

# Monkey Puzzle Colchester November 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 November edition of Monkey News.

### Early Years and Childcare Director



### Exciting changes ahead!

As the seasons change, I always feel that it's a good time to reflect on our current offering and consider the quality of care and education we provide. It's been 3 months since I joined, and I have been working closely with Sandy and Manjit in the background to really understand what their vision is and helping them to bring it to life. I am super excited to finally be able to share with you our incredible plans for the nursery.

Over the coming weeks and months, we will be implementing a series of changes that will provide a much deeper and richer learning experience for your children. We have taken some of the best practices from around the world and designed our very own Monkey Puzzle Curriculum. This will focus on children's emotional wellbeing and giving them the best start in life.

Our plans include a number of different phases such as a full redecoration of the nursery. Our garden is having a facelift including the removal of the bark and the inside environments are being transformed into exciting and immersive spaces where children can become deeply engaged in joyful play and learning.

Our room for youngest children will be transformed into an infant suite, where love and nurture are the focus in a warm home-from-home tranquil space where infants can thrive.

As there are so many elements to the project, we wanted to take you on the journey with us by sharing the progress as we go. You will receive regular updates and explanations about the changes and the great benefits to your children. In addition, there will be opportunity for parents to attend a curriculum information evening in Spring where we will share how and what children will be learning.

Our first update will be shared this month so watch this space...

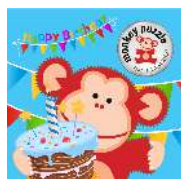
### Nursery Parent Number:

**01206 560695**

## Birthdays

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

Samuel, Callum Barrett-Nnochiri, Edith, Alexander Betts, Theo Woodley, Ryleigh, Oliver, Kylo, Ferninand, Emelia, Evelyn, Javiere, Ayva, Ophelia & Phoebe.



Dear Parents and Carers,

Please can we kindly remind you all to make sure that you put some changes of clothing and under ware in your child's bag everyday, unfortunately, we do not have enough spares at nursery, **Please make sure that every item of clothing that you send into nursery has your child's name on it**, Many thanks.

Dear Parents,

**Please see our Christmas closing dates below:- We will be closed from end of day on Christmas eve, Tuesday 24th December and we will be returning on Tuesday 2nd January 2025.**

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 FAMILIARISE YOURSELVES WITH OUR SICKNESS EXCLUSION TIMES ON PAGE 9 THANK YOU

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## Nursery News:

### Topics & Themes Ideas

4th November - The Earth and Moon  
11th November - Remembrance / Poppies / Red  
18th November - Planets / Stars  
25th November - Space travel / Rockets

### Learning & Development

2nd November - Outdoor Classroom Day  
11th November - Anti Bulling week

### Who to contact regarding your issue?

**Manjit:** Regarding any issues / questions regarding occupancy of the nursery, increasing / decreasing your child's days, funding, and finances.

**Amy:** General nursery matters regarding your child, reporting if your child is sick or not going to be attending Nursery.

### Nursery Gifts:

The whole team at Monkey Puzzle would like to thank everyone who has given us gifts, we really appreciate them :-). However, could we kindly ask that NO edible items are brought into the nursery at all, keeping in line with our safeguarding policy and making sure everyone stays safe. Many thanks for your understanding on this matter.

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!

#### Christmas dates -

**11th December Christmas lunch**

**11th December Search for**

**Santa panto**

**11th December Christmas**

**Grotto**

**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:

**All About Me**

**Space  
&  
Sensory.**

### Books of the Month:

**Look inside Space  
(Usborne book)**

**Whatever Next!  
(Jill Murphy)**

### Staff Spotlight

The staff spotlight is shining on Kelly and Anu this month, congratulations to you both!



### Staff Birthdays:

Throughout November, we celebrate some staff birthdays. At Monkey Puzzle, we relish the opportunity to celebrate a birthday and would like to extend another 'Happy Birthday' to Sade & Michelle.



