

Monkey Puzzle Colchester September 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 September edition of Monkey News.

Early Years Curriculum & Training Lead



In the month of August we have obviously said a very sad goodbye to all of our children in pre-school who are starting school, we will miss them all but would like to wish them all the best on their new adventures. We had a beautiful graduation ceremony at the village hall and then had a amazing disco and entertainment in the evening which the children loved. We have also had lots of new families start with us over the last month, so we would like to wish them a very warm welcome to Monkey Puzzle. The children have loved spending time in the garden over the last month with the beautiful weather we have had, learning about safe sun and how to look after ourselves in the heat; we have introduced 'hydration stations' in all rooms and in the garden, which has encouraged the children's independence with pouring their own water. Also in the garden the children have loved the mud kitchen café, creating 'meals' and 'drinks' with natural resources. In all rooms children have explored water activities, washing babies, boats, bubbles, pouring and measuring.

Dear Parents and Carers, Its not very long now until Autumn! when you are out and you come across any natural resources we would very much appreciate it if you could bring some into nursery for all the children to enjoy, very many thanks in advance.

**Nursery Parent
Number:**

01206 560695

Birthdays

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

Deian, Albie A, Bonnie,
Penelope, Amber, Zachary
E, Emilee, Luna, Reuben,
Ayda, Joseph N, Eyad,
Cameron P, Rory, Spencer,
Jack R, Romalie.



As of September 1st 2024

Days until...

- 21 Days until Autumn 🍁
- 30 Days until October 🎃
- 60 Days until Halloween 🎃
- 61 Days until November 🌲
- 88 Days until Thanksgiving 🦃
- 91 Days until December ❄️
- 111 Days until Winter ❄️
- 114 Days until Christmas eve 🌲
- 115 Days until Christmas 🌲
- 115 days until Hanukkah 🕎
- 121 days until New Year's Eve 🎉
- 122 days until 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 FAMILARISE YOURSELVES WITH OUR SICKNESS EXCLUSION TIMES ON PAGE 9 THANK YOU

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Nursery News:

Graduation!!

Our Monkey Puzzle pre-school children had the most amazing graduation day!!

All the children put on a great Gruffalo show for their lovely parents, well done to you all!

The day included the children collecting their certificates and gifts from the Mayoress and deputy Mayor, there was singing, cake & ice cream and in the evening the children and parents enjoyed music and dancing together!

We would also like to say a big thank you to all the staff for their hard work!

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2024!!

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!

17th September - Moon Festival

19th September - Talk like a pirate

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What will we be learning this month?

Monthly Theme:

All About Me

Home Learning:

The theme of the month is 'All about Me'. For the home learning this month it would be nice if the children could identify some of their own body parts and where they are located on the body.

Books of the Month:

What I like about me
(Allia Zobel-Nolan)

You Choose
(Nick Sharratt & Pippa Goodhart)

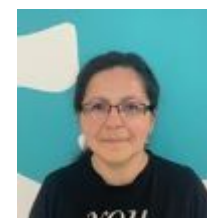
Staff Spotlight

Everyone at Monkey Puzzle would like to welcome back Rosie and Sylvie, its great to have you both back with us, Its lovely to see you around the nursery again, we have missed you!



Staff Birthdays:

Throughout September, we celebrate a staff birthday. At Monkey Puzzle, we relish the opportunity to celebrate a birthday and would like to extend another 'Happy Birthday' Ingrida.



Dates for your Diary:

5th September - International Day of Charity

6th September - Read A Book Day

8th September - International Literacy Day

13th September - Roald Dahl Day

15th - 16th September - Mawlid Al Nabi

24th September - Yom Kippur

29th September - World Heart Day



August Recap

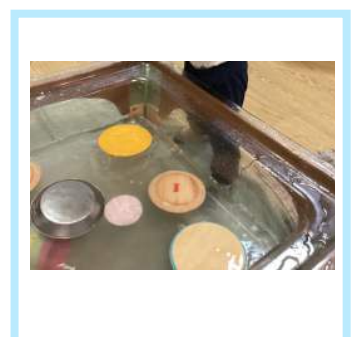
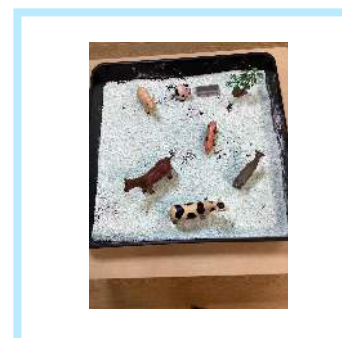
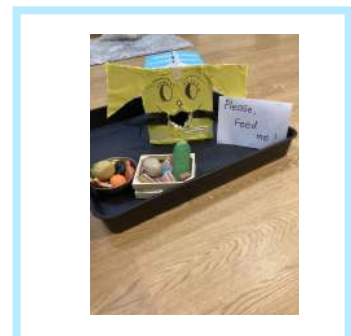
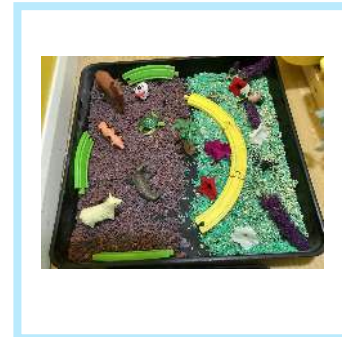
Starfish

