

May 2019

Dear Parents,

How lovely is it that Spring has finally sprung? I hope everyone enjoyed the fabulous Easter break and the not-so-fabulous Bank Holiday break! Fingers crossed the sun will return soon.

We have been enjoying all things Spring at Monkton, which has worked well with our 'Understanding The World' focus. We have been planting lots of seedlings and noticing the changes in the season – leaves on the trees, chicks in the nests, and – unfortunately – lots of bird poo in the drive! We are sorry!

Our big event in our Understanding The World week was a visit from the owls. The children loved it, learned a lot, and almost all of them were brave enough to have a hold. Interesting fact: owls don't say 'twit-twoo', apparently the female says 'twit' and the male says 'twoo' so if you hear that there must be two owls! So it was a learning experience for us all.



Other topics covered by 'Understanding the World' are 'People and Communities' so we did lots of role play activities for occupations, and we have done self-portraits and talked about our families. Whilst I'm thinking occupations... if anyone has any links to the police and think they could secure us a visit from a police car or even better police dogs / police horses then please let me know! We have been trying for ages with no luck..



Points to Note

- Oranges & Lemons Parents: Now that you all know your schools, **please could you let us know asap what your child's leaving date will be.** Equally if you are a Bananas parent and your child is going to be leaving us a year early to go to a school nursery then please do let us know as it helps us a lot when it comes to planning for next year.
- Bananas Parents: Please could you bring in some old (clean!) socks as Bananas will be making puppets as part of our 'Communication and Language' week.
- Parents of children in nappies!: Please can you make sure that your child has sufficient nappies with them. We do not supply nappies so if you haven't provided them we have to borrow one from another child and then 'repay' it when you bring nappies in. This can lead to quite a confusing nappy swap system... We do try to remind you when your child's pile is running low so please can you try to keep on top of it.
- As the weather is getting warmer we will of course be using sun cream on a hot day. We use a standard children's factor 50. If your child has a skin condition and requires a different cream please can you take steps to obtain some now and pass it in to the room.
- Can I remind you all again that mobile phones must be kept off and away whilst in Monkton. If you have photos or videos that you want to share with the staff please email them to us and we will pass them on.
- We are still having difficulties with extra days payments. If you book an extra day for your child please can you bring the payment in on that day in cash. Please try your best to have the correct change.
- Lydia's food orders seem to be going well, please could you just ensure that you complete the form in full – make sure that your child's name, room and the total you have paid is written on the form. Forms should be handed in to the room / kitchen any time before Thursday morning.

Dates for the Diary

13 May – 17 May: Communication and Language Focus Week. This topic is broken down into 3 areas:

- Listening and attention - these skills support language learning and include the ability to discriminate sounds and maintain and monitor attention in a shared context. Children can demonstrate their listening and attention skills by listening to stories, joining in with songs etc.
- Understanding - young children gradually develop the ability to understand words in context, beginning with single words and building on this with phrases and more and more complex sentences. Children will understand a great deal more than they are able to say.
- Speaking - this allows children to express their feelings, needs and wants, their thoughts and ideas and be able to talk about what has happened and about creative or imaginative events.

We have recently had whole nursery training from Elklan Early Language Builders in Developing Communication. This was absolutely fascinating and really enhanced our knowledge. We are putting lots of the strategies in place already and our Communication and Language week will be an opportunity for us to practice our skills as well as the children practicing theirs. If any parents are interested in this they do run courses aimed at parents as well (just Google Elklan!) – highly recommended!

Wednesday 15 May: We are having Makaton 'Sing and Sign' sessions for all of the rooms as part of the focus week. Makaton is most commonly used with children who may have difficulty with their speech and communication; however it can be beneficial to all children in developing social interaction, fine and gross motor skills and building listening and attention skills. It is also lots of fun!

Thursday 27 June: Leavers Photos – Gemma will be coming in to take photos of all of our lovely big boys and girls before they leave us for school. If your child is not usually in on a Thursday then bring them in 9am-10.30am, please could you let Oranges & Lemons know if you will be bringing them.

Friday 28 June: Monkton Championships! As our big summer event this year we are having a Sports Day / Olympics day. We have an amazing team visiting us to do various physical development activities and we will have a few more surprises. I know it is early but could I ask you all to purchase a plain white t-shirt for your child to wear that day? It will be here before we know it and we want them all to look the part! More details to follow!

Thursday 18 July: Leavers Party – Wavy Davy, party tea and a disco for all of Oranges & Lemons before they leave us.... and tissues for the staff – we hate saying goodbye!

I think that's all for now, I'll leave you with some gorgeous photos of Cherries enjoying the sun and having a bug hunt.

Best wishes

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

