

October 2019

Dear Parents,

We have all had a lovely month at Monkton, the children are all seeming more settled and happy and we hope that they are now coming in happily for you in the morning. The main event over the last few weeks was our visit from Lounge Lizards – they are always fabulous but this time they had an added Halloween treat of a tarantula. Some of the children were much more adventurous than the staff....! All of the children enjoyed learning about and holding the lizards, tortoises, snakes and the monkey, but most said that their favourite was the rabbit.



You may also know that we have recently introduced The Daily Mile at Monkton. This is a national initiative which has been very successful in schools. It is just 15 minutes every day where the children will run around the garden at their own pace. The creators of the Daily Mile had noticed that children today may engage in physical activity but that they rarely do sustained activity, i.e. enough to cause them to be out of breath. Schools that have used the Daily Mile have seen improvements in children's health and confidence and reduced anxiety levels. So far, we have found it to be a lot of fun and the children and staff have really enjoyed having the set exercise

time before free play in the garden. At the moment it is just Bananas and Oranges & Lemons that are doing it, but Cherries may join in later in the year.



Continuing the theme of healthy children some of you may have also noticed that Lydia has made some changes to the menu (don't worry we're still having flapjacks). I have attached the delicious new menu and of course if you want to sample it you can always order a portion with the order forms on the bench in the hallway.

We are still having some problems with the extra days payments. If you book an extra day you must bring cash with you on the day and pay it to the room. Please bring the exact amount as we don't have change. The room will then be able to give you a receipt for your payment.

The weather is also getting colder and all of the groups do go outside every day for quite long periods of time. Please can you make sure that your child is dressed appropriately and has a winter coat with them. The babies will also go outside and the non-walkers will go in the baby walkers so please could you make sure that they have shoes with them every day.

We also have some sad news as our lovely Georgia has left us to start university studying Social Work. She had planned to stay part time during her studies but once she started she was informed that she had to be in university every day. We are so sad to lose her as she has been at Monkton for 5 years and is loved by all of the staff and children. We wish her lots of success in her studies. We have Olivia starting next week in Apples, she has Level 2 NVQ Childcare and previously worked with Erin so comes with recommendations, we are sure she will be a lovely new member of the Monkton team.

Finally, please could you all check that you received an email from Monkton on 8 October. If not, please could you email me (enquiries@monktonnursery.co.uk) so that I have your correct email address and I can add it to the parents list.

Dates for the Diary:

Tuesday 15 October: Photo Day Part 1: We will be starting at 9am with the children who aren't normally in on a Tuesday or Thursday. If your child is not in on either day and you would like them to have their photo taken, please bring them at 9.00am and pick them up at 10.30am. We will then carry on with the other children throughout the day and hopefully get through everyone.

Thursday 17 October: Photo Day Part 2: We will be taking the group photographs (ie of each room). We will be starting at 9am, if it is not your child's day and you would like them to be in the group photo, please bring them at 9.00am and pick them up at 10.30am. We will then do the individual photos of children not done on the Tuesday.

Please note that we do not have time to change children into different outfits as we have a lot of photos to get through during the day, so please make sure your child is wearing the outfit you would like them to wear in the photo.

21 October – 25 October: Physical Development Week The first of our EYFS focus weeks this year and a fun one, we will be doing lots of physical development activities throughout the week to include gross motor skills and fine motor skills.

Monday 21 October: Little Superstars Dance Sessions – as part of our Physical Development Week Little Superstars will join Cherries, Bananas and Oranges & Lemons for some dance and coordination sessions.

Wednesday 23 October: Little Superstars Multi-Sports Sessions – again I'm afraid Apples are still a bit little to get involved but all of the other groups will have sessions which we hope will be a lot of fun.

Thursday 31 October: Halloween – always one of the favourite days of the year, we will do lots of spooky potions and crafts and (age-appropriate) scary stories. We'd love as many scary costumes as possible.

11 November – 15 November: Mathematics Week – the next EYFS focus week. More information to follow!

Friday 15 November: Go Neon for Neonatal – we will be supporting Liverpool Women's Hospital to raise money for their Neonatal Unit for vulnerable babies and their families. Please could children wear neon / bright colours and make a donation of £1 (or more!).

So lots of fun ahead!

I wanted to include some photos from our gorgeous MacMillan baking day. Each room baked themed cakes, so Apples did 'Butterflies', Cherries did 'The Tiger Who Came To Tea', Bananas did 'What the Ladybird Heard' and Oranges & Lemons did 'The Spider's Tea Party'. All of the children enjoyed baking the cakes and they definitely enjoyed eating them. Unfortunately, photos are in the next batch so I'll try to remember to include them next time. If your child was in and you haven't donated £1 yet then I will be paying it in next week so please do!

Wishing you all a gorgeous Autumn and a fabulous spooky Halloween,

Much love

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



We have also been enjoying exploring our new construction materials – lots of budding architects.