Throughout August in our Starfish room the children have taken part in a lot of different activities.

The children have enjoyed painting and becoming acquainted with the feel, smell and look of the paint, brushes and sponges, they enjoy the feel of playing with pasta and rice.

Starfish children have been learning all about animals, what they eat, where they live and what they look and sounds like through play, such as cleaning the animals, feeding them and acting like them.

Also they did a lot of sensory play with water which they enjoy so much as always.



Jo Jingles will be coming to visit the Starfish this month

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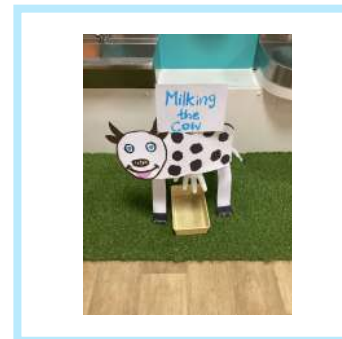
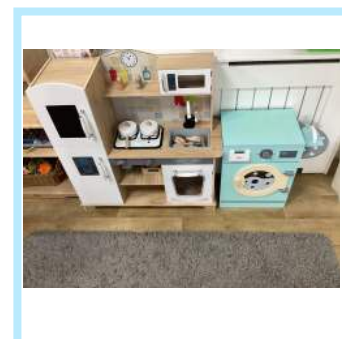
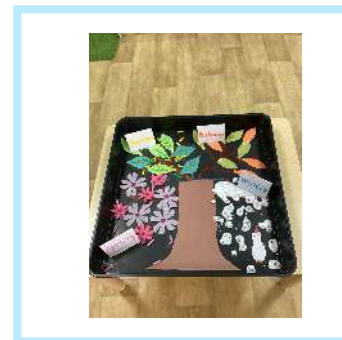
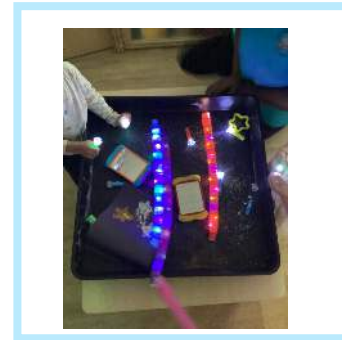
Rainbow Dolphins

Our topic this month has all been about Animals we have had loads of fun learning about the different kinds of animals from Farm animals and Zoo animals to animals who we keep as pets and even ones under the sea and in the wild.

We have also really enjoyed our brand new home corner kitchen and even had a very kind person donate us a washing machine which the children have loved playing with alongside the kitchen.

We have had a quite a few sensory evenings where we turn off the lights draw the curtains and explore with our light up sensory tubes, instruments and sensory balls as well as mini torches.

We have looked at the changing of the seasons from Summer to winter and even milked a cow!



