

Monkey Puzzle Colchester March 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 March edition of Monkey News.

Nursery Manager



I cannot quite believe that I am writing the March newsletter piece already, where has the time gone? With March coming it does mean that Spring is certainly here and with that will bring the sun and hopefully some warmer weather.

The children have all had an amazing February and lots has been done throughout the month in relation to our theme of 'The World' and 'Countries'. The children have enjoyed exploring and talking about not only the country they live in, but the many countries around the world. This has led onto lots of discussions and in depth conversations around where they enjoy going and what they can see. The children especially enjoyed talking about London and trips that they have taken to London with their families.

Throughout February the children have enjoyed exploring their natural world around them and talking about the many different natural items and objects that they could see. This has been done by exploring the nursery garden and also exploring the local community around us. Children really thrive on venturing outside the nursery, this helps children to gain understanding of the community and gives them opportunities and experiences such as visiting the shops for key items, venturing to the park for a nature hunt or to develop physical skills or to head to the local care home for some conversation and fun with the nurseries older friends.

February has also seen the nursery celebrate and explore some key festivals and celebrations. The children enjoyed learning and talking about valentines and as you can imagine lots of pink and red activities have happened, with cards made for the children's loved ones. The children enjoyed taking part in a range of activities associated with pancake day and enjoyed talking about all their favourite toppings. The children explored Chinese New Year on the 10th and St Davids Day on the 1st March.

The nursery looks forward to venturing into the month of March with our theme 'Spring' and 'Easter'. The children will be taking part in a lot of activities and experiences based around this theme with lots of artwork and conversations to be had.

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



Monkey Puzzle Parents Football Team.

On Thursday 29th February the Monkey Puzzle Parents football team played their first game.

Thankfully the weather stayed okay, all be it slightly chilly and lots of goals were scored. Our team scored an amazing 10 goals to the other teams 7! Well Done Team.

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 February across the nursery and would again like to wish a massive 'Happy Birthday' to...



Archie, Ella, Melissa, Emilia, Ronnie, Rosie, Rhea, Eleanor, Arthur, Max, Vamika, Amelia and Harriet.

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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Nursery News:

Borrow Bags:

We at the nursery have been busy creating a range of borrow bags that you can borrow from the nursery. These bags contain a range of objects that allow you to talk to your children about key transitions that may happen throughout their lives.

The borrow bags we current have are:

Potty Training // New House // New Baby // Emotions.

If you would like to borrow and use one of these bags at home please speak with a member of the team and we can arrange this for you.

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

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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What will we be learning this month?

Monthly Theme:

Spring / Easter

Home Learning:

As the weather is becoming nicer and the sun is out for longer why not take a walk to your local park / green space and talk about the different items and objects that you can see there.

Books of the Month

Errol's Garden:
by Gillian Hibbs

Granny's Easter Eggs are not the Sort You Eat:
by Becci Murray

Staff Spotlight



This month we have a special staff spotlight. Many of you may have already seen that Sylvie won our employee of the year for 2023.

Sylvie has been a valued member of our team. Sylvie's dedication and passion to delivering great care and education to all the children within the nursery is the reason why the rest of the team nominated and voted for her.

Well Done Sylvie.

Staff Birthdays

Throughout February 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' ... Sylvie, Liz and Nuzhat.



Dates for your Diary:

1st March : St David's Day

10th March : Ramadan

10th March : Mothers Day

15th March : Red Nose Day

17th March : St Patrick's Day

20th March : Mothers Day Afternoon Tea

25th March : Holi

29th March : Good Friday (NURSERY CLOSED)

31st March : Easter Sunday



February Recap

Starfish

Throughout February in Starfish Room we have been looking at different countries from around the world. To begin with we looked at 'the world', the children had a lovely time using different coloured paints to create their own colours of the world artwork, the children had handprint visuals of some different countries flags and we said hello to each other using this countries language before using our gross motor skills and hand to eye development skills to create our own colours of the world poster.

The children are then able to extend these skills to explore a lovely planet earth rice tray, the children are able to use the boats as a scooping mechanism scooping up the rice before emptying them back down in the tray again before using both of their hands to mark make lines and wiggles in the rice. The children are able to use their pincer grips to pick up the rice one grain at a time also independently exploring the individual colours of the tray.

