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Dear Parents,

June 2021

I hope you are all well and enjoying the sun at last, and hopefully not too many cancelled holidays and disappointments....

We have had a very busy and fun month at Monkton, I think the best bit was watching the ducklings hatch and looking after them for the week, we all absolutely loved them and wished we could have kept them. The children were fascinated by the whole experience so we will definitely be doing it again.



We now have the caterpillars.... but they are not quite as exciting as the ducklings at the moment... Hopefully more magical when they become beautiful butterflies...!



Bananas and Oranges & Lemons have also really enjoyed the football sessions with Coach Callum, he will now be coming weekly (Monday and Thursday alternating) – all of the children loved it and some very impressive football skills already, imagine how good they'll be by the time they go to school!



We also had a very successful Communication and Language Focus Week. This area underpins all future learning, so it is of utmost importance. It is embedded into our practice every day as we support children by modelling language and extending vocabulary at every opportunity. It was fun to really focus on this area though, and to think of different ways to encourage speech. We did guessing games, telephones, making up stories, puppet shows, newsreaders, lots of role play activities, activities to follow instructions (eg Simon says) and of course lots of books.





A few points to note:

- It is looking more likely that we will still be in semi-lockdown after 21 June, and I have been mulling over how this will affect our 'Monkton Staycation' on 2 July. I really don't want to cancel, but at the same time I can't guarantee secure bubbles for the day. My feeling is that we go ahead with it as it is all outdoors, and children will remain in their groups (ie Apples / Cherries etc). They will potentially be sharing resources as all groups will play the same games outside at different times of day, and we will anti-bac in between. I expect most children will want to go on the donkeys, and we will make sure they use hand sanitiser as soon as they get off. So, it will be a slightly increased risk as different bubbles may be outside in different parts of the garden (not mixed) at the same time, and they will be using the same resources. If you are concerned about this event going ahead, please do make your concerns known and I will look again at whether we can do anything else.
- We are still having quite a lot of last minute birthday cake requests. Lydia is very good and she usually bends over backwards to get it done but she does already have a lot to do so organisation is key! Please could you let us know at very least a week in advance if you would like Lydia to make cakes for your child's birthday party – and then pass in £10 for the cake.
- I have attached a sheet with the adverts from our parents / staff – have a look and if possible give them a follow on Instagram or keep them in mind for the future / pass on recommendations.
- On that note, please give us a follow on Instagram! I have recently set up an Instagram, we will just be sharing photos of activities and will not share photos of children without explicit prior consent. We won't follow back as we respect your privacy, but we would like to share our practice with you – it's just monktonnursery

- I have been on a recent training session with Liverpool City Council and have been told that we must record if any of our children go on holiday abroad, where they are going to, and monitor return dates etc to ensure that children observe any isolation period before they return to nursery. This seems a little heavy-handed in my opinion as we do trust you to follow guidance and do the right thing, but if you could just send me an email letting me where and when you are going I would appreciate it for our records.
- I feel mean saying this but I really can't ensure that all children are in the room photos each time... It takes up so much of my time to send out the photos anyway and it would just be impossible to tick off each child each time.... It is just supposed to be a snapshot of the day so that you can see what we're doing, and I'm sure if they are not in one batch they will be in the next.

Dates for the Diary:

7 – 11 June: **Physical Development Week.** Our next Focus Week, and sure to be lots of fun, we will be doing lots of activities to support and develop both gross motor skills and fine motor skills.

Friday 2 July: **Monkton Staycation!** All children are invited, if your child is not usually in on a Friday and you would like them to attend please let the room know so that we know numbers for catering / staffing (I hear rumours of Lydia doing a British seaside fish & chips in newspaper cones, and then of course ice cream from the ice cream van 😊). Children not usually in on Fridays should attend 2pm – 4.30pm. Dress code: Summer Holidays.

12 – 16 July: **Mathematics Week.** All things number, shape, space and measure.

Tuesday 13 July: **Leavers Photos.** As always Gemma will be coming to take photos of all of our amazing Oranges & Lemons children before they go to school. If your child (O&L only!) is not usually in on a Tuesday please let me know if you will be bringing them in so that I can make a list – if you can bring them 9am-10am?

Friday 6 August: **Leavers Party.** A bittersweet day! We would love for all of our O&L Leavers to come for the party, even if you are officially leaving earlier. It will be 2pm-4.30pm and they will have a magic show and disco with Wavy Davy and (weather permitting) picnic party. Again, please let O&L know if your child is not usually in on a Friday but will be attending, so that we know numbers for catering.

I think that's all for now! Wishing you all a wonderful sunny month ahead – who needs holidays abroad anyway?!.....

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

