

Monkey Puzzle Colchester January 2024 Newsletter



Our Mission Statement:

"Working Together with Families, Staff & Children to Provide an Enabling, Safe and Healthy Environment where Children can Learn, Laugh & Grow with Us"

Welcome to our monthly edition of Monkey News.

Nursery Manager



Welcome to the January edition of the Monkey news!

I still cannot believe I am sitting here writing the last newsletter piece for 2023. Where has this year gone, but like they say 'time fly's when you're having fun' and that is certainly what happens at Monkey Puzzle especially throughout December when the nursery has been exploring and looking at Christmas and how Christmas is celebrated throughout the world.

The children have taken part within a wide range of activities and experiences throughout December relating to Christmas. Lots of Christmas crafts have been created for you all to enjoy at home with lots of glitter being used!! The children enjoyed lots of Christmas events including a Christmas meal, Breakfast with Santa, Pantos, Visits to Care Home and lots of themed Christmas messy play activities.

The children have certainly enjoyed talking about Christmas, and creating pictures and crafts relating to this. We were even lucky at the beginning of December to have our first glimmer of snow! The children were keen to get outside in the garden to explore this!! Lots of Christmas cooking and baking has taken place with children taking their baked goods home.

As we begin to finish up 2023 we look forward to what 2024 can bring us. If I can be certain of one thing it will be lots more fun, exciting and engaging activities and experiences!! In January we will be looking at Healthy Habits and Emotions. This will allow the children to talk about what makes them healthy and how to stay healthy and also help children to gain understanding around how they are feeling and being able to express this feeling.

As always please do not hesitate to get in touch with me at nursery in person or via phone, if you have any queries, questions or concerns.

James.

From myself and my team at Monkey Puzzle we all wish you a Happy Christmas and an Amazing New Year, and look forward to welcoming you all back to the nursery on Tuesday 2nd January 2024.

Overflow Carpark

We are pleased to announce that Stanway Evangelical Church have said we can use their car park Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 4:30-6:30.

Directors



Welcome to all new children and parents who join our existing Monkey Puzzle community.

Hello I am Mario and I regularly visit the nursery to meet and see the children. When I am at the nursery I am always supervised by the management team when I am walking around the nursery or with the children.



Nursery Parent Number:

01206 560695

Birthdays

We have had lots of birthdays to celebrate in December across the nursery and would again like to wish a massive 'Happy Birthday' to...



Oliver, Lamya, Cameron, Eliyah, Lyra, Maeve, Matilda, Maria, Jackson, Maya, Finley, and Callum.

All payments to be received on the 1st of each month or first working day after.
(All late payments will result in a £25 late charge)

WE WOULD KINDLY ASK ALL PARENTS TO PLEASE TELEPHONE THE NURSERY ON 01206 560695 BY 9AM IF YOUR CHILD WILL NOT BE ATTENDING NURSERY ON THAT DAY. IN ADDITION WE WOULD ASK YOU ALL TO READ AND FAMILARISE YOURSELVES WITH OUR SICKNESS EXCLUSION TIMES ON PAGE 9 THANK YOU

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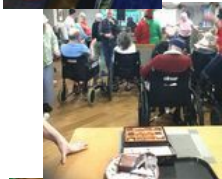
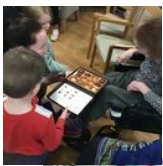
"Working Together with Families, Staff & Children to Provide an Enabling, Safe and Healthy Environment where Children can Learn, Laugh & Grow with Us"

Nursery News:

Christmas Panto:

On Thursday 7th December the children in Preschool was joined by the 'Shooting Stars' company who put on an exciting and interactive panto for the children. The children and staff enjoyed the story 'In Search for Santa'

The children enjoyed joining in with the range of different songs and rhymes and enjoyed keeping an eye out for 'the stage hand' who appeared with special clues throughout the performance.



Loganberry Lodge:

Another key time of this year is for our preschool children to visit their 'older friends' at Loganberry Lodge Care Home.

The visits to the care home have become a valuable part of the children's time at the nursery, with the partnership becoming stronger. We look forward to more visits next year.

The children visited the care home at the end of December and enjoyed a special Christmas party with the residents and they handed out the gifts of chocolates to the residents and they had even made the children some cakes.

