm and dry should we get wet weather.

We are all very excited to be celebrating 'Art Month'. Across the nursery we are looking at a variety of artist and different techniques and resources. The month will end with an Open Event where you will be able to view the gallery of the children's artwork and take part in some art activities yourself - we do hope you will join us from 4.30 - 6.00 on 24th September.

Nursery Holidays/Closures

23.12.25 – Nursery Closes for the Christmas Break
Reopen – 2nd January 2026

Nursery Events

September – Art Month

9th Sept - **National Teddy Bear Day – Children are invited to bring a teddy to nursery.**

23rd Sept - International Sign Language Day

24th Sept - Art Exhibition Stay & Play

Update from Department for Education

The new Best Start in Life brand identity has launched, bringing together cross-government and cross-sector services supporting children and families from pregnancy through primary school.

A new website beststartinlife.gov.uk goes live on **1st September**, replacing Childcare Choices. Visitors to the current Childcare Choices website will be automatically diverted to the new website.

Safeguarding

A new campaign to make parents aware of the risks and dangers posed by small, everyday items has been launched by the Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS).

The focus is particularly on small objects such as magnets and button batteries, which have caused increasing concern in recent years due to related accidents among young children.

The campaign, 'Small Hazards, Big Harm', features up-to-date resources that sit alongside the button battery top tips poster launched in May, which was developed in collaboration with accident prevention charities, clinicians, manufacturers, online marketplaces, and trade associations.

The campaign will include a new video featuring Samantha McCarthy, whose two-year-old daughter had to have lifesaving surgery after swallowing 14 tiny magnetic balls in 2021. [Child safety: small hazards, big harm - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/child-safety-small-hazards-big-harm)

Ellie and I 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.

Staff News

We are delighted to welcome Beth to nursery; she will be based in toddlers.

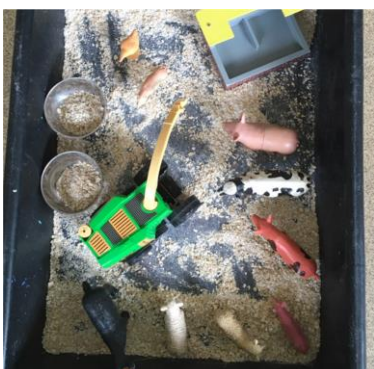


Hi, my name is Beth, and I am the newest staff member in the amazing team here at Fulford. I recently completed my Level 3 Apprenticeship. I am a creative and smiley person and in my spare time I love drawing, colouring, reading and singing. I am looking forward to meeting everyone.

Babies - the children have been exploring lots of jungle themed activities which have been inspired by one of our families visiting the Yorkshire Wildlife Park. We named the animals and the children made lots of animal noises - very loudly! We sang songs and found related books to share with the children. We have also been developing our gross motor skills in lots of different ways. The children always enjoy soft play, especially the tunnel crawling in one end and popping out of the other! We have been on walks to the park where the babies explored the sensory garden crawling or walking in the grass. The children helped to make play dough, using big movements stirring and pouring as required. We have added several pieces of Montessori equipment to our shelves to for the children to explore - they loved the dressing frames, opening the poppers in particular! We have also developed a technology box, and the children have been very animated using old phones, a laptop and clipboards!



Toddlers - Under 2's - we have been really busy learning and exploring in August, we have been developing those next steps using the children's sparks which have been tractors, farm animals and all things that move! The toddlers have enjoyed focusing on construction activities, particularly for their tractors to roll up and down. Our farm mat is a big hit where the children can move the animals, farmers and vehicles around the farm. A favourite song, of course, has been Old MacDonald Had a Farm which the children sing with gusto and are very keen to name the next animal to sing about! We have also had lots of farm books which the children have really enjoyed, choosing them independently, turning pages with care and 'reading' to themselves - a joy to see! The children have taken part in lots of role play, having picnics with their babies and "feeding" the farm animals. We have really focused on getting those all-important independence skills, encouraging the children to wash their hands, clear their plates and put their used cutlery away.



Toddlers - Over 2's - this month our main spark has been flowers. We have been looking at how flowers grow, where they live, the sizes, colours, shapes of the flowers and different smells. We have enjoyed painting our own interpretations of a vase of flowers.

Another spark that is currently ongoing is all about the weather and in particular storms. We have again been looking at factual books on different kinds of weathers which have led onto so many discussions about why we have rain, what leads up to it raining and why we have rainbows. We have been splatter painting and making rain pictures, rain makers, rainbows and colour mixing black, white and silver to create shades of grey for our clouds, introducing the words light and dark to the children as they mixed and painted.

The children continue to enjoy lots of role play with train sets and dolls, it has been lovely to listen to the children chatting to their friends in their imaginative play. Extending their interest in factual books, we found several all about vehicles which has developed their knowledge and vocabulary.



Pre School - this month we have been making the most of being outside and exploring the local area! In particular, the children have enjoyed Forest School, and have been practicing their independent climbing, as well as learning how to stay safe in the woods. Our preschoolers love to remind each other of the rules (no sticks longer than your arm, and no fingers in your mouth!) and they are great at helping to put out the boundary flags. Our trips out have also focused on road safety and walking carefully with a partner. We have also been learning about how to keep our bodies healthy in a number of ways. The children have been practicing brushing teeth using the dentures and toothpaste, as well as finding out how the body works by looking at non-fiction books. Moreover, the children loved exploring different types of fruit by making their own orange juice and creating some prints by stamping fruit into paint. Finally, we have been saying lots of fond farewells to our school leavers. We celebrated with a party tea and also had a 'Uniform Day' which was very exciting! Preschool have loved seeing all the different coloured school uniforms and the children looked so smart and grown up!



Home Learning

Creativity in early childhood is crucial for overall development, fostering cognitive, social, emotional, and physical growth. It allows children to express themselves, explore their imaginations, and develop essential problem-solving skills. Encouraging creative play and providing open-ended resources can help children build confidence, resilience, and a lifelong love of learning.

We nurture creativity in lots of ways at nursery, such as:

- **Provide open-ended resources:**

Offer a variety of materials like building blocks, art supplies, and loose parts that can be used in multiple ways, encouraging children to explore their imagination.

- **Create a dedicated creative space:**

Designate a specific area for creative activities, signalling that creativity is valued and encouraged.

- **Encourage play-based learning:**

Allow children to lead their own play experiences, whether it's pretend play, outdoor play, or simple games, and join in their games, when invited, to spark new ideas.

- **Read and tell stories:**

Engage children in storytelling, encouraging them to create their own narratives and characters.

- **Ask open-ended questions:**

Use questions that encourage children to think critically, explore possibilities, and express their ideas.

- **Offer opportunities for exploration and experimentation:**

Provide a stimulating environment where children feel safe to experiment with new ideas and materials without fear of making mistakes.

Please send us some pics of you and your children being creative at home!

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

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.

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

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

Best wishes
Rachael