

July 2019

Dear Parents,

What a lovely month it has been at Monkton, summer is always such a lovely time here with lots of outdoor activities and fun in the sun, marred only by the knowledge that so many of our special big boys and girls will soon be leaving the red door for the last time and going on their adventures to big school. We will do everything we can to make their last few weeks here as happy and memorable as possible.

We had much excitement throughout the nursery as our butterflies hatched out of their cocoons and we set them free in the garden. We complemented this with various bug activities and bug hunts, and discussions of life cycles.



We also had lots of fun for our Expressive Art and Design focus week. Our artistic talents were really developed with various art activities using lots of different media and materials – paint, fabric, dyes, chalk, magnet boards, clay, transient art, junk modelling and much more. It was a lovely fun and messy week, we loved it and hope you didn't mind the messier than usual clothes...!



We also enjoyed lots of expressive art in the form of dancing and role play activities. The highlight of the week was the visit from Ballet Tots who did sessions with Cherries, Bananas and Oranges & Lemons. The children were really engaged and enjoyed the sessions, and it was also great for their balance and physical development skills.



We hope all of the Bananas parents also enjoyed the Stay & Play. I haven't included photos as I don't want to embarrass anyone but it looked like you all had a ball playing with the children and the children looked so proud to show you what they had been doing in nursery – a really lovely day thank you all.

We are doing lots of transition to school preparation with the Oranges & Lemons, so lots of trying on school uniforms, reading books about school and making sure that they are comfortable with serving their own food etc. We feel that they are academically ready but there are a few little things you can do at home over the next couple of months which will help them:

- Work on teaching them to get dressed and undressed.
- Make sure they can put their own shoes on (obviously they are not expected to do their laces but they should manage velcro straps).
- Make sure they can wipe their own bottoms.
- Teach them to open a banana and a packet of crisps.
- Teach them to cut up their food.

Don't worry too much as my experience of Reception is that it is an extension of what they have been doing here and the teachers will be happy to help them, however with only 2 adults and 30 children in a Reception class it will be very helpful if your child already has these skills!

Points to Note

- I hope you have received my email about the phantom car scratcher – the police didn't have enough evidence to charge him but I'm hoping that he has been sufficiently scared by the police interest that he won't go back to his car scratching. The police have noted that it seemed to happen when cars were on the pavement on the other side of the road. I know this is a perfectly reasonable thing to do on a narrow road but just so that you are aware you may want to park further down or on our side of the road.
- We are starting the transitions through the rooms by each child having visits to their next room with their keyworkers. It is important that parents speak positively to their child about their new room and talk about how proud you are that they are going up to the next class. I can't promise that the transition will be plain sailing but we will make every effort to make it as smooth as possible. If you want to chat further then Noreen or I are always available.
- Please could you ensure your child has spare underwear in their bag, accidents do happen and sometimes it is necessary to dispose of the underwear. We do run low on spare underwear so please return any spares that go home with you.
- Please could Oranges & Lemons parents check the rail and the boxes on the landing – they are overflowing. They should be used for the odd cardigan or hoodie that a child takes off during the day, there shouldn't be anything left on there overnight. Please can you just check that there is nothing you've forgotten about.

Dates for the Diary

We have such an exciting month ahead!

Friday 12 July: **Monkton Championships!** We have FutureGym coming to organise the day with lots of physical challenges and some classic egg and spoon races. We will be doing a healthy BBQ in the afternoon with lots of fun garden games. Please can all children in on that day wear a white t-shirt. Fingers crossed for good weather!!

15 – 19 July: **Personal, Social & Emotional Development Week.** The last of our focus weeks for the year. PSED is broken down into 3 areas:

- Self-confidence and self-awareness
- Managing feelings and behaviour
- Making relationships

We will be doing lots of age-appropriate activities such as turn taking games and activities that promote teamwork and sharing. We will also focus on feelings and emotions.

Thursday 4 July: **Little Sunshine Yoga & Mindfulness.** As part of our PSED focus, Oranges & Lemons will be having a 6 week yoga and mindfulness course which will be every Thursday. Katie has done a yoga course at Monkton before and we absolutely loved her, she really engaged the children and they loved doing the yoga poses, breathing exercises and peer massage. I'm sure this year's Orange & Lemons will love it.

Thursday 18 July: **Leavers Party.** For all of our Oranges & Lemons children going to school. We will have Wavy Davey, a disco and a party tea. If your child is in O&L and is not usually in on a Thursday then please do bring them in for the fun from 2.00-4.30pm. Please let Oranges & Lemons know if you will be bringing your child in as an extra so we know numbers for catering.

18th & 19th July: **Forest School** Bananas will be staying outside all day for both days. They will be basing their activities on Forest School ideologies and getting involved with nature as much as possible. They will be building dens and cooking on a firepit and generally getting muddy. Please wear old clothes, especially if the weather isn't great!

Finally, we have just been to the National Day Nurseries Association Awards, we didn't enter this year but we are going to enter next year, probably in a couple of categories but also for the big 'Best Nursery' award. I hope you all know that everyone on the Monkton team strives to provide the very best childcare every day. If any of you have any ideas of anything else we can do to make ourselves stand out from the crowd then please do drop me an email! In it to win it!!

Sending you all lots of love and best wishes

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

