

Children have an
absorbent mind. They
absorb knowledge from
the environment
without fatigue.

—Maria Montessori

Dear Parents,

We all had such a super September celebrating Art Month. The staff and children engaged in lots of creative activities exploring different artists and resources to create their own masterpieces! Thank you to all who came to our Arty Stay & Play - we hope you had as much fun as we did?

The weather has definitely turned cooler but we have been lucky to have dry days and to be able to spend lots of time outside exploring the Autumn season - please remember to make sure your child has suitable clothing for all weather and if they come to nursery in wellies to have a pair of shoes to change into.

September has been a busy month for staff too with lots of changes to national guidance and the Early Years Foundation Stage, funding and now Ofsted processes. We are so proud of our team who are working hard reading and digesting the new guidance, policies and updating training courses!

Nursery Holidays/Closures

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

Nursery Events

16th October - International Food Day
20th October - Diwali
21st October - Apple Day
31st October - Halloween

Staff News

Our company is committed to supporting and developing staff through appropriate and necessary training. We believe this directly contributes to the outstanding care and learning experiences we provide for the children at our nursery.

We would like to share some recent achievements and acknowledge staff who are beginning their training journeys. Our staff diligently work towards

their qualifications alongside their nursery duties, and we are incredibly proud of their dedication.

This month we have seen Evie embark on her Level 5 Lead Practitioner Apprenticeship and Lottie on completion of her Level 2, has moved on to a Level 3 Early Years Educator Apprenticeship. Both will be working hard over the next 18 months to complete these.

Safeguarding

We appreciate that pick-up from the garden can be a very busy time. To ensure the safety of all children, please make sure you have spoken directly to a member of staff before taking your child from the garden in the evening.

Additionally, we ask that children exit through the gate. We have noticed some children being lifted over the wall, which can lead them to believe it is acceptable to climb the wall when we are out in the garden. We will be reinforcing this with staff too!!

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our children safe.

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.

Funding for Childcare...

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

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

Everyone needs to revalidate their eligibility every three months to ensure funding continues.

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

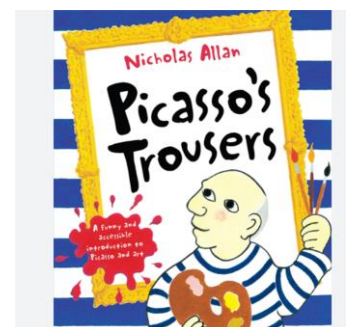
Babies - The babies have fully enjoyed art month and getting very messy! We explored abstract art and created our own versions using various shapes and materials. We recreated our interpretation of Vincent Van Gogh's Sunflowers using natural resources we collected in the park. On our walks we explored art in the park where the children were really interested in the different pictures, looking at the colours and flowers. We also went into town to find different animal sculptures. We took our art outside where the children had a great time with big movements painting tyres and enjoying mark making with brushes and water on the floor and boards. After seeing the giant bear sculpture outside we celebrated National Teddy Bear Day and had a picnic with our teddy bears.



Toddlers - Under 2's -

What a brilliant month we had in September exploring art and different materials to create with. We took our art outside and the children painted tyres, created a group piece by painting on foil with different sized brushes and rollers, this was a very popular activity!! We also used chalk and water to make marks on the floor and boards along the wall. The children were very interested in books about art that we looked at, they pointed to the colours and were particularly drawn to the bright colours used by Gaudi. Taking that spark the children used bright colours to paint on cardboard and used various bright papers and feathers to create collages. There was so much discussion around colours and shapes and texture! An art inspired story the children really enjoyed was Picasso's trousers, the children enjoyed joining in with 'no, no, no Picasso' as he chose different trousers to become the best dressed painter in town!!

We also celebrated National Teddy Bear Day with a picnic and role play where the children created a picnic for their bears,



Toddlers - Over 2's -

The children have had a wonderful time exploring lots of different painting techniques and textures and finding their inner art creativities as budding artists. They have had fun free painting a variety of different objects, from tyres to using vehicles/objects to make prints/patterns on paper, a popular one was rolling paint covered conkers over paper in a tray. We have also been looking at and creating our own interpretations of artists such as Pollack, Van Gogh and Matisse. The children worked together and independently and commented on the different marks they were making and the changes mixing colours made. Problem solving and investigating has been a big spark this month with the children completing jigsaw puzzles, building rockets, and towers using a variety of construction equipment. We could hear the words, 'how, why and what will happen if...' as the children put their critical thinking skills to very good use!



Pre School - Preschool loved exploring different types of art and artists this month!

Through Jackson Pollock we explored splatter art, with the children collaborating to make large-scale prints using paintbrushes, pipettes and string to drip and spray the paint across the paper. We looked at lots of different spot-based art through artists such as Damian Hirst and Wassily Kandinsky. The children also took great interest in a spotty pumpkin sculpture by Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama. This inspired a trip to the shop to buy mini pumpkins, which the children then painted and added their own dotty pattern! Piet Mondrian's artwork encouraged the children to paint using bold primary colours, even practising saying them in French! Using mirrors, the children attempted to sketch self-portraits, taking inspiration from Frida Kahlo. Preschool also used other mediums such as clay, tiles and grout to create their own sculptures and mosaics. All the children have loved being immersed in such a creative environment and were so proud to show off their artwork at the recent stay and play. We will be visiting York Art Gallery next month, which the children are very excited about!



Home Learning

As you know we are out and about all the time, going to the park, library, Aldi and as this month further into the city itself. Trips in early years are educational and developmental opportunities, offering real-world experiences that go beyond the nursery setting to enhance learning, build independence, and foster social skills.

Key aspects for us include careful planning, such as risk assessments and parent consent, ensuring safety and good preparation!

The benefits are numerous, including promoting a connection to the local environment, stimulating curiosity, and improving physical and mental well-being.

Educational and Developmental Benefits

- Enriching the Curriculum:

Trips provide hands-on, interactive experiences that are not possible within the nursery walls, making learning more engaging and memorable.

- Fostering Independence and Confidence:

Children learn to navigate new environments, make small decisions, and interact with different people, which builds their confidence and sense of independence.

- Developing Social Skills:

Outings encourage social interaction, teamwork, and the ability to make friends in new situations.

- Stimulating Curiosity:

Experiencing the wider world ignites children's curiosity, inspires new interests, and promotes a deeper understanding of their environment.

We love seeing your photos on Tapestry of places you visit as a family. Recently the children have shared families visiting family friends building an extension and seeing a digger at work, driving a fire engine - yes really and watching a mechanical elephant walk the streets of Nantes!!

The children love to talk about their experiences with their friends and the photos on Tapestry are a great tool to help them with recall and details they are keen to talk about - please keep sending these!!

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