## Dates for your Diary:

**1st November - Diwali**

**5th November - Bonfire Night**

**11th November - Remembrance Day**

**13th November - World Kindness Day**

**15th November - Children in Need**

**20th November - Universal Children's day**

**28th November - Thanksgiving**

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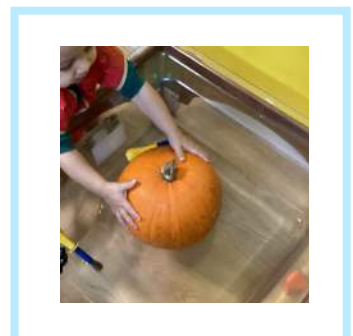
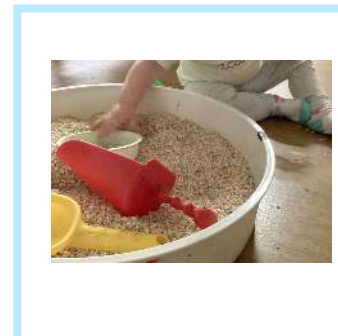
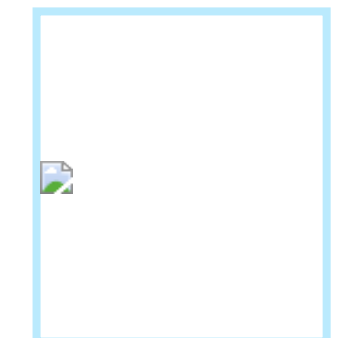
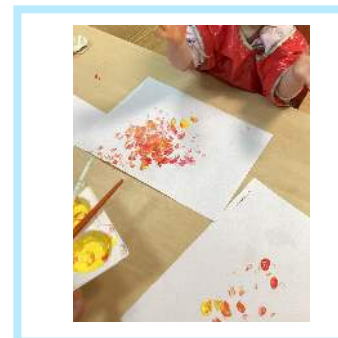
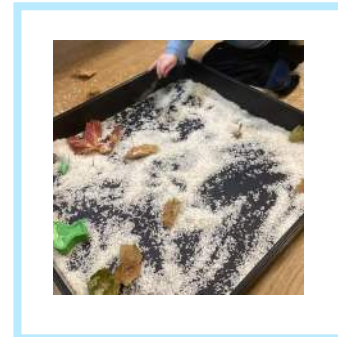
## October Recap

### Starfish

This month in Starfish room we have been talking about autumn and looking at books about autumn. We loved looking and feeling the autumn leaves, and exploring the different textures. Learning new words to describe textures. We also looked at conkers and feeling them. We put some in the water, they made a splash. We also did some autumn sticking, and making pumpkin pictures, using oats, which felt cold and funny, for our Halloween week.

We have also been looking at different books about animals, and making animal sounds. We did some hedgehog paintings, and made hedgehogs using playdough and spaghetti. We also had lots of fun playing with the foam hiding the animals.

The children enjoyed lots of different activities everyday to enhance their fine and gross motor skills we did lots of sensory play with rice, foams and pasta. The children filled pasta into the trucks with the shovels and the children loved it.



Jo Jingles will be coming to visit the Starfish this month

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## October Recap

### Rainbow Dolphins

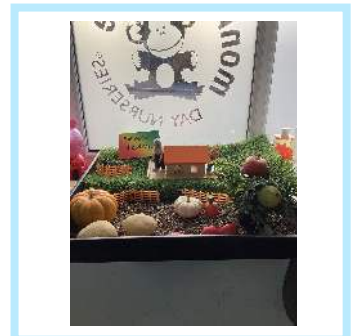
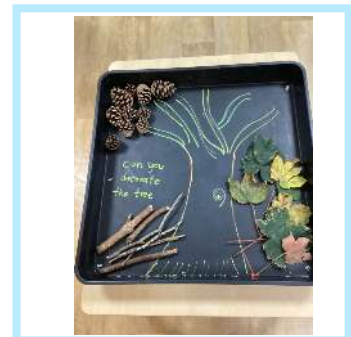
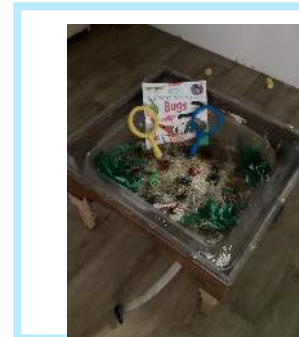
This month in Rainbow Dolphins we have been doing lots of autumn themed activities from looking at how the weather changes and creating rain finger paintings to making marks with animals footprints.

We have also had various Harvest themed activities as well to celebrate the Harvest festival ranging from farm themed tuff trays looking at pumpkins and potatoes and using them to pretend to make pumpkin and potato soup.

