

# Monkey Puzzle Colchester October 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 October edition of Monkey News.

### Early Years and Childcare Director



Welcome to Autumn. It has certainly arrived with a bang. What I love about Autumn is the amazing learning opportunities it brings for children. Did you know that until children have had multiple experiences around the season they cannot begin to make sense of the seasons. As adults we have connected the dots with the change of weather, colour of the trees and leaf fall. Autumn brings a sense of feeling about cosy jumpers, shorter days and pumpkin spice latte. But for children it is still a series of unconnected observations and experiences. So how do we really help children to understand the joys of Autumn.

Nature walks – take a walk and really help children to notice the change of leaf colour and that there are piles of leaves on the ground. Allow them to immerse themselves in the smell and texture of the season through throwing and kicking leaves. Collect autumn treasures such as conkers, pine cones, leaves and acorns. Talk about how they feel, smell, compare textures, weights, patterns. Make story sticks by attaching Autumn treasures to sticks, these can be used as a recall at a later time. Creative activities – make fragranced playdough and add the Autumn treasures into the activity, make prints with the leaves or make rubbings with crayons. All the time talk to children about the season and help them to connect the dots.

At nursery we will be making the best of the changing season so children will be going outside. Please ensure they have weather appropriate clothing such as wellington boots, hats, waterproof coats and rain suits for babies. This means that the weather will not prevent them from learning.

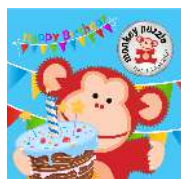
### Nursery Parent Number:

**01206 560695**

## Birthdays

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

Evie B, Beatrice, Ethan,  
Alexandra, Zaha, Treeve,  
Jasmine, Layla, Bella,  
Bertie, Ezra, Elijah, Khush.



Dear Parents and Carers,

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

Dear Parents,

Our Pumpkin Patch Trip is on Monday 14th October, if your child does not attend nursery on a Monday AM and you would like them to attend then please let the nursery know as we have limited spaces left.

**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:

Harvest Festival 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> October – the children from pre school will be taking the items to the local foodbank on 9<sup>th</sup> October.

If parents can generously donate any spare items such as

- Pasta / spaghetti / macaroni etc.
- Rice
- Basic tinned vegetables e.g. potatoes, carrots, peas, sweetcorn
- Baked beans / tinned spaghetti
- Tinned tomatoes
- Soup (tinned & packet)
- Pot noodles / instant pasta or rice meals – always very popular!
- Sandwich spreads e.g. paste, marmite, jam, marmalade
- Rice pudding / custard / tinned fruit / instant desserts
- Breakfast cereal
- Toothpaste & toothbrushes
- Shampoo
- Shower gel
- Hand soap
- Deodorant

### 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 any products containing nuts are not brought into the nursery due to our no nut policy and keeping everyone 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!

Visit to Loganberry Lodge on 3<sup>rd</sup> October

The pre school children will be taking the harvest Collections to the local foodbank on 9<sup>th</sup> October.

The Pumpkin Patch visit on 14<sup>th</sup> October

We will be closed for Christmas from Christmas day until Monday 1st January, returning on Tuesday 2nd January 2025

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## What will we be learning this month?

### Monthly Theme:

#### All About Me

##### Home Learning:

The theme of the month is 'Autumn / Black History'. For the home learning this month it would be nice if the children could collect some of the wonderful and colourful natural resources that are out there please.

### Books of the Month:

**A Pumpkin for Peter  
(Beatrice Potter)**

**The Very Hungry Caterpillar  
(Eric Carle)**

### Staff Spotlight

The staff spotlight is shining on Abigail and Ashton this month, congratulations to you both!



### Staff Birthdays:

Throughout October, 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 Lisa, Kelly & Violeta.



