



December 2019

Dear Parents,

Well, when you ask for the biggest wreath they have, they certainly deliver! It is beautiful but hope you are not all cursing me as you struggle to shut the door whilst carrying toddlers and fighting with a gigantic wreath...!

We are all now in full flow for the Christmas season and we are loving seeing the excitement building. The children are enjoying telling us all about their visits to see Father Christmas and about the adventures of the Elves on the Shelves. We are busy with lots of Christmas crafts and singing all the Christmas songs.

It seems ages ago now but we have finally got the Halloween photos back – we had a fab day making potions, doing all sorts of messy play activities, making cookies, having a special Halloween-themed Gymtots with Wavy Davy and then having a party tea with lots of dancing.



Our Mathematics Week was also much more fun than it sounds! We focussed on sorting, counting, weighing, measuring, number recognition, shapes, construction, jigsaws, threading, sequencing and lots more.



On another note, I have had a really sad and shocking email from a parent this week, Kelly went to drop off some old clothes at the Grow Baby charity. She spoke with one of the volunteers and she was shocked by how desperately they need baby and children's clothes (0-5) for a local women's shelter and refugee families. The volunteer tactfully drew her attention to a family who had two young children dressed in clothes which had been made out of an adult bathrobe, and had no socks on. Kelly was obviously upset by what she had seen and I am sure you will all feel the same that it is shocking that children in our city are in this situation. If you would like to donate any clothes, toys or prams (anything except electrical items or mattresses) please could you take them to Grow Baby, St John's Youth and Community Centre, 2 Steble Street, L8 6QH on a Thursday from 10.00am. Donations can also be made via their Facebook page. If anyone has donations but can't make it then please pass them into the office as Kelly will be taking more things on Thursday 19th December.

Thank you all for coming to the Parents Evening – it was lovely and we do love to tell you how fabulous your children are! If you couldn't attend then you are encouraged to arrange a meeting with your child's keyworker to get an update and have a look at their Learning Journey.

Points to Note

- I know I've said it before but please ensure your child is dressed warmly, we do go outside every day and they do need a winter coat in this weather.
- I have had a few emails about Christmas presents for the staff, if you did want to give something then they would really appreciate a cash donation as this can be shared equally which is fairer than wine or chocolates etc.
- Please do let the room know asap if your child will be attending the Christmas Party as an extra, so that we can cater appropriately.

Dates for your Diary

Friday 13 December – Christmas Jumper Day – We will all be wearing our Christmas jumpers to support Save The Children, please could you make a £1 donation (or more!). We will also have **Music In Unison** visiting us for Christmas singing and playing musical instruments with all of the different groups.

Thursday 19 December – Christmas Party. The most magical day of the year at Monkton. We will be having a fabulous party tea, a magic show and disco with Wavy Davy and of course a visit from Father Christmas. If your child is not usually in on a Thursday then they are welcome to be dropped off at 2.00pm and collected by 4.30pm (ie parents don't stay – sorry!) If you will be bringing your child in as an extra please tell the room now so that we do the correct food order.

Christmas Holidays – Our last day is Friday 20 December and we are back in on Thursday 2 January.

We wish you a wonderful Christmas with your beautiful children, and lots of health, wealth and happiness for 2020.

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

PS The new ball pit in the sensory room is a hit.... How gorgeous!