Pick up and Drop off at MP:

Due to busy times at pick up and drop off please be advised that your child's key person is unable to give you a detailed and lengthy handover. We have informed our staff to keep handovers to around 30 seconds, unless there are forms such as accident / medication / funding to be signed. All information regarding what your child has eaten, how they have slept etc is all on the parentzone app.

Nursery Gifts:

The team would like to thank everyone who has given gifts to their child's key person, this could be due to the child leaving the setting or transitioning rooms. As much as they love receiving the food based cakes and treats. They are unfortunately not able to enjoy these due to allergies in the nursery. If you would like to give individuals gifts could we suggest a voucher / personal items instead of food based gifts. Thank you in advance.

Nursery Parent Number:

01206 560695

INFORMATION

Basic Care:

At Monkey Puzzle we strive to deliver exceptional care towards all the children within our care with basic care being the top of our agenda.

If you do have any concerns regarding the basic care of your child please do not hesitate to get in contact with the management team who will quickly look into and deal with any issues.

Mealtimes at MP

Please be advised we have set mealtimes at Monkey Puzzle. This is to help build routine and consistency at the nursery. The times are as followed.

Breakfast 7:30-8:30AM (last sitting around 8.25ish)
AM Snack: 10AM
Lunch: 11.30AM
PM Snack: 2PM
Tea: 3.30PM

Important Dates for 2024!

Our inset days for 2024 are:

Thursday 28th March 2024 &
Tuesday 27th August 2024

(Please be advised the nursery will be closed on both inset days)

Easter Holiday

Friday 29th March 2024 (Good Friday)
Monday 1st April 2024 (Easter Monday)

(Please be advised the nursery will be closed on both Good Friday and Easter Monday)

Preschool Graduation:

Thursday 22nd August 2024

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What will we be learning this month?

Monthly Theme:

Healthy Habits / Emotions

Home Learning:

This month's home learning is to have an amazing Christmas and enjoy spending time with your families and friends. We look forward to hearing and seeing all about your Christmas in the new year.

Books of the Month

The Colour Monster:

by Anna Llenas

Curious George Visits The Dentist:

by Margarat & H.A.Rey's

The Very Hungry Caterpillar:

by Eric Carle

Merry Christmas

From all of us at Monkey Puzzle we would like to wish you a joyful and fun Christmas. We hope that you all have an amazing time celebrating Christmas with your family and friends.

Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year! We will see you all on the 2nd January 2024.

Staff Birthdays

Throughout December we have celebrated lots of staffs birthdays. We at Monkey Puzzle love celebrating a birthday and would like to wish the following another 'Happy Birthday' Steff, Milanthi, Michelle, Amanda, Katie, Nicola, Kayleigh, Frankii and Keisha.



Dates for your Diary:

1st January 2024 > New Years Day (Nursery Closed)

2nd January 2024 > Nursery Re-Opens

25th January 2024 > Burn's Night



December Recap

Starfish

Throughout December the children in Starfish have been exploring all things Christmas, the children have enjoyed a wide range of activities and have been developing so many new skills as well as extending their range of skills they already have.

It wouldn't be Christmas without a few stories read to us and the children enjoyed picking which book they would like to look at from the selection that we have, once they have their book the children look at the pictures inside and feel all of the different sensory textures all whilst developing their communication skills through babbling and their use of single words, of course the children all sit lovely alongside one another too whilst they listen to some of these stories being read to them.

The children then helped to decorate their own Christmas tree using the sticky velcro accessories and the foam tree, the children extended their hand to eye coordination skills to place each accessory onto the tree working well together as a team, understanding that sometimes we just have to wait our turn. The children then moved on to a new sensory experience of tinsel and baubles, this activity extended from the tree decorating activity as we love to decorate with tinsel and baubles, the children pull out the tinsel and drape it around themselves whilst taking in all of the pretty colours and feeling the different textures of each bauble.

