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Dear Parents,

December 2020

After such a difficult year for everyone we hope you are all enjoying the festive period as much as we are. We all feel so lucky to do this job at this time of year, the excitement of the children is contagious and feels magical. I know it makes me sound a bit pathetic but I always well up when I see the children's faces when they meet Father Christmas, and already this year I had a little cry watching the Oranges & Lemons children come in excitedly telling me about the magic postbox that disappeared leaving just fairy dust, and then their amazed faces when Margaret got a phone call from Father Christmas. It really is the most wonderful time of year when you get to spend it with children!

So, before we started the festivities we enjoyed our Expressive Art and Design Week which was fabulous – all of the rooms got stuck in doing all manner of art activities, role play, costume design, making music and dancing. Oranges & Lemons were also lucky that one of our Mums works with the Tate and she came to show them some 'real' art and talk about different types of art and how it makes us feel, and how very special artwork ends up in a gallery for everyone to enjoy. The children were very inspired and threw themselves into their artwork, so we hope when it comes home (after the obligatory quarantine) that it will go up on your fridge galleries.



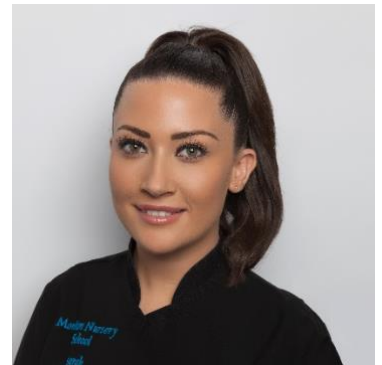
We do have some quite big news – anyone who has children in Bananas or has had children in Bananas will know Christina, and will know that she is absolutely amazing. Her background is that she gained her Degree of Pre-School Education in Greece, with a specialism in bilingual learning in the Early Years. She then completed her Masters Degree in Education Studies in the UK, and joined Monkton in 2017. She has completed her Elklan Advanced Speech and Language training making her a Level 3 Speech and Language Therapist, and she recently used her 'spare time' over lockdown to start studying Level 3 Child Psychology, which she will soon be completing as another string to her already very full bow!



Some of you may be aware that there have been recent revisions to the EYFS and some changes will need to be implemented in terms of how we do our paperwork and how we observe children in the light of this. It has therefore made complete sense for Christina to take on the role of EYFS Manager from January. This will mean that she will work with all of the rooms and assist with planning and observations, and pass on training about the changes to the EYFS. She will also mentor any new staff to ensure that we have consistent quality throughout the nursery.

We are all really excited about this new appointment, and we hope that you will all be supportive of the changes as we believe it will be of benefit to all children in nursery to have Christina sharing her knowledge and enthusiasm.

Bananas parents will I'm sure be pleased to hear that Sarah will be taking over as Head of Bananas for the remainder of the academic year. Sarah joined Monkton in 2013 and trained with us, gaining her NVQ Level 3 in Childcare. She has now completed her Foundation Degree in Early Years. Sarah has lots of experience and is well loved by all of the Bananas children, and she will ensure that Bananas continues to be a fun and happy room for all of our little explorers.



If anyone has any queries or worries call or email any time.

Dates for the Diary

Friday 18 December = Christmas Party!! Always a gorgeous day, just to remind you if your child is not usually in on a Friday and you do want them to come please make sure you have let the room know, and then bring them in 2.00pm-4.00pm for Apples and Cherries, 2.00pm-4.30pm for Bananas and Oranges & Lemons. I have it on good authority that Father Christmas will be visiting and I promise to take lots of photos!

Term dates = Last day is Tuesday 22nd December, first day back is Monday 4th January.

So that's all for this year – a huge thank you to all of you for all of your support, patience and lovely emails throughout this difficult year. We are so lucky to have such wonderful parents and we wish you the happiest Christmas with your gorgeous children.

Lots of love from

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

