

January 2020

Dear Parents,

A slightly belated welcome back from the Christmas holidays – we hope you had a magical Christmas with your little ones and we're sure they were all on the nice list! Christmas at Monkton was really special, it is always our favourite time of year seeing all of the excitement building. We are very lucky to do what we do! We kicked off the Christmas season with the Christmas Jumper Day – thank you all for your donations we raised £127 for Save The Children. We had a great day having our visit from Music in Unison. Tara from Music in Unison is amazing, she has such a strong knowledge of early years and she is also a talented musician – all of the children were fascinated and enjoyed making music and singing Christmas songs.







We then had an amazing Christmas party day, all of the children enjoyed the party tea and most of them enjoyed meeting Father Christmas... Wavy Davy was also a huge hit as always – just look at all of those happy faces!



So our 'big news' is that we have entered the National Day Nursery Association (NDNA) Awards.... We have never entered anything like this before but we felt that as this is Monkton's 40<sup>th</sup> year we should give it a go and hopefully get some recognition. We have entered in 4 categories:

- Nursery of the Year
- Healthy Nursery of the Year
- Practitioner of the Year (Jane)
- Outstanding Contribution (Sue)

It is judged on our applications, votes from parents and the quality of parents' comments (apart from the Outstanding Contribution which is application only). I think if we are short-listed they will then come out to see us. Now, we are always so touched by the beautiful things you write in the end of year cards – can we say if you do a nice comment for us for the awards you don't have to give us a card?! It would mean the world to us if we were to win any of the categories so (please please please!) could you log on and vote for us – just go to <https://www.votendna.org.uk> and select Monkton from the drop down list in each of the categories. I will send you this link by email as well and probably pester you relentlessly about it over the next couple of months.

#### Points to Note

- Thank you for the donations of clothes and toys for Grow Baby. They are always so thrilled and grateful for everything we take. We know as working parents it is impossible for many of you to go to their drop off (11am-1pm on Thursdays), so we have decided to go on the first Thursday of every month. If you have any old clothes and shoes (age 0-5) or old toys, prams, baby equipment etc then drop them off in the office and we will take it all to them.
- Please note that we are having some tree surgery done in the driveway on Tuesday (21<sup>st</sup> January) so it will not be possible to use the drive on that day.
- It will be our Literacy Week 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> March and we thought it would be wonderful to have a special guest to read the story each day. If you would like to bring your child's favourite story in and read it to their class please let the room know and they will book you in. I think it's probably best for it to be in the afternoon and then you take your child home so as to avoid any upset!
- Please could everyone make sure that their child's name is in their coat and shoes? Lots of you have the same good taste and have similar items so they can end up going home with someone else by accident.
- I know I say this every time but every group does go outside at least twice a day – please can you make sure that your child has a winter coat.
- Bananas are planning a dentist theme and were wondering if we have any dentist parents who would be willing to come in and speak to the children? If so please let me know or have a chat with Christina in Bananas to work out an appropriate time.

## Dates for the Diary

I am going on my teaching placement on 27<sup>th</sup> January for 7 weeks, so it's unlikely that there will be another newsletter until I'm back, so I'm looking ahead a bit here... I'd also note that during that time Noreen is in the office Monday, Thursday, Friday – she will be very busy so please be patient and understanding!

**20 January – 24 January – Chinese New Year** (Year of the Rat) We will be celebrating all week, doing lots of craft activities and we will be having noodles for lunch on Friday (and trying out chop sticks!).

**3 February – 7 February – Save The Planet Week** We will be having a fabulous topic week incorporating lots of different topics (recycling, weather, endangered animals, healthy eating, plastic etc). Hopefully starting the next generation off loving our planet and looking after it.

**Wednesday 5 February – The Little Laboratory** As part of Save The Planet Week, Oranges & Lemons will be visited by The Little Laboratory to do some experiments linked to the weather and other 'Save The Planet' activities. She was wonderful last time she came for Science Week so we have been waiting for an opportunity to have her back, it should be really interesting for our pre-schoolers.

**Friday 7 February – Zoolab** Again linking in with Save The Planet, Zoolab will be bringing in lots of insects and creepy crawlies for the children to see and hold if they are brave, to teach them about the importance of insects to our environment.

**2 March - 6 March - Literacy Week** Always a great week, we are still in the planning stage and will hopefully get some more information out to you by email beforehand. If anyone would like to bring in their child's favourite book and be a special guest story reader then please let the room know.

**Thursday 5 March – World Book Day** One of my favourite days of the year, if your child would like to dress up as a book character then we would love that!

So that's all for now, wishing you all a warm, quick and germ-free January!

Best wishes

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

PS. Vote vote vote!!!