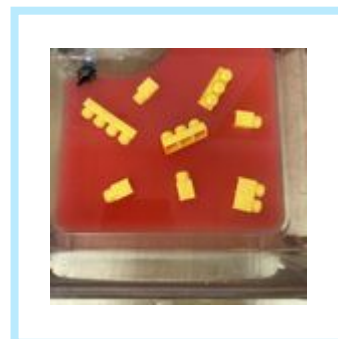
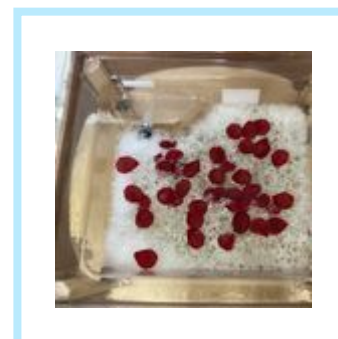
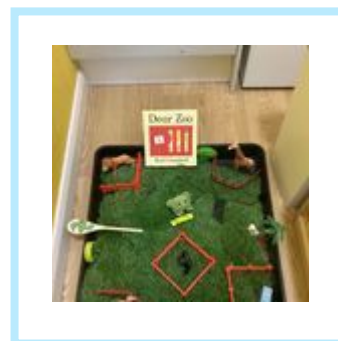
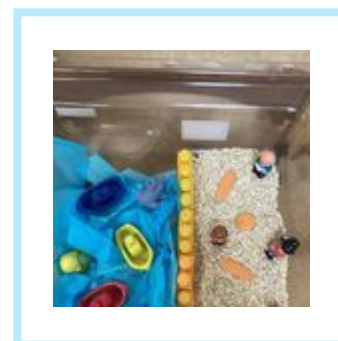
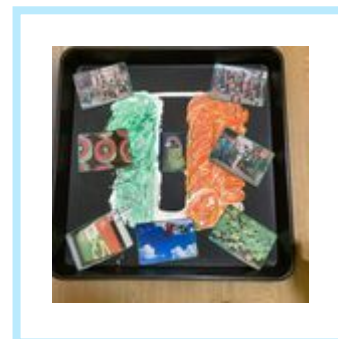
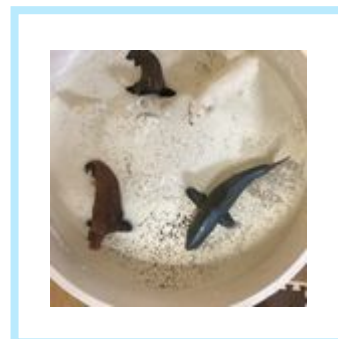
To understand the topic of countries and United Kingdom the children explored a red, white and blue sensory physical United Kingdom themed tray, using the blocks inside the children are able to build mini towers of three and begin to develop their recognition of number names as they place each block on top of one another. The children then explored a very messy Irish themed paint and shaving foam tray, this was a firm favourite with the starfish children as they used their hands to explore the different textures of the tray and began to recognise the different colours of the Irish flag.

We then learnt about 'Land and Sea' where the children explored a shredded paper and oat beach themed tray using their counting skills to count the pebbles, boats, animals and people that they could see. We incorporated the one of the childrens favourite books in this topic creating a lovely dear zoo tray for them to explore, this built up the childrens communication and language skills as they make the animals sounds and babble to one another as they explore the tray. The children also developed an understanding of turn taking skills as they wait for their favourite animal to hold.

The children then went to the colder climates of the world exploring an arctic themed gloop and glitter tray, the children enjoyed the sensory texture of the gloop before stomping the animals around in the gloop, the children had to use their physical strength to pull the animals out of the gloop as it was very watery and tough.

We also in Starfish celebrated the Lunar New Year with a yellow and red water tray activity, the children had a great time splashing their hands into the water, giggling to each other and using the yellow blocks to scoop and pour the water. We of course also celebrated St Valentine's Day with a 'Guess how much I love you...' tray, the children developed and shew off their dancing skills to the rabbit themed rhymes moving their bodies from side to side and in an up and down bouncing motion, the children quietly listened to the story in a lovely group and pulled out the hay and vegetables from the tray mimicking an understanding of eating the vegetables.

Their was another chance to enjoy splashing in the water with the rose petals and bubbles, we counted the petals as we scooped them into the beakers provided using our hands to swish some bubbles in the water :) such a lovely month in Starfish! X



Jo Jingles will be coming to visit the Starfish this month

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February Recap

Rainbow Dolphins

This month has been a very busy month in Rainbow Dolphins, we started off the month by learning all about the world. The children looked at pictures of the world and we spoke about what colours we could see such as green land and blue sea. We also moved on to learning about the country we live in the United Kingdom.

We looked at the capital London and pictures of Buckingham Palace. The children decorated and made crowns to wear. In Rainbow Dolphins our children enjoy learning and playing with a animals and all different creatures.

