



Monkton Nursery School Ltd, 16 Elmsley Road, Mossley Hill, Liverpool L18 8BB. Telephone 0151 724 4500
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Dear Parents,

Now that we've wiped away our tears saying goodbye to our big boys and girls going to school, it is time to get excited about the year ahead. A huge welcome to all of our new Monktonians! I really feel for all of you Mummies and Daddies starting your child at a new nursery and having to hand over at the front door. We would usually be able to welcome you in, have relaxed chats with you at pick up, and you could have a little spy through the window when you arrive to reassure yourself that your child is playing happily and not crying all day. It must be very difficult for you, and I hope you know that you can ring us as much as you like throughout the day if you are worried, we are always happy to give you an update. We will never lie to you, and if your child is having a wobbly day and needing lots of cuddles then we will tell you that, we won't pretend everything is fine. We know that these first few weeks can be a bit fraught for some children, and hope you know that we are happy to have long cuddles if your child needs it. I am always amazed at how children can come in crying hysterically, and then within 20 minutes they're playing happily. I just wish you could all see what we see! We promise that it won't take long for them to settle, and before you know it they will be bouncing into nursery all smiles.

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. Obviously some of this may not be relevant until you get past the front door (hopefully in the near future!) – but it's good to know anyway.....

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. If you would like an extra day please contact the office to arrange it, you will be invoiced separately for extra days at the end of each term.

Fees, including vouchers, are due **by the 3rd 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, 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. Usually we would say it's fine to bring a cake but unfortunately at the moment we can't allow it, but you can 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!

Upcoming Events:

- September = general settling in, lots of cuddles and reassurance to help them find their feet.
- 14th, 15th, 16th October = Photo Days. Gemma will be taking whole year group photos, individual photos and sibling photos. I haven't worked out the logistics of this yet so will get back to you with details of when your child needs to be here. If you haven't seen Gemma's photos before you will be delighted, she is wonderful and the only downside is that it's so hard to choose which ones to buy.
- 19th – 23rd 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 **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**. This area of development will of course be of crucial importance to all children, and we will be planning activities which encourage children to recognise and manage their emotions, develop a positive sense of self, have confidence in their abilities, learn to share and take turns, and to develop their self-care at an age appropriate level. We will give you more information about this as our planning develops!
- 31 October = Halloween. We will be having a (child-friendly!) 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 !

