

November 2019

Dear Parents,

I hope you have all enjoyed the Autumn fun of Halloween, Diwali and Bonfire Night – we have loved hearing all about it from the children and of course we loved celebrating here. Unfortunately I don't have the photos back from Halloween yet so they will have to wait for next month, but we had a great day dressing up, carving pumpkins, making potions, doing lots of Halloween arts and crafts and eating Halloween cakes.

Our Physical Development Week was also a lot of fun, we enjoyed two visits from Little Superstars Sports, the first being a dance session and the second an outdoor multi-sports. The children were really engaged and worked hard on their balance, co-ordination, team work and turn taking skills.



The whole week was filled with physical challenges – both gross motor and fine motor skills, and also some social and emotional development skills as we worked as a team and supported our friends.





The photo days were also slightly chaotic but ultimately successful and we managed to get a smile from maybe 90% of the children which is pretty good. I hope you have all heard from Gemma with the gorgeous photos – let me know if not and I can chase her up.

### Points to Note

- Bananas parents may have noticed that Hannah has not been with us for the last week, she took some time off and has now sadly decided to leave for personal reasons. We wish her well for the future. Her key children have been reallocated to other staff in Bananas that they already have bonds with, and we will try our best to make it a smooth transition for them. If you would like to discuss this further please do have a chat with Christina or pop into the office.
- We will therefore be recruiting... Experience has shown us that some of our most wonderful staff members have come to us through word of mouth, so if you know anyone looking for a job working with children then please do tell them to give us a call. Ideally we would like someone with a Level 3 Childcare qualification, but we would consider training someone if they were motivated and willing to work towards their Level 3 whilst they were here. They must be warm, kind, enthusiastic and fun.
- I hope you have all received the Permission Forms from me. Nikki and I are working towards our Early Years Teaching Qualification which involves us putting together a portfolio with observations of children evidenced by photographs. This will only be shared with our tutor and the external examiner. It would be really helpful for us if we had permissions from everyone so that we don't have to pick children and we can just work with the children that are interested in the activity. I have left some more permission forms in the hallway under the signing in sheets just in case any have been misplaced... If you could hand in to the room it would be much appreciated.
- Please could I remind everyone that all fees are to be paid in advance by the 3<sup>rd</sup> of the month. Unfortunately, due to there being a high number of late payments we will have to implement our policy of a 10% arrears fee for any late payments. Please do speak to me if you have any queries.
- You will all now be aware of the traffic problems. I know it is very annoying, particularly when it is dark and rainy and you have to park far away and wrangle a small child through the wind and rain. I hope it will be resolved soon and will keep you updated whenever I hear anything. In the meantime all nursery staff are parking away from the nursery to hopefully leave the driveway free for parents. Please be mindful that we are all in the same boat and park considerately leaving room for others, and try to be patient.

## Dates for the Diary

**Friday 15 November: Go Neon for Neonatal** – Please could children wear neon / brightly coloured clothes and make a donation of £1 to support Liverpool Women's Hospital to raise money for their Neonatal Unit.

**Thursday 28 November 6.30-8.30pm: Parents Evening** – We really hope that you can all come and have a chat about how your amazing children are getting on, there will be wine and mince pies to get us all in the Christmas spirit. Please could you all speak to the rooms and book a time slot to see your child's keyworker. And please do stay for a mingle and some nibbles afterwards.

**Friday 13 December: Christmas Jumper Day** – as always we will all be wearing our Christmas Jumpers to support Save The Children. We will also be having a visit from **Music In Unison** on that day for a Christmas-themed singalong. We have been visited by Music In Unison on a few previous occasions and she has always been fabulous so we are sure this will be a fun-filled day.

**Thursday 19 December: Christmas Party** – one of the best days of the year – dancing and a magic show with Wavy Davy, a special party tea and... if we're lucky... a visit from the Big Man himself....!!! If your child is not usually in on a Thursday then please do bring them in at 2.00pm and collect them at 4.30pm (ie parents don't stay – sorry!). If you will be bringing your child in as an extra that day please let the room know so that Lydia knows numbers for the food order.

Wishing you all a cosy and organised pre-Christmas season!

With best wishes from Eve, Sue, Noreen, Lydia and all the staff at Monkton xxx



Following the success of Sarah's yoga sessions in Bananas, she will now be visiting Oranges & Lemons once a week on different days to do yoga sessions with them. Namaste! ❤️