

Monkey Puzzle Newsletter

January 2020



It has been a very busy January here at Monkey Puzzle. The children have been exploring new topics such as “The Colour Monster” in Octopus and “Animals” in Starfish. Both the rooms had fun celebrating Chinese New Year with messy activities and getting creative with crafts, we also had a delicious Chinese lunch! We have introduced some new ideas to the Nursery that incorporate British Values into our practice, one of these is a committee meeting for the children. Every couple of months we will be holding a committee meeting with the pre-school children, this gives the children a chance to tell us what they like about the nursery, what they want to see more of and what they would like to see that we don't have. This month the children said that they would like a spikey plant and electronic tablets to use. The staff in Octopus have also started a voting box for their monthly topic. They choose the children's two favourite story books and the children vote by putting a picture of their favourite book in the voting box. They have voted for “Whatever next” for February, so their learning will be based around this. In Starfish we have introduced Heuristic Play into the room, the babies are really enjoying exploring the natural wooden materials and discovering what they can do with them. Our staff here at Monkey puzzle are a brilliant team, to recognise this we have started “Staff Well Being Week”, this will take place every 6 weeks and the staff will be getting various gifts and treats to recognise their hard work and commitment to the children.



Welcome to all new parents and children to the nursery who join our existing Monkey Puzzle community!

Like us on Facebook for regular updates on the nursery and the chance to win in our monthly prize draw!

@monkeypuzzlecolchester



We are very proud to be rated 10/10 on

daynurseries.co.uk.



Thank you to all parents/carers who have reviewed our nursery!

Refer a friend

Refer a friend to the nursery and if they register you receive £100 off your next month's fees

Dates for the Diary

14th Feb—Valentines Day

17th Feb—Nursery Closed—Inset Day

25th Feb—Shrove Tuesday/Pancake Day



Employee of the Year 2019 * Shani *



Shani joined Monkey Puzzle just a few weeks after we opened the nursery and has been a joy to work with ever since she started with us. For those of you who know Shani and have her as your child's key worker, I am sure that you will all know that Shani will go the extra mile for your children. She will do whatever it takes to keep children happy and safe with us at nursery. Shani's attendance record has been outstanding and she is always willing to lend a hand to help anybody out at nursery and will always be there for us and the children. Some of you will know that Shani loves to have a chat! She will give you lots and lots of detail about your child's day and is always there to listen to what you have to say as well. Shani started her Level 3 child-care qualification with us and she has excelled in her course and receives commendable reports from her tutor, she is ahead of schedule and will soon be qualified as a Level 3 Early Years Educator.

Well done Shani for being a star, you are a credit to Monkey Puzzle Colchester.



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Welcome to our New Staff



Hello, my name is Lianne, I am Monkey Puzzle's new Nursery Assistant.

I am enjoying working between the Starfish and Octopus rooms and getting to know all of the wonderful children and staff in this setting. I have previous childcare experience in a nursery setting and I am very passionate about my job and try to be the best in all that I do. In my spare time I enjoy visiting friends and family and shopping!!

I am very excited to be a part of the Monkey Puzzle team!

January Re-Cap

The children in Starfish have been very busy this month!. We have explored a range of topics including colours and animals. Chinese New Year brought lots of celebration and opportunities for fun new activities to explore, we had messy noodle play and looked at coloured rice while using our sense of touch to see what it feels like. Our colour topic was great fun, the children mixed different colours of paint with shaving foam to see what happened, and of course to get messy! We have had a great start to the year and are looking forward to celebrating Valentine's day and Pancake day in February!



This month at Monkey Puzzle the children in Dolphin and Octopus have been focusing on the book called "The Colour Monster". The children have been exploring colours and how they can mix all together. One of the ways we did this was a skittle experiment, using water and watching all the colours mix together. As well as this we have been having discussions on what each colour means to us, such as blue is sadness and yellow is happiness. Using the book we have been encouraging the children to talk about feeling and emotions, incorporating mirrors for the children to look at themselves and draw portraits of their faces. We have also introduced an emotions box and a book showing the children what we can do when feeling sad, happy or worried.

At Monkey Puzzle in Octopus the children have also celebrated Chinese New Year. Using different types of food and discussing the textures, using chop sticks to pick up noodles and rice and creating some amazing art work for our displays.