We have had bug hunts looking for them hidden in the tray using magnifying glasses as well as in the leaves.

We have looked at natural materials and used them to make our trees this involved twigs, leaves and pine cones.

We have also had Rosh Hashanah and made firework pictures to celebrate this.



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

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## October Recap

### Dolphins

This month in Dolphins, we have carried out a variety of different activities relating to certain topics and from the children's interests, we have spoken about families and houses and who we live with, we have also enjoyed our fine motor skills with our threading of pasta through the holes and using our pinches to thread through.

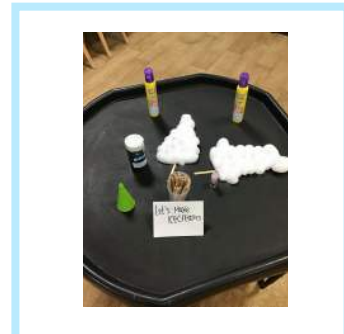
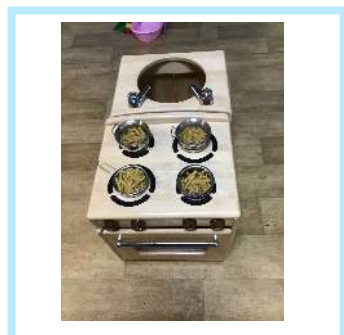
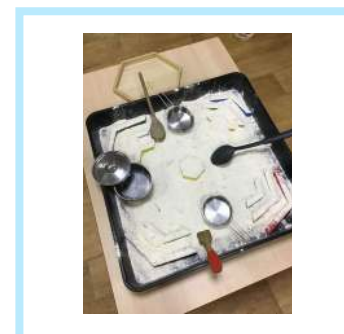
We have also played with gloop and talking about how slimy, gooey, sticky and wet it is. Our Dolphin children have also enjoyed talking about people who help us, looking at cut outs of certain jobs and what they do.

Dolphins have also enjoyed building houses and towers and using our maths skills by measuring the heights of our houses/towers and using words like "bigger, longer, wider, smaller, short".

We have also enjoyed playing with our new instruments and singing our own songs as well as certain nursery rhymes or our favourite songs.

The children have also had junk modelling play and have decorated their boxes with all types of resources of their own choice.

Well done Dolphins.



Jo Jingles will be coming to visit the Dolphins this month

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## October Recap

### Octopus

During the month of October, our pre-schoolers have engaged in a variety of activities designed to foster their development across different areas.

**Week 1: Autumn Colours** - The children explored autumnal themes through sensory experiences including art and early literacy. Activities like the autumn-themed tuff trays with flashcards helped develop their understanding of the world and language skills. Q-Tip painting of autumn trees encouraged fine motor development and creativity, while counting bears in autumn colours enhanced early math skills. The autumn leaves threading activity promoted fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination.

**Week 2: Harvest/Harvest Festival** - This week focused on the season's harvest. Children enjoyed a "Jack and the Beanstalk" themed tuff tray and story time, which enriched their language and listening skills. Creating fruits and vegetables using shredded tissue paper fostered creativity and sensory exploration. A field trip to the pumpkin patch allowed children to connect with nature and learn about seasonal changes. Water play with washing vegetables supported sensory development, and rubber band finger gym activities strengthened fine motor skills.

**Week 3: Autumn Textures/Heuristic Play** Exploring textures was the highlight of this week. Children engaged with leaves and natural materials through activities like playdough moulding, leaf rubbing with crayons, and water play. These activities supported sensory development, creative expression, and fine motor skills, as well as introducing the children to concepts of texture and cause-and-effect.

**Week 4: Nocturnal Animals/Hibernation** The focus was on nocturnal animals and the concept of hibernation. Children participated in various craft activities, such as painting night skies filled with bats, creating foxes from leaves, and modelling hedgehogs with playdough. These crafts, combined with storytelling sessions using "The Gruffalo" tuff tray, supported language development, creativity, and an understanding of the natural world.

**Week 5: Halloween** The month concluded with fun Halloween-themed activities, including making spiders from recycled materials, painting pumpkins, and water play with spooky elements. Black and white playdough activities allowed children to create ghosts and skeletons, promoting fine motor skills and imaginative play. Extra activities Throughout the month, children also engaged in ongoing activities, including playdough finger gym, scissors practice, and number and letter recognition. These consistent activities further supported their fine motor development, early literacy, and numeracy skills. The October activities helped our pre-schoolers develop across multiple areas, including communication, physical development, early literacy and numeracy, creativity, and understanding of the world around them.

