

AUTUMN NEWS



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the Autumn term!

A very warm welcome to all our returning children and new families! The children have settled beautifully into their new rooms, and baseline assessments are now underway for all new starters. These will be available to view on EY at the beginning of October.

We're looking forward to all the exciting learning opportunities that autumn brings. The changing season provides a wonderful backdrop for exploring nature, sensory play, and seasonal crafts. Children will enjoy hands-on experiences like collecting leaves, observing the outdoors, and engaging in autumn-themed activities that support their curiosity, creativity, and development.

We are delighted to welcome Chloe to our team. Chloe is Level 3 qualified and will be supporting our under-3s. Lucy has also transferred to us from our Tavistock nursery and will be supporting our Pre-school. Lucy has almost completed her Level 2 and will be progressing straight into her Level 3.

In addition to seasonal learning, we're excited to kick off some extracurricular activities this term. Our housekeeper will be running weekly cooking club, alternating between each group, while our preschool children will enjoy trips to the local Co-op to buy ingredients for their recipes. Preschool will also be starting Welly Wednesdays, exploring the local Frogmore field—more information and consent forms will follow soon.

We can't wait to see the children engage with these activities and make the most of all the seasonal adventures ahead.

Becky

Dates for your diary

Holidays & Closures

- **Christmas Closure** – Tuesday 24th December until Thursday 2nd January (inclusive)

Other

- **Saturday 6th December** – Christmas Open Day

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The Nook

We've enjoyed an amazing summer, spending lots of time outside exploring and having fun. The children have loved water play, cloud sand, climbing, and balancing, and have become more confident at naming the farm animals and matching them to their sounds. This term we've welcomed lots of new babies, and we are working closely with parents and carers to ensure smooth settling and help each child grow in confidence. At the start of this term, we have been focusing on our new observation-led planning cycle, which spans three weeks. In the first week, we observe each child and record next steps based on their interests. The second week focuses on implementing support to help children achieve these next steps, guided by their observed interests. Finally, in the third week, we evaluate the previous week's planning to see how the children have progressed and how we can further support them, recording the next steps for the following cycle.

Continue at home

Encourage your child to explore textures at home using everyday items. For example, let them play with rice, pasta, or water in a small tray, and talk together about how each material feels, sounds, and moves. This helps develop sensory awareness and language skills, just like at nursery.

The Atelier

The learners in the Atelier have had an exciting summer, exploring a range of activities and crafts linked to our monthly planning themes. For International Shark Day, we tried a sewing craft that challenged our fine motor skills. Although it was tricky at times, we enjoyed practising and refining these skills, which will help us as we continue our nursery journey.

We've also made the most of the sunshine with lots of water play, practising transferring, pouring, weighing, and measuring using scoops, jugs, and test tubes. Alongside this, we've been supporting our new children to settle into the daily routine, with daily circle times full of songs and stories to help them feel confident and included.

Looking ahead, we're excited to continue exploring our monthly topics, including International Sign Language Day, where we're introducing simple signs such as 'eat', 'sleep', and 'hello'. These activities are helping to support the children's developing communication skills while making learning fun.

Continue at home

Encourage your child to practise simple signs at home. You could start with 'hello', 'thank you', or 'more' during mealtimes or play. It's a fun way to support communication and build confidence in their language skills.

The Studio

We have enjoyed a summer full of curiosity and exploration. Much of our time has been spent in the Wild Walk, searching for all sorts of creepy crawlies. The children have also used tablets and bug identification books to research these fascinating creatures, sparking plenty of questions and discussion. We've explored a variety of art forms too, experimenting with clay and comparing its properties to playdough. The children created beautiful clay sculptures, incorporating leaves, sticks, and other natural treasures found in our garden.

After a bittersweet goodbye to our leavers, the learners in the Academy have settled into their new term. The room has been refreshed to include more small world play and Understanding the World resources, which the children are enjoying and engaging with alongside their Montessori activities. Newer children are settling beautifully, supported by their peers as they learn routines and boundaries, while we continue to reinforce our five golden rules to ensure each day runs calmly and positively.

Teachers continue to track each child's progress through their Montessori Learning Records, celebrating each new achievement and the moments when children succeed in a challenge for the first time. We are thrilled to see the children grow in confidence and are very excited for the term ahead!

Continue at home

Take a nature walk with your child and see what creepy crawlies or natural treasures you can find together. Bring a notebook to sketch or note down what you discover, or use a magnifying glass to explore details up close. You could even try creating a small clay sculpture at home using leaves, sticks, or pebbles you find in the garden, encouraging creativity and fine motor skills.

Recipe of the Month

VEGETABLE BIRIYANI

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 tbsp Vegetable oil
- Tin of mixed pulses, with no added salt or sugar – rinsed
- 1 small cauliflower, broken into florets
- 2 large sweet potatoes, peeled and cubed
- 1 large onion, sliced
- 1L salt-free vegetable stock
- 3 tbsp mild curry paste
- 1 red chilli (medium heat), seeded and finely chopped
- Large pinch of saffron strands
- 2 tsp mustard seeds
- 200g basmati rice, rinsed
- 140g trimmed green beans, chopped into bite-sized pieces
- 2 lemons, juiced
- Handful of fresh coriander leaves



Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 220C/gas 7/fan 200C.
2. Pour the oil into a large roasting tin or oven proof dish and put in the oven for a couple of minutes to heat through.
3. Add all of the vegetables to the tin, except the beans, stirring to coat them in the hot oil. Season with pepper and return to the oven for 15 minutes until beginning to brown.
4. While the vegetables are roasting, heat the stock until hot, then stir together with the curry paste, chilli, saffron and mustard seeds.
5. Mix the rice, pulses and green beans with the vegetables in the tin, then pour over the stock mixture. Lower the oven to 190C/gas 5/fan 190C. Cover the dish tightly with foil and bake for 30 minutes until the rice is tender and the liquid has been absorbed.
6. Stir in the lemon juice, then scatter over the coriander.

Recent Training

We have updated our planning to be more child-led and in line with Montessori principles, ensuring that the 3 I's are fully supported by our amazing team. Many of our staff have also been refreshing their safeguarding training through the local authority, with several more sessions booked. In addition, Russel is completing her 2-Year-Old Progress training, and all our Baby Room staff have either completed or are booked onto specialist Baby Room training to continue enhancing their skills and knowledge.

Colleague Spotlight

This month, we want to shine a light on Zoe and recognise the incredible value she brings to our team. Zoe is a wonderful role model for our children, consistently demonstrating dedication, creativity, and care. She skilfully combines our curriculum with the EYFS framework, ensuring that every child receives the very best start with us. Her passion for early years education, coupled with her ability to inspire and support both children and colleagues, makes her an invaluable member of our team.