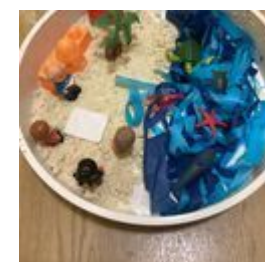
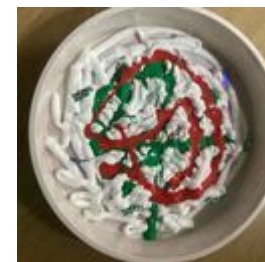
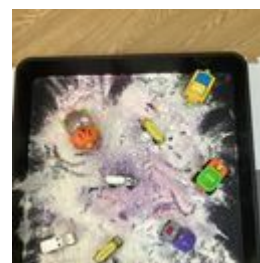
Christmas wouldn't be fun without a range of messy play activities and we have have had a blast exploring them in Starfish, the children used their manipulation skills when using paintbrushes to mix together the different traditional paint colours through foam, used their hands to swirl snowy shaving foam through feathers and flour gaining knowledge of arctic animals and they pushed their cars through snowy flour and glitter as they drove themselves home for Christmas.

The children enjoyed developing their Mathematics skills using spades to scoop up the stocking shaped oats before pouring them back out again, these mathematics skills came out again when they counted the baubles that they found hidden in shiny wrapping paper, we then made slopes out of the wrapping paper and the children rolled the balls up and down the slope.

The children explored a Santa tray made up of loads of different Christmas materials using their hands and feet before finally celebrating with a beach themed moon sand and shredded paper Australian Christmas.

Hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and New Year! Xx

Jo Jingles will be coming to visit the Starfish this month



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December Recap

Rainbow Dolphins

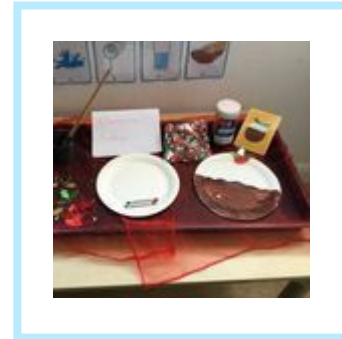
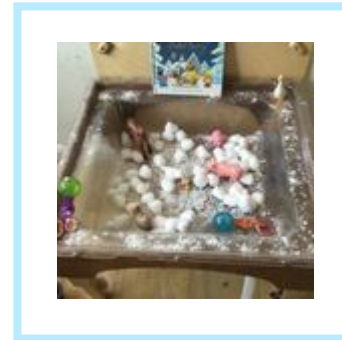
Happy December, we have had a very fun and busy month in Rainbow Dolphins preparing and getting ready for Christmas. Each child has spent lots of time making some wonderful crafts and decorating their Christmas folders to take home for their family. They have made tree decorations, Christmas cards, pictures and some calendars. The children have also enjoyed making some melted snowman biscuits using biscuits, icing and fruit to decorate these with.

We have also explored Christmas around the world and looked at how other countries celebrate Christmas and each have their own versions of Father Christmas and we looked at different pictures of them. One of the children's favourite activities to do this month has been dancing to Christmas songs and learning and singing Christmas songs too. They have learnt the actions to Christmas pudding and have enjoyed showing us this at circle times.

At circle times we have been turning off the lights and looking at pretty Christmas lights, this has been lovely and the children have been pointing at all of the different colours they can see.

At nursery we have been very lucky to enjoy a Christmas breakfast with Santa and also enjoy a yummy Christmas dinner. We celebrated Christmas jumper day and the children loved showing us their Christmas jumpers and talking about what is on them. Lots of wonderful Christmas tuff trays have been explored and it has been lovely to see the children enjoy these and learn from these set ups.

We hope you have a fantastic Christmas and a nice break over the rest of the month and we look forward to seeing you again back in January.