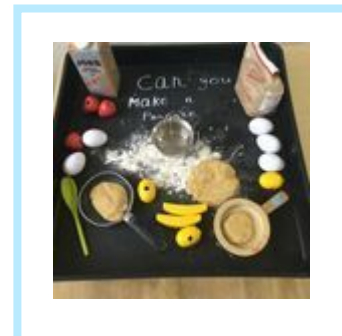
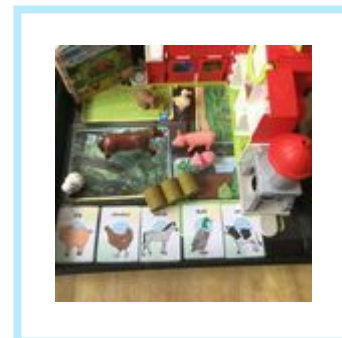
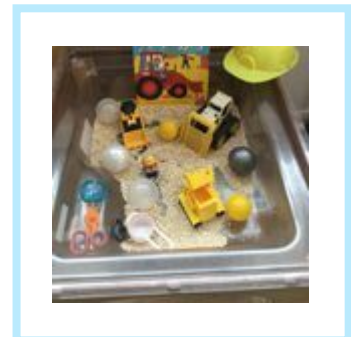
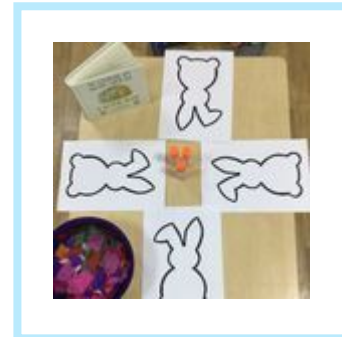
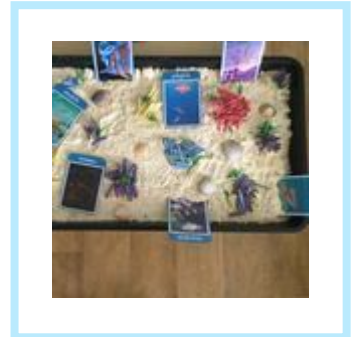
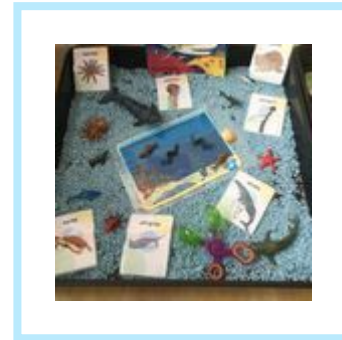
We set up some lovely trays for them to explore the sea creatures and we had lots of fun recognising the names of some of the sea creatures.

Also this month we celebrated valentines day and had a whole day of celebrating love and friendship. The children each made and decorated a card to take home with them to give to somebody they love and we read our book of the month which is "guess how much I love you".

We also celebrated Luna New Year where we had lots of fun, we listening to Chinese music and explored the rice tuff tray. We also looked at Chinese writing and practiced our scooping and pouring skills.

One of our favourite days this month has been Shrove Tuesday. We decorated some yummy pancakes and chose what toppings we would like on them, the children also practiced flipping their playdoh pancakes in the air and lots of fun doing this.

Going forward into March we will be learning all about spring, we hope the sun starts to shine for us so we can make the most of our learning outdoors.



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

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February Recap

Dolphins

This month in dolphins we have been having lots of fun engaging in lots of different topics including cultures, countries, flags, sea life and United Kingdom, the children in dolphins have all enjoyed being creative and energetic in all these activities, some of our children even helped the staff set these activities up.

