October 2026

The Yorkshire Montessori Nursery

> Montessori helps children see how nature, people, history, and the universe are connected, encouraging curiosity and a sense of responsibility for the world.

Dear Parents and Carers,
The colder weather has definitely arrived, but we are continuing to enjoying exploring the outdoors, with staff making sure the children are well wrapped up – there is no such thing as bad weather – just the wrong clothing!! The children have been able to gather lots of natural resources to bring back into nursery to further explore and extend their learning and I have to say pumpkins are just a super resource, covering all areas of leaning and development!!

If you are a pre school parent, you will no doubt have heard Christmas songs being sung as they are busy practicing for this year's nativity – there will be an update soon of date and time.

Staff News

We are delighted to announce two recent promotions at nursery. Khalisha has taken the role of Toddler Room Supervisor and Ellie has taken the role of Assistant Pre school Supervisor – congratulations to them both!

Date for your diary

Our Christmas Fayre will be on 28th November – further details will be sent out nearer the time – we hope you can join us.

Nursery Holidays/Closures

23.12.2026 – Nursery closes at 6.00pm for Christmas
Reopen – 4th January 2027

Staff Training Days 2027 –
25th March
31st August

Safeguarding

Ursula, Ty and I are the Designated Safeguarding Leads at the nursery. If you have any questions, worries, concerns or need help and support please come and talk to us.

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 as that you keep your child away from nursery for the first 48 hrs following initial medication

Thank you for your support.

This winter help protect yourself and those around you by getting vaccinated

Free flu vaccinations are available for eligible groups, including people with long-term health conditions, pregnant women, children aged 2 and 3, people aged 65 and over, people experiencing homelessness and other eligible groups.
Other free winter vaccinations, including COVID-19 and RSV vaccines, are also available for eligible people.
Check your eligibility and book a free vaccination through your GP practice, a participating community pharmacy, the NHS App, or online.
Find out more here: Winter vaccinations and winter health - NHS

Funding for Childcare…
If you are new to funding from January 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 your child attends another setting or childminder in addition to our nursery, please let us know and fill in their details on the Parent Declaration form.

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

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Babies – this month we have been working on our fine motor skills. We have been mark making using different materials and tools, such as fingers, brushes, sand, paint and chalk. The children explored different sizes, shapes and colours of pumpkins and showed curiosity as they looked at the carved faces. The babies explored the pumpkin seeds and scooped-out pumpkin flesh as the staff talked named the different elements and what they felt like, they also tried some roast pumpkin for snack. The children went on to paint the pumpkins and then wash the paint off – such a versatile resource!! We have also created threading and posting activities for the children to develop their hand/eye co-ordination, the children were really focused when threading pipe cleaners into a colander and feeding lentils into cardboard box monster mouths. Sensory bags are always a big interest for the children, they can see the filling and feel the properties of the filling through the bags; they are particularly good for those children who are a little wary of messy play. It was lovely to see so many of you at our Stay and Play sessions – we hope you enjoyed exploring the activities with your children.

Toddlers – throughout October, we have been enjoying a wide range of exciting Halloween and autumn themed activities. The children have been exploring their creativity through pumpkin carving, making magical witch's potions, baking their own biscuits and even using the pumpkins we carved to make delicious pumpkin bread!

Our toddlers have also been thoroughly enjoying their visits to Forest School, where they have opportunities to explore the natural environment and learn through outdoor experiences. The children took this exploration back into nursery looking at different autumn colours and what happens when colours are mixed. The children have loved creating their own Halloween decorations and seeing their wonderful creations displayed around the room! We have also welcomed a new addition to our garden: a cabbage patch! This will provide the children with an exciting opportunity to learn about the life cycle of plants, while developing their understanding of how to care for plants, both inside and outside and look after our environment. It has been a fun-filled month of creativity, exploration and learning.

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Preschool – this month we have been exploring so many new learning opportunities. The children have been really interested in exploring planets, understanding what the Sun is and how it keeps our solar system together. It has been lovely to look at the family photos and the children have been excited to talk about their family and have been able to talk about past events shown in the picture and events they have planned in the future. We have been exploring our outdoor areas, especially the forest garden where we have built dens to protect us from the rain and fires to keep us warm. This led to discussions about the weather. We extended this interest to exploring weather and changes in weather, one experiment we have used was catching a cloud in a water bottle. We have introduced a science shelf that links to the other areas in our room, activities include water fireworks, reactions e.g bicarbonate of soda and lemon juice and taste testing to rate most the sour or sweet. The children have furthered their respect for their immediate environment in the room, helping with everyday tasks, and extended this to outdoors helping to fill our skip, they enjoyed watching this be delivered to the nursery and learning more about why we use skips. We have also started a journey on respect for others and ourselves; this is to help with our transitions and new additions to preschool.
We are working hard on our nativity songs and will post a small update on tapestry shortly.

Home Learning

Autumn is a magical time in early years offering a sensory-rich environment that naturally sparks scientific curiosity. The best autumn experiments for early years focus on hands-on exploration of natural materials like leaves, pumpkins, and conkers to build foundational STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) and sensory skills. Let us know if you try any experiments!!

Pinecone Weather Station

Collect open pinecones from a local park or woodland walk. Bring some inside to a dry, warm room and place others in a bowl of water or outside in the damp air. Watch as the dry ones stay open and the wet/cold ones close their scales tight.

Sink or Float: Autumn Edition

Fill a clear water tray or large bowl with water and gather autumn items—conkers, acorns, pinecones, green leaves, dry crunchy leaves, and small sticks. Have children predict whether each item will sink or float before dropping them in.

Pumpkin Fizz & Eruption

Hollow out a small mini pumpkin, add a few spoonfuls of baking soda, a squirt of washing-up liquid, and a few drops of food colouring. Let the children pour in mild vinegar and watch the fizzy volcano bubble over.

Leaf Rubbings & Texture Printing

Place different-shaped leaves (vein-side up) underneath thin paper. Let children rub the side of a wax crayon firmly across the paper to reveal the hidden leaf skeleton and lines. Alternatively, paint the back of leaves and stamp them onto paper.

Autumn Sensory Bins & Ice Melting

Freeze small plastic woodland animals, conkers, or artificial leaves in a block of ice, or set up a dry tray with oats, cinnamon sticks, pinecones, and scoops. Provide warm water, pipettes, or spoons to help free the frozen items.

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What is happening in Leeds?

Yorkshire Events for Families November 2026

Yorkshire Tots to Teens have prepared lists of family activities for each weekend in November as well as ideas for what to do on rainy days.

To see the list, please go to Yorkshire family events November

Love Leeds - Have Your Say

Help shape your local area through Love Leeds

Love Leeds is a new programme bringing local people, community groups, council services and other organisations together to help make neighbourhoods cleaner, greener and stronger. We are now working with communities in Guiseley & Rawdon, Horsforth, Otley & Yeadon, and Weetwood to find out what matters most in your area to help shape future improvements, but we need your views.

Share what you value about your area
Highlight issues that matter to you
Help identify local priorities
Influence future improvements

Please share your views, your feedback will help identify local priorities and shape the neighbourhood action. Take part in our survey before Friday 27th November:
www.leeds.gov.uk/LoveLeedsSurvey

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 moortown@yorkshiremontessorinursery.co.uk

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

Best wishes
Christine

Instagram, Facebook and Twitter

If you'd like to follow us on Instagram and Facebook, we keep you up to date with lots of activities here and any other interests too. We are Yorkshire Montessori Nursery on Instagram, @yorksmontessori on Twitter and on Facebook at @yorksmontessori