

August 2025

The goal of early childhood education should be to activate the child's own natural desire to learn.

—Maria Montessori

Dear Parents,

Welcome to our August Newsletter!

August seems to have gone by in a flash with lovely sunny days and damp and chilly ones side by side.

Though there are still some things to do in the garden, it is starting to come together, and the children are enjoying exploring outside.

We have heard lots about your holidays and activities over the summer and thank you for sharing your photos on tapestry as the children really do enjoy sharing them with their friends and talking about what they have been doing.

Following July's annual Preschool Graduation Ceremony, August has seen us, with a mixture of sadness and pride, saying goodbye to our leavers as they spread their wings and move on to new adventures. It has been a pleasure to have a part in their story and wish them well in their next steps. They are all truly amazing!

As usual at this time of year we are welcoming a number of new families in all of our rooms, your children may well be introducing you to their new friends.

Coming up.....

We are continuing to support the children to develop their language skills and have recently begun work through the WellComm Toolkit which is recommended and supported by Early Talk for York Specialist Team. Laura is leading this in the nursery and all staff have received introductory training. It is a screening and support package to help to move children on to



The Yorkshire
**Montessori
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Nurturing Young Minds

the next step in their language development. We will speak with you as your child participates.

September will be Art Month in our nursery, and you will be able to see some of the amazing art that the children have created at our Stay and Play on Thursday 24th September 4.30-5.30.

Funding for Childcare...

As most of you will be aware there is current government funding of 15 or 30 hours towards childcare costs for children from 9 months to 3 years, and for 3- and 4-year-olds depending on your eligibility

Each age group is funded at a different rate which reduces as your child moves into the next age group.

It is important that you go on to the Best Start in Life website (formerly Childcare Choices) to check your eligibility - you can use the link:- www.beststartinlife.gov.uk

If you are new to funding you will need to send a code to nursery along with your National Insurance number and bring in your child's Birth Certificate or their passport so we can validate their date of birth.

Please let nursery have your code as soon as you receive it.

ALL FAMILIES MUST REVALIDATE THEIR CODES EVERY 3 MONTHS TO ENSURE THAT THEY REMAIN VALID

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Staff Updates

There are no changes in staffing for this month though, as is usual at this time of year as we have several children making their transition to a new room, along with several new families joining, staff may not always be in their usual base room. This is to ensure that there is sufficient support for all children across the nursery. As the number of children grow again in each room, staff will return to their main room.

Elle is planning to start her maternity leave in October. I will update you on exactly when this will be in the next Newsletter. Olivia will be covering in the baby room.

Nursery News

Babies

Tray based activities (or activities starting off in the tray!) have been prominent this month with so many sensory and tactile activities to support both children who are settling in and those who are more confident to explore. They have been pouring, transferring, exploring through using all their senses.



Some of the trays have included water, jelly, spaghetti, oats, rice, sand, weetabix to name just a few. We do also ensure that the activities are chosen to ensure that any 'ingredients' with

allergens are not used on days which might affect a child with allergies.

Beach week was lovely in babies. We had babies dressed for Summer. The babies enjoyed exploring the pebbles and rocks from the beach and then painting them (these are for our next little project – watch this space!).



They has a mini beach with sand and water and also a lovely rice sea where they felt the different textures.



We have had lots of 'Summer' themed activities, talking about colours, making ice creams, exploring sea creatures and making the most of the warm weather with lots of water play and a lovely rice tray for Yorkshire Day!

Many of the children are developing their language skills really well and are repeating words, animal sounds and parts of songs. It is lovely to hear!



Home Learning

Many of the children are enjoying climbing at the moment. Any activity which enables them to practice their climbing and gain confidence is great. Working together in finding safe climbing solutions such as on soft furnishings, will enable this area of development.

Toddlers

August has seen lots of themes and focus' for Toddlers who have been trying to use both inside and outside the nursery to create exciting opportunities to support the children's learning.

Colours and shapes have been a part of many activities and as the children have been preparing for their transitions through to Preschool, it is lovely to see them supporting the younger children in naming shapes and colours in their play..



There has been plenty of dipping, pouring, scooping and transferring which is helping the children to develop their fine motor skills and strengthening the muscles that they will need to use a knife and fork and gain pencil control.

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Developing children's independence is always central to our Montessori approach and there have been lots of activities which

support this including preparing snack and beginning to use knives to cut fruit in their activities.



Lots of sensory activities including a Lemon and Lime tray where the children were also practicing slicing the fruit and using the tongs to transfer slices of lemon to the bowls, rolling pins to squeeze the juice and



wooden spoons to stir the juice into the flour!

Lovely language about the smell and taste of the fruit and healthy foods as well as sharing and turn taking.



Along with Beach Week, quite a few of the toddlers have been to the seaside which has led to activities around the beach, sand and sea. We have

made sand pictures, beach trays, fishing, sea creatures, sand trays and making ice creams!



Home Learning

If you are visiting the beach, ask your child to collect (a small number!) of pebbles or shells. They can sort them into size order and tell you about which one is bigger, smaller or the same as well as which is their favourite and why.

It would be lovely then to bring them to nursery, or add a photo to tapestry so that we can continue the discussions

Pre school

Busy! Busy! Busy in Preschool over August. Children have been talking about their holidays and starting school. We have continued building confidence for those children moving on and those children who are staying in preschool. School uniforms have been in the dressing up and have been very popular! The meal trays have been in the role play area so that the children are familiar with the meal trays used in schools.



The children have been continuing with creative activities and have spent a lot of time colour mixing and exploring how mixing two (or many more!) colours makes other colours. Many great activities have supported this including paint mixing and making potions in science flasks, using pipettes to mix colours. They have been looking through colour paddles and overlapping these to look at how they change.

Beach week involved lots of sandy, rocky and 'seaweed' activities including printing and mark making with lovely fresh seaweed!



There has been lots of exploring in the nature garden and collecting of insects,



spiders and worms which led to building a spider house which I can guarantee was more popular with the children than the adults!

There was a lot of working together to build a town. The children built a road and discussed what things should be in the town, who lived where and what they might need nearby.



We have worked with



shapes and numbers, sand letter and shape drawing

and the children have been enjoyed being involved in LOTS of different activities to support this.

Home Learning

As we have been exploring numbers, can you go number spotting in your environment?

Where can you find numbers? Send us some photos on Tapestry!

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Safeguarding

Karen, Tina and Laura 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.

If your child has had a bump or fall etc at home, please remember to pass this on to staff so that we are aware.

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.

Outdoor Clothing

Please bring puddle suits and wellies that are clearly labelled as we will continue to use the outside area as the weather becomes wetter! Thank you.

Important dates:

Stay and Play - (Art exhibition for September Art Month) Wednesday 24th September 4.30-5.30

Nursery Holidays/Closures

23.12.2024 – Nursery Closes for the Christmas Break

Reopen – 2nd January 2025

You can contact us at the nursery on strensall@yorkshiremontessorinursery.co.uk and Allison at Head Office on headoffice@yorkshiremontessorinursery.co.uk

Best wishes,
Karen