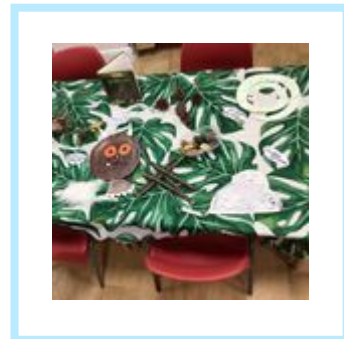
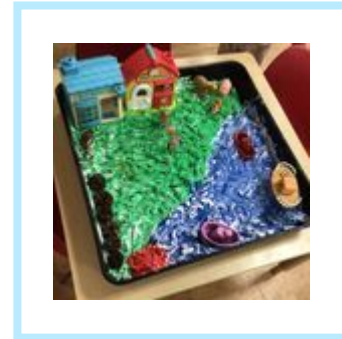
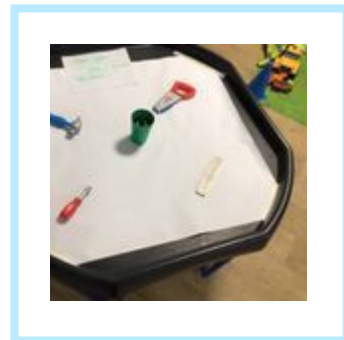
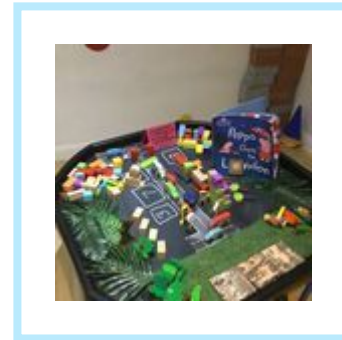
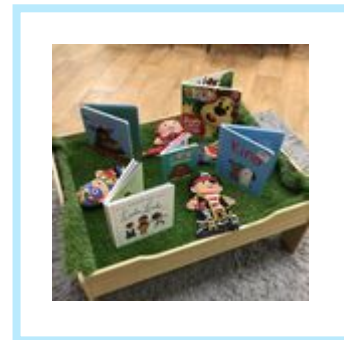
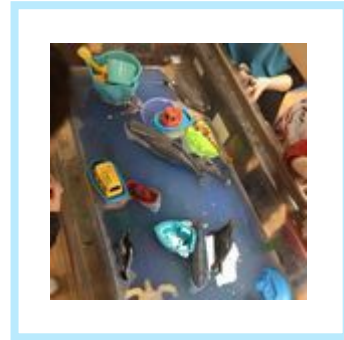
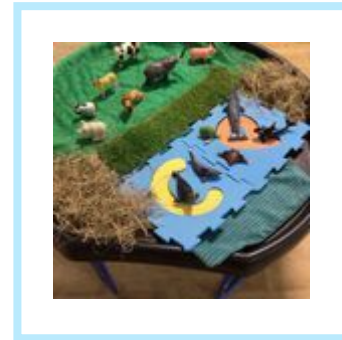
We have also discussed the different animals that live in on the land and in the sea, which then brought us onto the conversation about going to the zoo with our mummies and daddies.

Dolphins have been very creative this month getting involved in lots of messy play activities including creating flags, creating world hands, lots of water play involving a lot of splashing and splashing, we have also enjoyed our outdoor garden time to.

We have also enjoyed our small world characters and towns this term too, building our own towns and role playing shops and houses with the little people. We have also been creative drawing round our construction tools and talking about our tools and what we have to use to help us fix things.

Dolphins love the story about 'the Gruffalo' we have been busy creating our table top activity about the Gruffalo with things that Roxy has made at home and resources she's found being out and about for sensory feeling play.

We have also focused on our book of the month called 'guess how much I love you' decorating our own love hearts while discussing how much we love our family and friends and who loves us. well done dolphins.



Jo Jingles will be coming to visit the Dolphins this month

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February Recap

Octopus

We have had a fantastic February in the Octopus room. There has been so much happening! We had Valentines Day to celebrate. All the children did amazing cards to take home to their loved ones and we hope you enjoyed them as much as the children enjoyed making them. We also did lots of other valentines activities with a messy tray and some more crafts.

We also celebrated pancake day with a play dough pancake kitchen. The children enjoyed rolling their own pancakes and flipping them in the frying pan. They also had real lemons in the activity to add some flavour!

We have also had our weekly topics to keep up busy during the month. We have been learning about the Earth, the children enjoyed lots of activities. These included making play dough globes, the children used a real globe to do a play dough replica. They really enjoyed this activity. The children also enjoyed a forest tuff tray and discussions about different types of land and all the separate pieces of land that are countries.

We have also been Learning about the sea and land and all the different habitats and animals that live under the sea and in forests and jungles and all the different types of land. We had a jungle tuff tray, an under the sea messy tray. We also painted pictures of sea creatures and lots more.

The children really enjoyed learning about the United Kingdom. We made flags and had a city of London tuff tray. We also made crowns and had a small world castle themed activity. The children really enjoyed this topic. All of our topics this month have really extended the children's Understanding the World development and allowed the children to really explore the world we live in and what surrounds them. We have had a lovely February and hope you have too.