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

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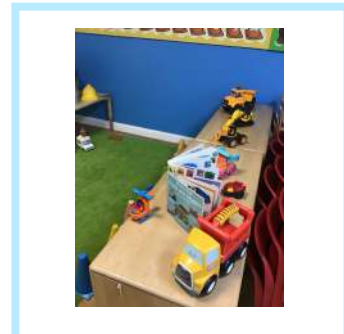
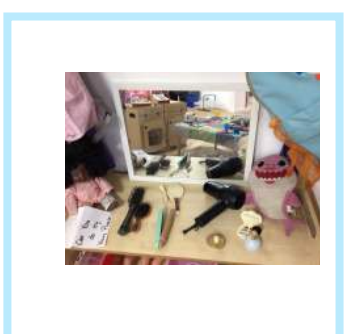
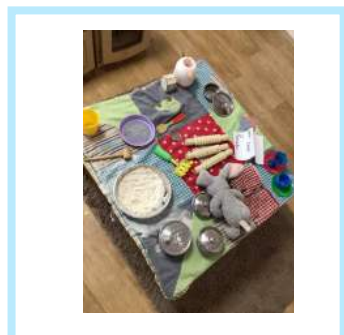
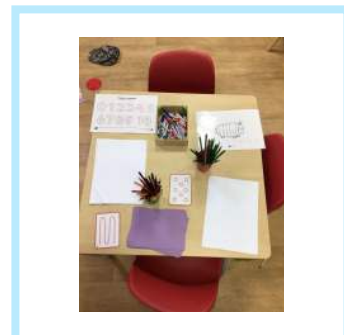
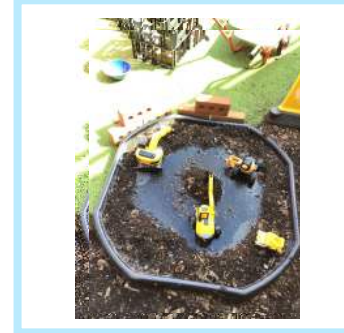
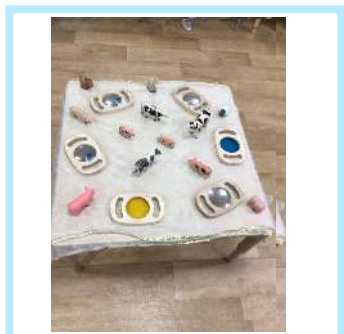
August Recap

Dolphins

This month in dolphins children have been engaging in various types of activities both inside and outside, we have done lots of mark making and discussing shapes and patterns and working on our fine motor skills, we have also been using our imagination while discussing jobs by pretending to be chefs in the role play and using the flour to make bread and other related foods.

We have also been pretending to open up a 'dolphins hair dressers' the children have all enjoyed creating funny or cool hair styles on the staff in the room as well as the children. We have also been explorers in the garden discussing bugs, birds, insects and other things, so we created a tuff tray and spoke about natural habitats. Over all dolphins have had so much fun.

Well done Dolphins.



Jo Jingles will be coming to visit the Dolphins this month

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August Recap

Octopus

In August, our pre-schoolers embarked on a month-long exploration of animals, each week focusing on a different theme. We started with Farm Animals, where the children engaged in various activities such as sorting animals, rescuing farm animals using fine motor skills, and exploring mathematical concepts through feeding and sorting games. They also got creative with fork art to make chick pictures and learned about the chicken life cycle through art and craft.

In the second week, we moved on to Zoo Animals. The children learned the animal names and their beginning letters, enhancing their literacy skills. They crafted various animals, including lions, snakes, monkeys, and giraffes, integrating shapes into their art to reinforce mathematical understanding. The week was filled with hands-on activities like feeding zoo animals and participating in a zoo animal parade to boost hand-eye coordination.

The third week introduced Pet Animals. Our young learners practiced problem-solving with pet care puzzles and created animals like dogs, fish, and cats using shapes, further reinforcing their mathematical skills. They also explored the role of veterinarians through a small-world pet care centre.

Finally, we explored Wild Animals and their Habitats in the fourth week. The children engaged with a tuff tray to explore wild animal habitats, made bird nests and lion crafts, and participated in counting and number recognition activities through various wild animal-themed games.

Throughout the month, we included extra activities like a lemon volcano science experiment, worm hunting finger gym exercises, scissors practice, and early writing practice, all contributing to their fine motor skills, scientific inquiry, and early literacy development. This month, our pre-schoolers not only learned about different animals and their habitats but also developed crucial skills in literacy, mathematics, creativity, and motor development.

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.

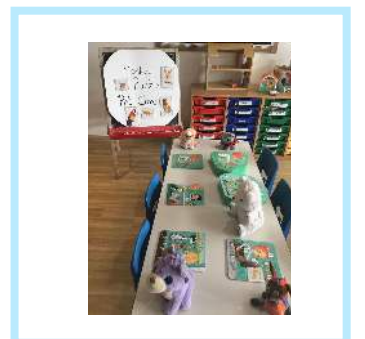
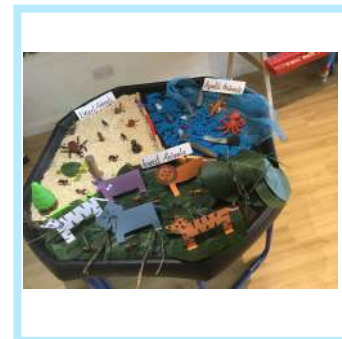
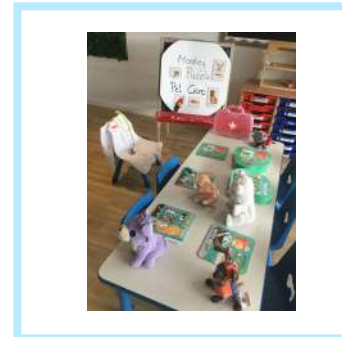
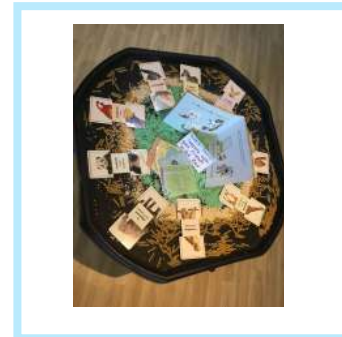
This Month:

