



June 2019

Dear Parents,

Despite the wet weather we have had a wonderful month here at Monkton. The highlight was definitely the visit from the police – I have been at Monkton for 2 years now and I have never seen the children as excited as they were for this. They were allowed to play in the police car and van, try on the outfits and hats, hear their names being called on the walkie-talkie, put on the handcuffs and the policemen answered all of their questions. The children excitedly told the policemen that their Mummies had had their fingerprints done (!) and asked whether they killed baddies (!!)

A huge thank you to Patrick's Daddy for the visit, and thank you to the other police families that also offered, we really were amazed by the lovely response. As my begging was so successful I will do it again: if anyone has links with police dogs or horses we would love a visit? Or any firemen? Paramedics? Astronauts??



We also enjoyed our Communication and Language Week and focussed on listening and attention skills with lots of stories, memory and turn-taking games, and we focussed on speaking with descriptive and guessing games. Bananas also made some gorgeous sock puppets and they have been putting on puppet performances.

All of the rooms enjoyed the visit from the Makaton Sing & Sign teacher. We already use Makaton sign language with a number of our children but we were impressed by how engaged the whole group was and how quickly many of them picked up the signs.



### Points to Note

- Oranges & Lemons Parents – Please let us know your leaving date! We are of course delighted if your child will be staying until the end of term (30 August) but if you are thinking of leaving earlier then it does help us with our planning. My Mum also needs this information in order to prepare the final invoices. Please let us know either way as soon as possible!
- We are having lots of enquiries from parents about when children will be moving up. As soon as we know the O&L leaving dates we will be able to plan this and we will let you know as soon as we can. We try our very best to make the transition as smooth as possible for every child but we know that there are some anxious parents (me included) as there are bound to be some wobbles to the change of room. Try to remember they will settle in and within a few weeks they will be happy and proud to be big boys and girls in the next room.
- Cherries Parents will already know that we will be losing our lovely Lauren over the summer as she is going on an adventure to Camp America. Lauren will be leaving at the end of May and will return to us in September (we hope!!!). We are lucky to welcome Gill who will be taking over from Lauren in Cherries for the rest of the year. Gill is a very experienced practitioner who is qualified to NVQ3 and has come to us

from another reputable setting. Gill will then remain with us in September as a permanent member of staff.

### Dates for the Diary

10 June – 14 June: **Expressive Art & Design Week**. This is our next focus week and it is sure to be a fun (and messy) one! The children will be using lots of different media and materials to express their artistic talents. We will be doing lots of dancing and singing and role play activities throughout the week.

Monday 10 June: **Ballet Tots**. As part of our Expressive Art & Design Week we will be visited by Ballet Tots who will be doing sessions with Cherries, Bananas and Oranges & Lemons. It will be both 'ballet' and more general dancing.

Thursday 27 June: **Leaver's Photos** – Oranges & Lemons big boys & girls only. If your child is not usually in on a Thursday please bring them in 9.00am-10.30am. Please let Oranges & Lemons know if you will be bringing them in.

Friday 28 June: **Monkton Championships!** – Don't forget to buy a white t-shirt for your child to wear on the day.

Thursday 4 July: **Parents Evening** 6.30-8.30pm. I will remind you again nearer the time but just so that you can pencil it in to come for a glass of wine and an update on your lovely little one/s. Oranges & Lemons parents will need to book a time slot.

Wishing you all a gorgeous start to the summer season, fingers crossed for more days when we can enjoy picnics and water play outside!

Best wishes

Eve, Sue, Noreen, Lydia and all of the staff at Monkton xxx