## Dates for your Diary:

**1st October - Black History Month / Grandparents Day**

**2nd October - Rosh Hashanah**

**4th October - World Space Week  
/ World Animal day**

**7th October - Harvest Festival**

**10th October - World Mental Day**

**31st October - Halloween**



## September Recap

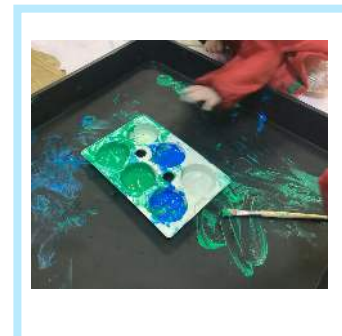
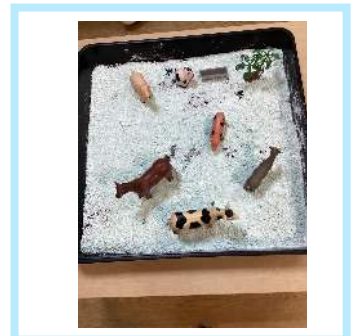
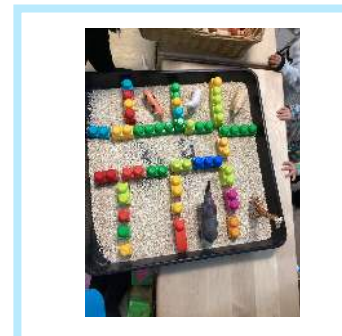
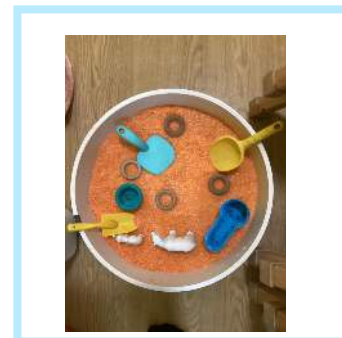
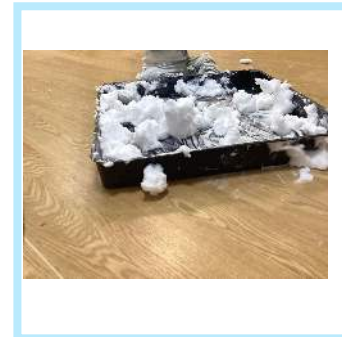
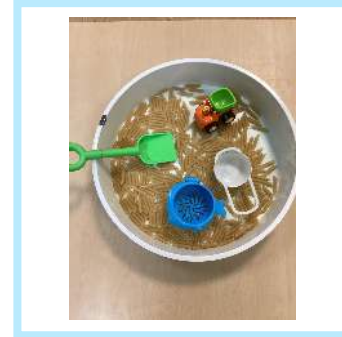
### Starfish

We had an amazing month of September in Starfish room. The children enjoyed lots of different activities everyday to enhance their fine and gross motor skills, we did lots of sensory play with rice, gloop, oats, foam and pasta.

The children enjoyed each and every activity according to the weekly theme.

The children filled pasta into the trucks with the shovels and the children loved it.

Also the children were exploring the foam and they were trying to looking for some animals in the foam and oats.



Jo Jingles will be coming to visit the Starfish this month

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## September Recap

### Rainbow Dolphins

This month in Rainbow Dolphins we have been looking at 'all about me' and our bodies, looking at ourselves and our friends in mirrors and in books, as well as our families and even looking at different houses that we all live in and people who live with us in our houses.

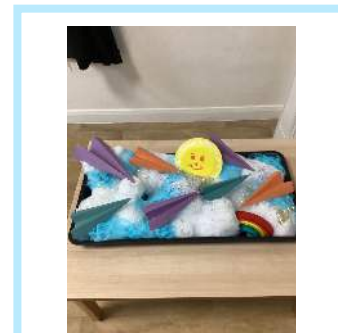
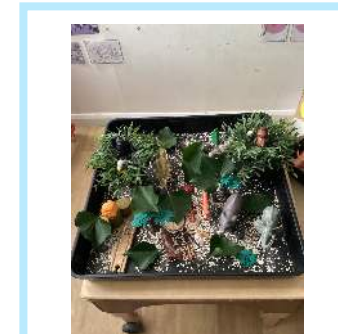
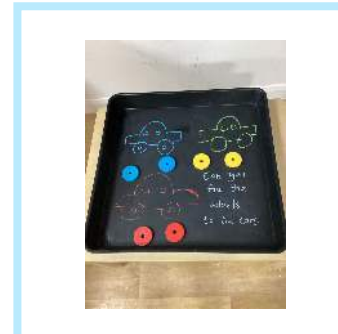
We have been exploring different textures from crazy foam to pasta, oats and playdough.

We recently celebrated 'talk like a pirate day' and had a pirate themed activity to explore with it.

We have had matching puzzles where we were trying to find the correct colour wheels for the cars.

The children have even looked at how we clean up messes we have made using a cloth and chalk scribbles we had drawn.

We had a Teddy bears picnic with our Teddy chef and we helped Teddy to make meals.



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

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## September 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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## September Recap

### Octopus

September Activity in our Preschool Room, the children had an exciting time exploring various themes that supported their learning and development.

During the first week, "All About Me," the children engaged in activities such as decorating the first letter of their name and their age number, promoting fine motor skills, early literacy, and mathematics. They also explored body parts and emotions, helping them to understand their physical self and feelings.

In the second week, "My Family," children created family portraits, family trees, and even built houses, which enhanced their understanding of family relationships and roles.

Week three focused on "Homes/Houses," The children built houses from popsicle sticks and explored animal habitats, encouraging creativity, spatial awareness, and problem-solving skills.