Preschool Uniform:

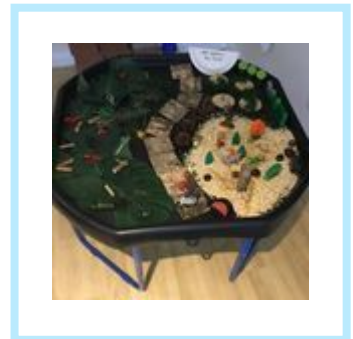
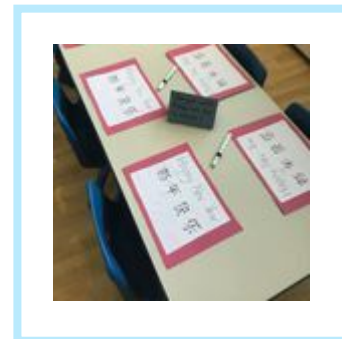
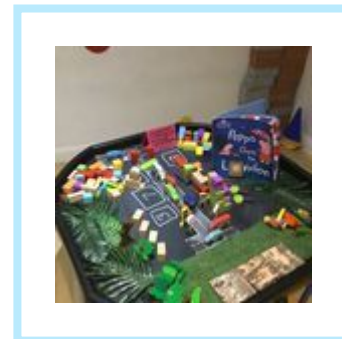
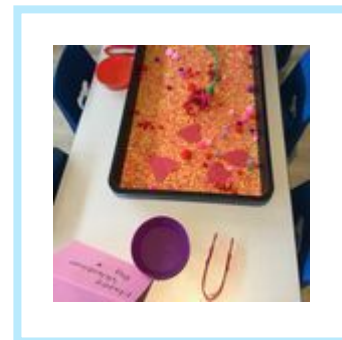
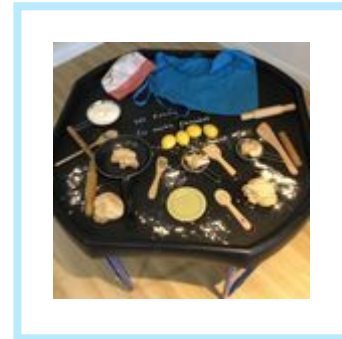
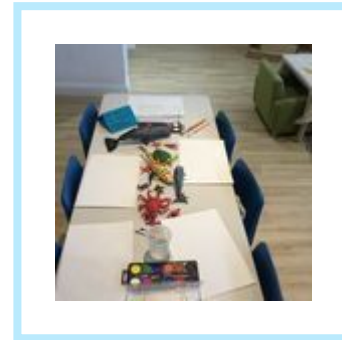
If you would like to purchase a preschool top at a cost of £13 please speak to Manjit.

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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February Recap

Coral Reef

Throughout February the children have been taking part in a range of different activities and topics, to begin the month the children have been taking part in activities based around earth, the children enjoyed baking and decorating their very own earth biscuits as well as learning about how we can keep the earth safe and healthy, for example, not littering as it affects all of earth, even the sea and animals!

At the beginning of the month the children also enjoyed taking part in activities based around Chinese new year, the children explored the Chinese symbols for the different zodiac signs and had a try at writing them out themselves as well as practicing their fine motor skills using the chopsticks to pick up the different pipe cleaners in the tuff tray!

This month we have based lots of our activities around the children's interests, we have loved exploring the different animals in the room such as the farm animals, the sea animals and the bugs, going on hunts for each one!

To continue the month, we have been learning all about different countries with our focus being on the country we live in, the United Kingdom, the children enjoyed exploring the United Kingdom tuff tray, scooping and collecting the rice as well as creating their very own flags using their expressive art and design.

Throughout this week, we also celebrated pancake day, the children enjoyed going in pancake races, seeing how many times they could flip the pancakes in the pan and also creating their own yummy playdough pancakes at their pancake shop! We also took part in some lovely activities for Mother's Day, creating some beautiful cards and sun catchers for our families as well as exploring the 'love' tuff tray and creating some delicious valentines cookies in our cookie factory.

Following on from this week, we have been learning all about different land and sea animals, the children involved themselves in lots of activities based in the different animals, one of our favourites was sorting the animals into the correct habitats, we spoke about the different habitats and why we think the animals live there as well as exploring lots of animal themed tuff trays which is what the preschoolers love doing most!

To end the month, the children have been learning about different countries, we have enjoyed 'Sarah jingles' where we used the different instruments to play different music from different countries as well as exploring the flags from different countries during our game of flag bingo. The children have also learnt about St David's day and created some beautiful yoghurt out daffodils to take home!

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.

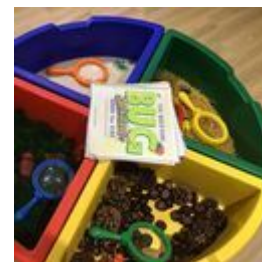
Throughout each week the children in Coral Reef will be taking part in a range of Science, PE and 'Letter and Sounds' activities.

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.

Monkey Puzzle Colchester

March 2024 Newsletter



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.