#### 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.

taking part  
in a range of Science, PE and 'Letter and Sounds'  
activities.

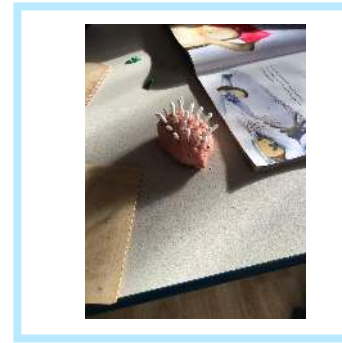
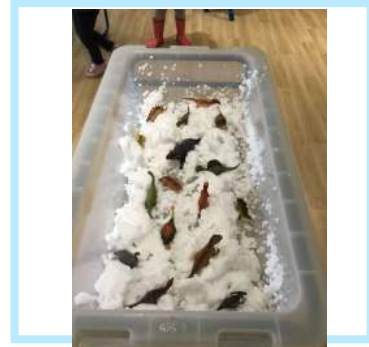
#### This Month:

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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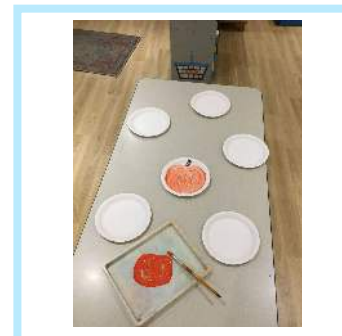
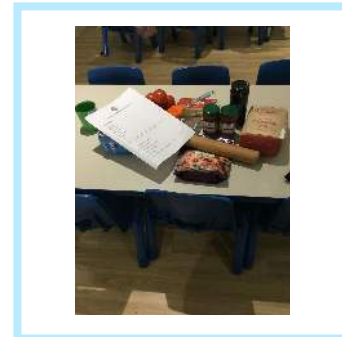
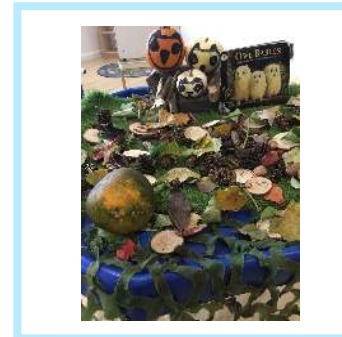
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in a range of Science, PE and 'Letter and Sounds' activities.

#### 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](http://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.

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.

### Day Nurseries

We are proud to be rated 10/10 on [daynurseries.co.uk](http://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!



### FIREWORKS SAFETY LINKS:-

[https://capt.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/6.7600\\_beis\\_opss\\_fireworksafetycampaign\\_a5leaflets\\_general.pdf](https://capt.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/6.7600_beis_opss_fireworksafetycampaign_a5leaflets_general.pdf)

[https://capt.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Fireman\\_Sam\\_Fireworks\\_Safety\\_FINAL\\_nourl.pdf](https://capt.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Fireman_Sam_Fireworks_Safety_FINAL_nourl.pdf)

<https://capt.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/7543captfireworksafetyflyer-14.10.21.pdf>

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## ILLNESS / INFECTION      EXCLUSION PERIOD

<b>Chicken Pox</b>	Minimum of 5 days from the onset of the rash and all spots must be fully scabbed over before returning to nursery.
<b>Diarrhoea and/or Vomiting</b>	Whilst symptomatic and for 48 hours after their last bout of sickness or diarrhoea.
<b>Hand, Foot and Mouth</b>	There is no recommended exclusion period. Please look out for signs of high temperature, headaches and red spots.
<b>Headlice</b>	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.
<b>Impetigo</b>	Until the lesions have crusted or healed.
<b>Measles</b>	Excluded for 4 days from the onset of the rash.
<b>Scarlet Fever</b>	Excluded from nursery for the first 24 hours after starting treatment.
<b>Whooping Cough</b>	Excluded for 2 days after starting treatment, or 21 days from the onset of symptoms if no antibiotics.
<b>Prescribed Medication</b>	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.
<b>Immunisations including Flu nasal spray</b>	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.
<b>Infant Suspension - Calpol</b>	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.

