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Dear Parents,

July 2021

I hope you are all well and enjoying the sun, I think we were enjoying it until the last few sweltering days! We have had most of the children cooling down in the paddling pools and under shade, but I do feel sorry for the little ones struggling with the heat. Hopefully more manageable next week!

We were really lucky with the weather and everything else for Monkton Staycation – it was a huge success and the children had such a fun day. We did lots of 'British Summer Holiday' games, ate strawberries & cream for break then fish & chips in newspaper cones for lunch, we paddled in the pool and made sandcastles in the sandpit, ate ice creams from the ice cream van, dancing with Wavy Davey and (almost) everyone had a donkey ride. Perfect day!



We have also been busy since the last newsletter with not one but two Focus Weeks – Physical Development Week in June and then a Mathematics Week earlier this month. Both were lots of fun and I was really impressed with all of the different ideas. We certainly noticed that the Maths Week had a positive effect on understanding in this area with lots of children making noticeable progress.



And on top of all of that we have celebrated / commiserated for the Euro Finals, enjoyed our football sessions with Coach Callum and Gymtots with Wavy Davey, and Orange & Lemons have also had a Brazilian Carnival dance session with Movema and had a go at dog grooming with one of our Mums from The Doghouse Grooming Salon.

Points to Note

- Parking – I'm sure you have seen my previous emails about this, please don't park on the opposite side of the road or on the corner of our side where there are double yellow lines. There are always spaces a little further up the road. It is dangerous to cause congestion on the corner through lazy parking, especially when there are little children around. I think I may have come to the point where we will have to take photos of the offending cars and try to identify who is doing it. Please just stop!
- Covid restrictions – Despite the government guidance allowing us to reduce restrictions, we are still taking a cautious approach. We are pleased that we have now been able to get all of our resources out (it's been a bit like Christmas!) and we are allowing Apples, Cherries and Bananas to use the Rumpus Room and Sensory Room at different times of the day. However, we are still wearing masks in communal areas and we are still asking you to wear a mask in the driveway at pick up and drop off. Some of our staff are still not fully vaccinated and we want to ensure they are protected, so we would appreciate your continued cooperation with this. I have emailed a copy of the updated Risk Assessment, if you have not received it and would like to see it please send me an email.
- I have had a few requests for new September invoices – Sue & I are about to start preparing these, it does take a long time as obviously everyone does different days and has different funding etc – we will be as quick as we can!
- A few people have asked about leaving gifts... whilst we really appreciate you wanting to give gifts, it does make it a little unfair as it is impossible to share them out equally, so if you would like to give something then a little donation is very much appreciated, and we can then do a collection to share equally and everyone can get themselves a little treat.

Dates for the Diary

Parents Evening – Thursday 5 August 6pm-8pm – If you would like to have a chat with your child's keyworker and look through their Learning Journey please ring your child's room and make an appointment. We are trying to keep as Covid-safe as possible by having time slots rather than the usual standing around having a mingle and a glass of wine. Please could you wear masks unless you are exempt.

Leavers Party (O&L) – Friday 6 August 2.00-4.30pm – Just for our Oranges & Lemons leaving for school. It is always a bittersweet day, lots of fun but also so sad to think we are saying goodbye when so many have been with us since they were little Apples... We will have a party tea, face painting, and Wavy Davey's famous magic show. If your child is not usually in on a Friday please bring them in 2.00-4.30pm.

Understanding The World Week – 9-13 August – Always a lovely focus week, we will be supporting the children to make sense of the world and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology and the environment. I'm sure there will be lots of exciting activities planned in all of the rooms. I know Bananas are already planning a very exciting 'Bee Day' as part of it.

Lounge Lizards – Monday 9 August – To kick off Understanding the World Week we are having a visit from Lounge Lizards, they will bring all sorts of animals for the children to meet and handle, and it is always an exciting day for all when they visit. I would note that they will be doing 2 sessions, so children will be mixing with different groups. If you are uncomfortable with this please let me know.

Forest School (O&L) – Thursday 19 August – After the success of the last Forest School Day, Oranges & Lemons will be doing this again – so lots of outdoor activities, whatever the weather! Please ensure children are wearing appropriate clothing – so layers if weather changeable, and preferably something old which can get a bit dirty!

So that's all for now, wishing you all a fab summer whether you are getting away or not.

Lots of love,

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

