



Dear Parents,

August 2019

We have had a wonderful month at Monkton – the highlight was obviously the Monkton Championships which was a great day for all involved. The children valiantly carried on through the slightly drizzly morning, and were rewarded with a sunny afternoon of BBQ, lolly ices and outdoor games. FutureGym did an amazing job making it exciting for all of the age groups, and we were very impressed with the athletic ability of many of the children. We hope they all came home saying they'd had fun, and we're sure they will all have slept well that night!



Banana's Forest School was also really successful, day 1 was lovely sunshine and day 2 was near torrential rain but it meant they had the proper 'experience' and to be honest the children seemed unfazed and happy to be splashing around in muddy puddles in their waterproofs. Bananas made sure it was a wonderful couple of days with a Gruffalo Trail, making musical instruments, building dens, planting seeds, making flower crowns and lots of mud pies. I'm sure we will repeat this activity next year as the children loved it.



Cherries also had a gorgeous day for their Teddy Bears picnic, they all enjoyed introducing their special teddies to their friends, playing with them in the garden and cuddling them at nap time. So adorable!



And finally (yes it has been a very busy month!) we had the Leaver's Party for all of the Oranges & Lemons children that are leaving us to start their adventure at school. We are so proud of each and every one of them, they are all happy, confident and ready for their next challenge. We will all be having a little cry when we say goodbye but no tears at the Leavers Party just face-paint, party tea and a hilarious show from Wavy Davy.



Points to Note

- I hope you have all received my email about the attempted robbery from a parent's car outside of nursery. Please can you all be cautious and do let us know if you see anything suspicious.
- As it is coming up to the end of term, we know that some of you may want to give a gift to the practitioners in the room you are leaving. Whilst not wanting to sound unappreciative, please could we ask that you give a donation rather than wine / chocolates etc as it is easier to share out fairly.
- Please can Oranges & Lemons parents have a good look at the rail and boxes on the landing and take any of your child's possessions.
- Please can you remember to take all of your child's belongings off their peg at the end of term – they will have a new peg next term.
- Please can all parents make sure that clothes – especially shoes and cardigans which are taken off a lot – are labelled with your child's name to avoid mix-ups.
- I would usually remind you all to try to avoid backpacks as there isn't enough room on the pegs, but we have just ordered some 'Monkton' pump bags which we will hopefully have before September so maybe don't buy any bag at all and make do with whatever you have (Tesco bag / old handbag) and hopefully you will be able to get one of those soon.
- I just wanted to reiterate Noreen's email that it has been particularly fraught in the office this year with so many people dropping days / changing days / leaving a year early to go to school nurseries with minimal notice given. Please please please if your child is going to a school nursery and leaving us a year early, let us know as soon as possible. If we know a year beforehand we can fill the place, if we are told now then we are unlikely to be able to and we will have turned other children away in the meantime.

I'm afraid I don't have any 'dates for the diary' for August as we are all working on transitions for all of the children and settling in some of the new children. This takes a great deal of love and dedication on behalf of all of the staff as we know it can be difficult. All of the keyworkers take a lot of time and effort ensuring that each child has a smooth transition, they take small groups to the next room for visits and ensure that the next keyworker knows everything about the child before they move up. Our staff are so dedicated that they have even stayed after hours to have extended discussions about the transitions as they want each and every child to have minimal disruption and to feel excited about moving up to the next room. I know it can be upsetting to see your child having a wobble when they have been going into their last room with no problems, but please continue to encourage them and tell them how fun the next room is. In a few weeks they'll be equally as happy in the next room, we promise!

I'll leave you with a few photos of Oranges & Lemons gorgeous yoga & mindfulness classes with Little Sunshine Yoga. Also my nephew Leon has been doing work experience in Oranges & Lemons before starting his Music degree. He brought in his saxophone for an impromptu dance in the garden. It has definitely been a fun-filled month!

Oh and a little poem for the school leavers just to send you over the edge!

With lots of love

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



*Dear Teacher,
I know you're rather busy
First day back, there's just no time
A whole new class of little ones
And this one here is mine
I'm sure you have things covered
And have done this lots before
But my boy is very little
He hasn't long turned four
In his uniform this morning
He looked so tall and steady
But now beside your great big school
I'm not quite sure he's ready
Do you help them eat their lunch?
Are you quick to soothe their fears?
And if he falls and hurts his knee
Will someone dry his tears?
And what if no-one plays with him?
What if someone's mean?
What if two kids have a fight
And he's caught in between?
You're right, I have to leave now
It's time for him to go
I'm sure he'll learn so much from you
Things that I don't know
Yes, I'm sure they settle quickly
That he's fine now without me
I know he has to go to school
It's just so fast, you see
It seems like just a blink ago
I first held him in my arms
It's been my job to love, to teach
To keep him safe from harm
So, when I wave goodbye in a moment
And he turns to walk inside
Forgive me if I crumple
Into tears of loss and pride
I know as I give him one more kiss
And watch him walk away,
That he'll never again be wholly mine
As he was before today.*

*Dear Parent,
I understand that you are scared
to wave your child goodbye
and leave him in a teacher's hands
don't worry if you cry!
I'm used to weeping parents
It's hard to leave I know.
But it's time to share him (just a bit)
To help him learn and grow.
Let me reassure you
That I'll give your child my best
I'll wipe his tears, soothe his fears
And change his dirty vest!
If your darling child is full of cold
I'll blow their nose all day
Just like you, I'll care for them
In a special way.
I'll treat him like I would my own
I'll catch him from a fall and
If there is ANY problem
I'll be sure to tell you all.
It's true he'll grow to love us
They'll talk of school a lot
It doesn't mean they hate you
And that you should lose the plot!
I'll tell you a secret..
That when your child is here
They talk to me as much of you
Of this please have no fear.
You'll always be their mother
Whilst teachers come and go
To them you are their number one
This I truly know.
Soon you'll see some changes
In your little girl or boy
They'll become more independent
And to see this, it's a joy!
I'll teach them all I have to give
To share, climb and to write
But to you they safely will return
To tuck them in at night.*

I think I have something in my eye.....☹