Jo Jingles will be coming to visit the Rainbow Dolphins this month

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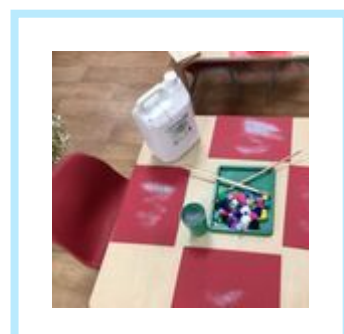
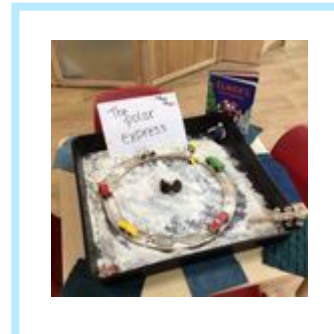
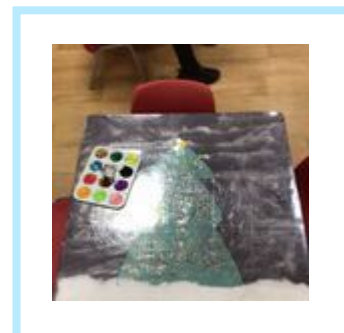
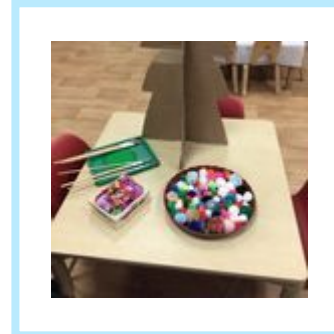
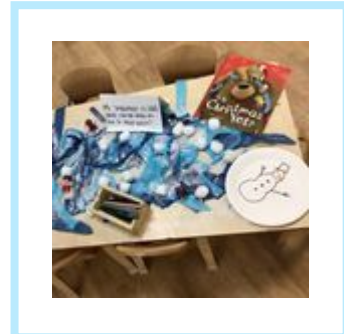
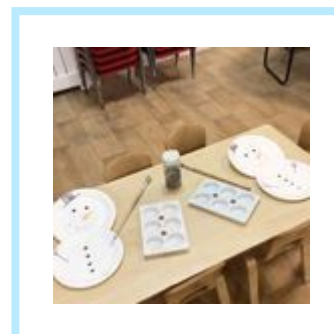
December Recap

Dolphins

This month dolphins have been very excited as they know Christmas is just round the corner so to support their excitement we have been focusing on Christmas crafts/activities such as ginger bread men cooking, painting snowmen, creating the polar express, making Christmas colour rice into a Christmas tree, we have created a melted snowman so the children can work out where the snowman's nose, eyes and hat goes.

We have also decorated our own cardboard Christmas tree as well as our real Christmas tree, Lauren has also made a sensory table with a Christmas tree using the coloured paints and Pom poms to decorate our tree with. The children have enjoyed reading Christmas stories to their friends as well as talking about Santa and what presents they are going to get on Christmas Day.

Have a nice Christmas everybody, see you next year.



Jo Jingles will be coming to visit the Dolphins this month

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December Recap

Octopus

Throughout December the children in Octopus have had a wonderful time celebrating Christmas and making lots of Christmas crafts. They have been making cards, Angels, Santa hats, Reindeer and lots more!

The Children have been learning lots of Christmas songs and enjoying Christmas stories. We even had a Christmas Panto which was fantastic and the Children got to meet lots of different characters, they interacted throughout the panto which was lovely to see. They sung the songs that they had learned really well and were all mesmerised by it. We have also enjoyed a Christmas breakfast where we saw Santa and his elf! The children had a great chat with Santa over breakfast.

The Children have been learning about how Christmas is celebrated around the world and been making crafts from other countries. These have included Indian stars and Chinese lanterns. The children have been working a lot on their cutting skills during craft activities, they have all done so well and been so creative! They have produced some lovely artwork.

Our Christmas dinner was lovely and we enjoyed pulling our crackers with our friends.

The Children have also been enjoying their extra curricular activities, they have done tennis, Spanish and Jo Jingles this month. The children always enjoy these sessions and participate really well.

December has been fantastic, with lots of fun filled activities! Happy Christmas from everyone in Octopus.

Preschool Uniform:

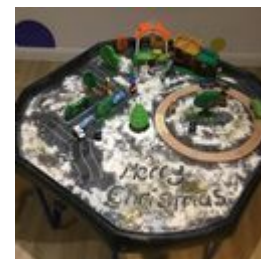
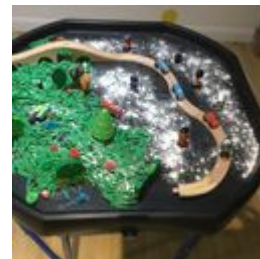
If you would like to purchase a preschool top at a cost of £13 please speak to Manjit.

The polo tops come in two sizes: 3-4yrs / 5-6yrs.

Throughout each week the children in Octopus will be taking part in a range of Science, PE and 'Letter and Sounds' activities.

This Month:

Jo Jingles will be coming to visit the children in Octopus. The children in Octopus will be taking part in a Tennis lesson.



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December Recap

Coral Reef

Throughout December the children in coral reef have been busy getting involved on lots of festive activities and crafts.

To begin the month, the children all had a lovely time singing to Christmas songs whilst decorating the Christmas tree, the children were very proud of their Christmas tree and enjoyed showing everybody who walked into the room!

