



Dates for your diary

Start of term for the children	18th April
Bank Holiday	1st May
Half Term	29th May to 2nd June
Sports Day	9th June
Den Day	16th June
Big Toddle	30th June
Parents Meeting	w/c 10th July
Last Day of	21st July

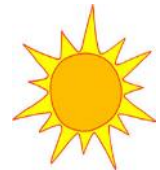
Welcome back...

We hope you had a relaxing Spring break and we are looking forward to the very busy Summer Term ahead. We would like to welcome the children and their families who have joined us this term.

In nursery, our aim is to provide each child with a good standard of education to embed the basic foundations of learning ready for their future. Therefore we would like to remind you of the importance of your child attending Nursery daily, to ensure they make the best possible progress.

Below are a few reminders:

- As the weather becomes warmer please make sure your child wears the appropriate clothing and is protected against the sun. You can apply sun cream before nursery and provide them with a hat to wear outside.
- Please ensure you child is dropped off and collected on time. If for any reason you are running late you must call the school on 01753 528050
- Please note if someone different is collecting your child, please inform a member off staff
- Please can you remember to bring Monday money
- The nursery has a lending library where the children can borrow books. Please remember your child's book bag every Friday
- Please make sure your child brings a bag of spare clothes to nursery every day



ACHIEVEMENTS

• Our new children have settled well into the nursery routines and are enjoying exploring their new environment. We look forward to watching these children grow and learn and we are happy to have them as part of Montem Academy's Nursery.

- A big well done to **Omar Amana, Zayn Kamran and Imran Hotak** for 100% attendance last term!
- Some of our Nursery children have been working very hard to be able to recognise their sounds and have even started reading books! After half-term, they will be looking at developing their phonetical awareness further, in preparation for their transition to Reception class. Well done everyone!

Characteristics of Effective Learning

In last terms newsletter practitioners gave ideas of how you could support your child in the Specific Areas, after the previous tips on the Prime Areas. Therefore, this term we are focusing on how we assess your child in terms of the **Characteristics of Effective Learning**, which means "How your child prefers to learn."

There are 3 aspects to Characteristics of Effective Learning: Playing and Exploring, Active Learning and Creating and Thinking Critically

Playing and Exploring - Engagement:

Whilst observing how a child is learning, practitioners would consider these points:

- ◆ Finding out and exploring
- ◆ Playing with what they know
- ◆ Being willing to "have a go"



Active Learning - motivation:

- ◆ Being involved and concentrating
- ◆ Keeping on trying
- ◆ Enjoying achieving what they set out to do

Other things you can try:

- ◆ Having their own ideas
- ◆ Making links
- ◆ Choosing ways to do things



We hope that this gives you a better understanding of how we make some of our judgements as to how your child is developing.

We welcome any insight into what your child might enjoy doing at home and how they prefer to play. This can be discussed at Parent's Meetings, scheduled for w/c 11th July. Please don't hesitate to ask the Nursery Teachers if you would like any further information on these characteristics.

"Odds Farm" - Nursery Trip

As part of the Childhood Promise we will be visiting Odds Farm in July. The children will be able to see a range of farm animals in their habitat, have fun riding on the tractor, enjoy the sand/water play area and explore the fabulous soft play inside. As this trip is arranged as part of the Childhood Promise there will be no charge for parents.

More information to follow.



Our Brand New Mud Kitchen

The children have been enjoying some extra messy fun in our fantastic new mud kitchen!

Here is some information to tell you about our mud kitchen, the reasons for doing this, the benefits for the children and what you should expect!

There is little more important in our physical world than earth and water and they are truly intriguing things, especially when they interact. Mixing soil, water and a range of other natural materials has a foundational role



Mud kitchens provide something quite different to just a soil digging patch, whilst also being much more easily managed. A mud kitchen includes elements of the much-loved home corner and cooking from indoor play, which are then hugely enriched through the special nature of being outside. We use the mud kitchen as a core element of our continuous provision.

The children are encouraged to feel the textures of the materials with their fingers,

The children will also explore and consolidate a range of other skills like: ladling, squashing, collecting, decanting, estimating, filling, crushing, adding, sharing, squashing, picking, smoothing, measuring, sieving, selecting, sorting, foraging and serving.

As you would expect our children are loving it and it is more than likely they will get muddy.

The muddier they get the more they will have learnt! Please bring in some spare clothes in bad weather in case they get dirty.



Nursery visits

The nursery class have been learning about 'People who help us'. We have been very fortunate to have visits from the local Police, Fire services and Paramedics.



Firefighters visit nursery

The firefighters visited school with the fire engine and we found out how the fire-fighters use the hose to put out fires and the special equipment they use to keep themselves safe and rescue people.

The children at Montem Academy nursery got to try on some fire helmets during their visit from the local firefighters. The helmets might have been a bit on the large side but the children very much enjoyed the visit. They also had a talk about fire safety and what to do in the event of a fire—STOP! DROP! Roll! Which Mohid Ali and Alex Wasowicz demonstrated for us! The children were also able to climb up into the fire engine and even learnt how to use the hose, shouts of laughter filled the car park as water squirted through the air! Children enjoyed watching the flashing blue lights and waved to the firefighters as they exited the premises with the siren on.



Paramedics visit nursery

The Paramedics gave the children a talk about their job roles. Children looked in amazement as they learnt that not only Police and fighters have walkie talkies but so do Paramedics! They enjoyed finding out what they use them for and even had a go themselves! Children carefully examined their uniforms and told the paramedics, about their own experiences. After the talk children went outdoors to explore the ambulance - the children had their pulse checked and could see their heart beating on the computer screen. Children also tried on helmets and jackets, and learnt how to use the stethoscope.

