

August 2020

Dear Parents,

Well it has been many many months since I wrote a newsletter!! I just couldn't end the year without one last one, to try to sum up the last few months. Whilst it has of course been an extremely difficult period for everyone, and a worrying one for the nursery, we have also seen so many positives. The months when we were just 'Keyworker Kids' were quite surreal but magical, it was lovely to have the mixed age group and see how the children reacted to that, and the little group all became firm friends. We were also blessed with the fabulous weather (where's that gone?!) and that made it so much easier. We were playing in the garden and paddling pool, children screaming and laughing as they were sprayed with the hose, eating alfresco in the undercover area, doing big messy outdoor art projects, bear hunts, den building, discos and lots of laughter. It will always be a time we remember fondly of our little Monkton haven, whilst the rest of the world was a bit crazy...

We have also been absolutely overwhelmed with the support you have all shown to us, thank you for your patience when we were finding all of the guidance difficult to navigate, and the lovely emails and calls. We are so grateful, thank you.



It has been wonderful to welcome most of our children back already, and a relief that despite the time away they have settled in quickly. I know the Risk Assessment makes quite grim reading, and it is far from ideal that we are unable to let parents into the building at the moment, but I can assure you that once you get past the door it is still the same Monkton on the other side. It is emotional for us to have the place filled with noise, chatter and laughter again. I don't think the children notice that there is any difference as most of the changes are related to our cleaning procedures, and thankfully we can now have each class as a 'bubble' so we don't have to keep groups of friends apart. It is not perfect, but it is working and it is a lot more fun than we expected. Please do remember that we want you to be involved and you can always ring and have a chat with your child's keyworker if you have any worries at all, and Noreen and I are always happy to chat as well.

In particular we were so pleased to have so many of our Oranges & Lemons children return for their last few months before starting school. This week is always the worst one of the year (although to be fair there has been a lot of competition this year), we hate to say goodbye but at the same time it fills us with pride to see the happy, clever, confident boys and girls all ready for their next adventure. Thank you so much for entrusting us with the care of your children over the last few years, it is a privilege for us to watch them grow up.

The Leavers Party was fabulous as always, Wavy Davy had them all in stitches with his magic show, and then a chaotic conga line and lots of dancing, followed by a picnic party tea with lots of treats.





Unfortunately we are still waiting for our school leavers bag to be printed, we will let you know when we get them and hopefully you will be able to collect them as a little memento.

So, I will do another newsletter very soon to welcome the new children and tell you all of the plans we have coming up. This newsletter was really just to say a big thank you for your support, and to say goodbye to the class of 2020, we love you all very much.

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