Throughout the month the children have been really working on their motor skills taking part in different activities such as threading the beads onto the pipe cleaners to create some candy canes, using the tweezers to turn the "Pom Pom lights" on and using the scissors to trim santas beard!

The children have also enjoyed getting involved in lots of crafts such as, making their own Christmas crackers, we even got to choose the jokes we wanted to put inside and we used our cutting skills to create our very own snakflakes to take home. The children in coral reef have been very busy creating lots of lovely Christmas gifts to take home for their families, the children created a lovely reindeer card, a love heart calendar, a sparkly tree decoration and a beautiful Christmas tree with a picture of them in!

Towards the end of the month the children have been learning all about Christmas around the world, the children have been taking part in activities that is allowing them to learn how other countries celebrate Christmas. We have decorate wellies to leave out for st Nicholas (Romania), created St Lucia's crown with playdough (Sweden), created La Befana witches broom stick (Italy) and also created their very own Alaskan stars (Alaska).

Preschool Uniform:

If you would like to purchase a preschool top at a cost of £13 please speak to Manjit.

The polo tops come in two sizes: 3-4yrs / 5-6yrs.

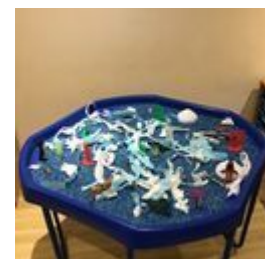
Throughout each week the children in Coral Reef will be taking part in a range of Science, PE and 'Letter and Sounds' activities.

This Month:

KidsLingo will be visiting the children to teach them Spanish.

Jo Jingles will be coming to visit the children in Coral Reef.

The children in Coral Reef will be taking part in a Tennis lesson.



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Refer a Friend.

Refer a friend to the nursery and if they register you will receive **£100 off of your next month's fees.** *(T&C's Apply)*

Important Notes for Parents

Facebook



Have you checked out of Facebook page yet?

Like us on Facebook for regular updates on the nursery and a chance to win in our quarterly prize draw.

www.facebook.com/monkeypuzzlecolchester

Please check your ParentZone updates and emails from the nursery regularly.

Please ensure that all of your contact details and your child's emergency contacts are up to date.

Day Nurseries

We are proud to be rated 10/10 on daynurseries.co.uk and voted as a Top 20 day nursery in the East of England.

Thank you to all of the parents/carers who have already reviewed our nursery!



Please check the parent / carer area on the website regularly for updates.

Please ensure that your child has the appropriate clothing and footwear for the weather outside, we will be accessing the garden in all weathers.



ILLNESS / INFECTION

EXCLUSION PERIOD

Chicken Pox	Minimum of 5 days from the onset of the rash and all spots must be fully scabbed over before returning to nursery.
Diarrhoea and/or Vomiting	Whilst symptomatic and for 48 hours after their last bout of sickness or diarrhoea.
Hand, Foot and Mouth	All blisters must have dried out before returning to nursery, usually this is after approximately 4-6 days.
Headlice	There is no recommended exclusion period, however, parents are requested to regularly check their children's hair for head lice and we would be grateful if nursery are informed so that other parents can be alerted to check their child's hair.
Impetigo	Until the lesions have crusted or healed.
Measles	Excluded for 4 days from the onset of the rash.
Scarlet Fever	Excluded from nursery for the first 24 hours after starting treatment.
Whooping Cough	Excluded for 2 days after starting treatment, or 21 days from the onset of symptoms if no antibiotics.
Prescribed Medication	Children must be taking any medication for a minimum of 24 hours before coming in to nursery. Medication can only be administered after the 24 hour exclusion even if your child has previously taken the same medication. All medication must be in its original packaging with the prescription label attached and clearly showing child's name.
Immunisations including Flu nasal spray	If your child has had any form of immunisations, including the Flu nasal spray, they are not permitted to attend nursery for the following 24 hours due to possible allergic reactions.
Infant Suspension - Calpol	If a child develops a fever whilst at nursery the staff will use natural methods first, such as removing clothing, to try and reduce the temperature while closely monitoring the child and contacting the parents. If a child does require emergency Calpol due to a high temperature of 38 degrees or above the parents will be contacted prior to ensure all details are correct and that they agree with the dosage being given. Parents will then be required to collect their child.