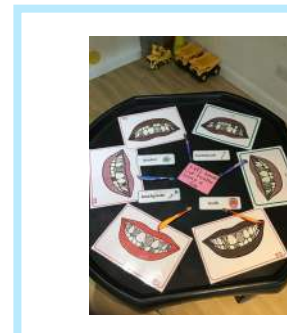
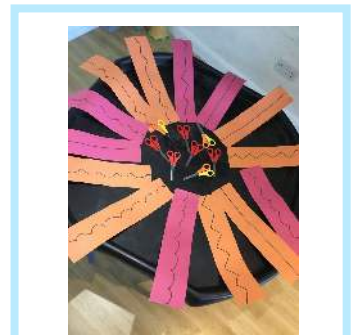
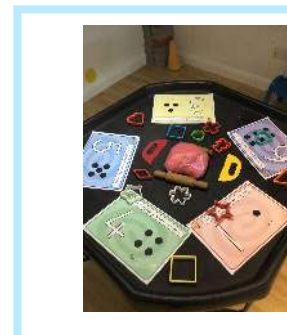
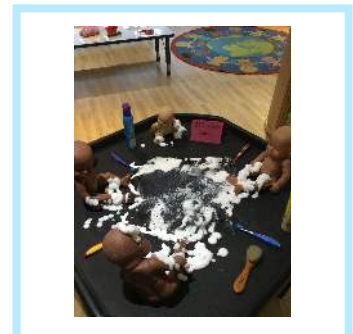
The final week was dedicated to "How to Stay Safe," with practical activities around oral hygiene, handwashing, fire safety, and personal cleanliness, helping children learn important safety routines.

Throughout the month, the children also enjoyed additional activities like playdough, finger gym, scissor practice, number and letter recognition, and a fun cookery session making chocolate brownies. These activities helped enhance fine motor skills, early literacy, numeracy, and understanding of healthy practices.

#### **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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## September Recap

### Coral Reef

During September, Coral Reef have been exploring their monthly topic of, "All about me". As we said goodbye to our school leaver preschoolers last month, it is important that we get to know all about our preschoolers, their interests and home life. This topic has been a great encouragement for discussions about the people that are important to the children.

To start off the month, the children have been learning about themselves and their bodies. The children have been identifying different body parts and their functions, which lead to discussions of how to keep our bodies healthy through eating and movement. This was a great eye opener for the children, as they begin to realise that everyone is unique through their interests and features. For example, some friends are tall and some are short, some friends have brown eyes and some have blue.

We then moved onto the topic of families, where the children made their own family trees using their own hand prints. The children also used the multi links cubes to explore mathematics, understanding the meaning of numbers and how this is represented in their families. This was also extended using the dolls house, replaying their home life experience representing their families and pets using the dolls and figures- even setting up the dolls house like their actual homes.

The children then explored different types of homes/houses and what these look like. We used different types of building blocks and bricks to recreate what everyone's homes look like.

When using the foam bricks, the children used crazy foam as cement to help keep their houses together like they were builders. Linking to the three little pigs story, the children used different materials to build their own homes to see what would stay built when trying to blow them down like the big bad Wolf.

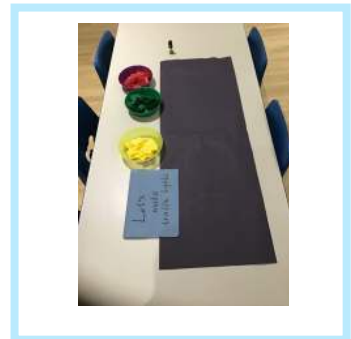
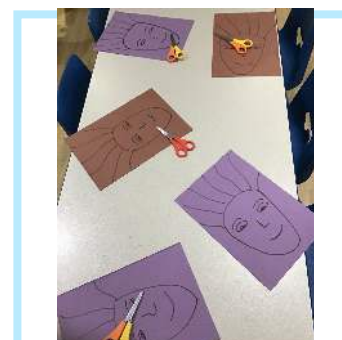
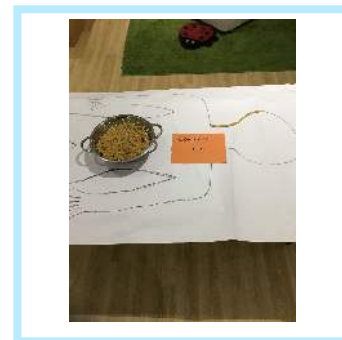
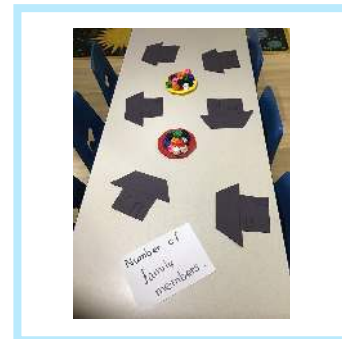
Lastly, we have been working on how to stay safe. The children have been making their own traffic lights through mark making, cutting and sticking touching on road safety and what this looks like. We all discussed the rules of the road, for example, stopping then looking left and right, always holding someone's hand and using listening ears. What a lovely month we have had, Coral Reef.

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.

### 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!**



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.

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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.