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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August Recap

Coral Reef

This month in Coral Reef, we have been exploring our topic of animals. The children took part in lots of fun activities with the farm animals, such as "milking cow's udders" using gloves to squeeze out the milk - developing their gross and fine motor skills. The farm animals got very dirty playing in the mud, so the children used the toothbrushes and water to ensure they are squeaky clean. Through a zoo activity, the children have been working on their cardinal principle - trying to recognise how many animals there are just by looking. We did this by taking away and adding the numbers so the children could become familiar with what the amounts look like. The children have really enjoyed lots of different mark making activities, using paintbrushes to practise writing letters, numbers and drawing different patterns. They have also been practising their threading, using beads, paper plates and our new number buttons to thread through different material such as, pipe cleaners and string.

Part of our topic this month, was pets. The children engaged in lots of fun filled activities where they were able to extend their vocabulary discussing with their peers about their pets that they have at home. Alongside this, the children played a "Match the pet" snap game where they were tested with their memory and recall.

This month, we are also saying goodbye to some of our pre-schoolers as they head off on their new journey to school. The children had their graduation ceremony where they received a certificate and gift for graduating Monkey Puzzle. After, they put on a lovely performance for their parents/carers.

Preschool Uniform:

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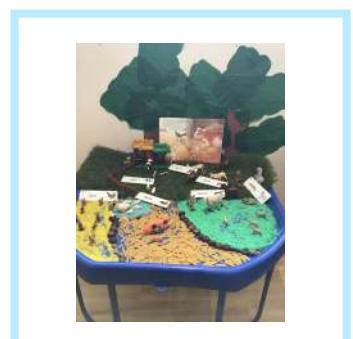
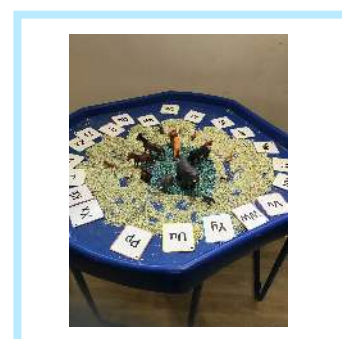
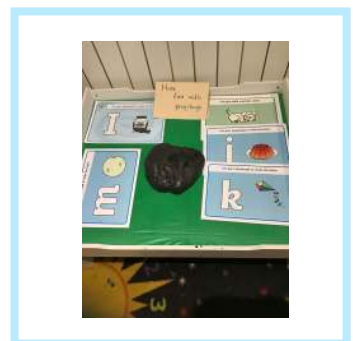
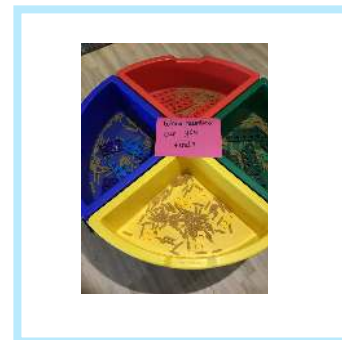
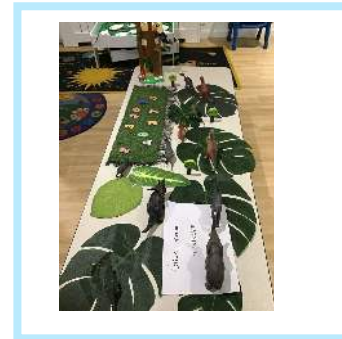
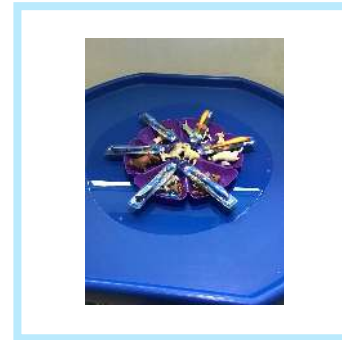
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in a range of Science, PE and 'Letter and Sounds' activities.

This Month:

KidsLingo will be visiting the children to teach them Spanish.

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



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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.

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 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!





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	There is no recommended exclusion period. Please look out for signs of high temperature, headaches and red spots.
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.

