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Dear Parents,

I have to start with a huge thank you for all your thank yous. The girls were so touched by your generosity and everyone was able to buy themselves something special, but, more than that, we loved what you wrote in your cards, it really means a lot to us. It is always sad for the girls when their key children move up to the next room, and even sadder when they leave for school, but we know they are ready for their next stage and we are so proud of them all.



Now that we've wiped away our tears it is time to get excited about the year ahead. A huge welcome to all of our new Monktonians. Don't worry if your child is still a little reluctant to come in, it won't be long before they are reluctant to go home. Any tears are usually over by the time the front door has closed behind you and while you spend your day feeling thoroughly miserable they are having a lovely time! Please keep phoning for updates whilst they are settling in, we totally understand and promise to always tell the truth so when we say they are happy you know it is true.

I thought now would be a good time to answer some of the queries that often come up at the start of a new school year and to give you some information that may be useful. So.....

We are obsessive about safeguarding. It is your child we are protecting so please support us when we ask you to:-

- **Close the door** behind you, coming in and going out.
- Do not leave it open for anyone else unless you are certain they are a parent.
- **Mobile phones** need to be off and away in nursery.

- **If your child is being picked up by anyone other than their Mummy or Daddy you must let us know and supply a password.** It puts us in an embarrassing situation when we have to try and contact you while they wait. If someone else regularly picks up please ask for a permission letter which means you don't have to let us know each time but that that person can pick up until you let us know otherwise.
- Please don't take your child to the toilet at nursery – if they have a (typical) need to go on their way in or out please ask a member of staff to take them.

We are very careful if any of the children have allergies so we ask that you **don't bring food into the rooms.** Morning break is early and you are welcome to finish off that last bit of breakfast in the hall.

Extra days or half days are available at the usual daily rates if we have space in the rooms. Just ask if you need one and we will do our best to help. We ask that extra days are paid for on the day in cash, in order that we keep it separate from regular fee payments.

Fees, including vouchers, are due **by the 3<sup>rd</sup> of the month**, as per your contract. This helps the nursery run smoothly (and saves a great deal of stress for me!)

As the days get colder I know that we will have lots of 'lost' coats. Many of you have the same good taste and the sizes are the same, if a harassed parent or grandparent picks up they may have no idea what the child was wearing in the morning and will take the wrong coat. Please put a name tape in them and it makes life much easier (plus it's good practice for school ☺) And shoes are even worse, sometimes there are 3 pairs of the same style to put back on after nap time. We would like your child to go home in their own shoes so please take a minute to write their name inside.

I hope you have all had your new 'Monkton' pump bags (let me know if not!). Please can you make sure your child has a spare set of old clothes in it, we do go outside in all weathers and we do play with water / paint / lots of messy stuff, so it's good to have a change of clothes. We do have spares but they may not be the most stylish / matching items...!

We are open and insured from 8am until 6pm. We totally understand the sweat-inducing anxiety of being late and you can have every confidence that your child will be looked after with the usual love and care until you get here. It is however our staff who will be doing this, unplanned, in their own time. Although they don't charge the first time it happens or for the first five minutes it is £5 per person per 15 minutes after this and two people need to stay. The money goes directly to the girls, not to the nursery, and you will be asked to sign the Late Book.

If you need a babysitter many of the staff enjoy doing this and there is a list of names and numbers in the porch, or ask me and I can send you a copy.

And last but not least, we really like celebrating your children's birthdays with them (especially if there is cake!) but sometimes they are not in on the day and, if we are very busy, we have been known to forget ☹. If you want to make sure that your child has a little tea party here can you please let us know a week or so in advance. You can bring a birthday cake if you want to or ask Lydia to make one of her delicious home-made ones with the £10 donation going to help whichever charity we are supporting at the time. PS Don't worry about cake or anything if you don't want to, especially in the younger rooms, this is just so you know. PPS If you have party invitations or thank yous to give out it works quite well to leave them on the coat pegs. PPPS If you bring a homemade cake we need a list of ingredients so that we can safeguard against allergies.

So thank you for bearing with me through this newsletter – the first one always has to be ‘The Rules’ but I promise the next will be full of fun. We are so looking forward to everything we have planned for 2018-19 – it’s going to be our best year yet. Coming up we have:

- September = general settling in, lots of cuddles and reassurance to help them find their feet.
- **Thursday 3 October** = we are having a visit from Lounge Lizards. They have visited before and are amazing, lots of lizards, snakes, frogs, tortoises and other fascinating animals for the children to meet and handle.
- **14-18 October** = Throughout the year we will be having focuses on different areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage, this will be the first focus week which will be all about Physical Development. More information to follow.
- **31 October = Halloween**. We will be having a (child-appropriate) spooky day, feel free to wear fancy dress.

And as always if you have any queries / concerns / suggestions, please do let us know.

Best Wishes

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

PS. Please do follow us on Twitter @monkton\_nursery !

