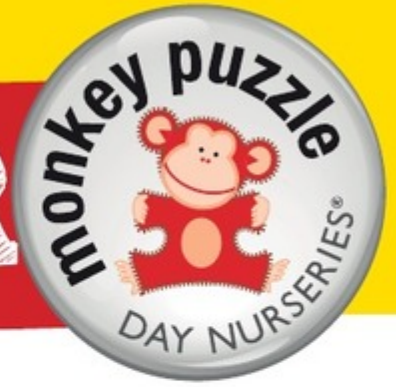


WELCOME TO

February 2023

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 MONTHLY EDITION OF MONKEY NEWS

Nursery Manager



Hello and welcome to a brand new month at Monkey Puzzle. The children this month have been incredibly busy this month with lots of lovely activities based around our theme Land / Sea.

We began the month of January with lots of conversations with the children around what they had been doing over the Christmas break, and it was lovely to welcome you all back to nursery. The children have continued their learning and development this month by taking part in lots of activities and experiences based around the land and sea and have all especially enjoyed joining in with the range of messy play activities such as water, gloop and playdough.

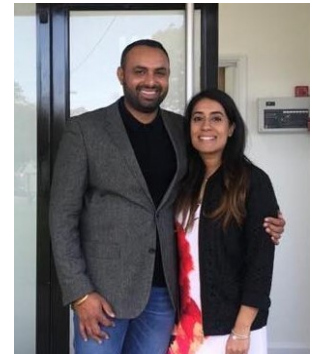
The nursery celebrated a few festivals and events this month the main ones being 'Chinese New Year', 'Burns Night' and 'Australia Day' where the children learned about the different events and joined in with the celebrations especially around the Chinese new year where we decorated the rooms, enjoyed some Chinese food, and listened to some music from China. The children have really enjoyed looking at the different flags and talking about the colours and patterns that they could see on them.

The nursery have been looking at and exploring literature and books, and especially enjoyed creating their own 'Winnie the Pooh's' for Winnie the Pooh day on the 18th January.

The nursery will be moving into February, and the children will be looking at Healthy Habits and How to stay healthy. If we have any parents within the healthcare professions such as nurses, doctors or dentists who would like to come in and talk about their professions with the children please get in touch.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with me at nursery in person or via phone, if you have any queries, questions or concerns.

Directors



Welcome to all new children and parents who join our existing Monkey Puzzle community.

We have also had lots of birthdays to celebrate in January across the nursery and we would like to once again wish a happy birthday to Ivy, Dexter, Isla, Thomas, William, Satviki, Charlie, Blossom, Fredrik, Francis, Hudson, Rafe.



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 560 695 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





WHAT WILL WE BE LEARNING IN FEBRUARY?

**MONTHLY THEME:
HEALTHY HABITS**

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

The Colour Monster - Julia Donaldson

Curious George Visits the Dentist - Margaret & H.A. Rey's

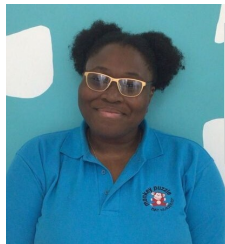
The Very Hungry Caterpillar - Eric Carle

STAFF BIRTHDAYS

We would like to say Happy Birthday to three of our Monkey Puzzle team who celebrated their birthdays in January. Gina, Danni-Rose and Kirsty.



A BIG WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF



Hello my name is Teni, I am an apprentice and you can usually find me in the 'Dolphins' room. I am passionate about music, particularly singing and sing regularly in a band. I also play guitar and learning the saxophone. I love hearing the laughter and seeing the smiles of all children who I am caring for.



Hello. My name is Ashton and I am an apprentice here at Monkey Puzzle. I currently work within the 'Dolphin' room and love getting involved within messy play activities such as gloop, painting and playdough. I am a very creative person and I love to help develop childrens creativity and imagination.



Hello. My name is Andrea and i'm 22 years old and originally from Norway. You will usually find me in the 'Starfish' room. I have recently graduated from university with a BA in Childhood Studies and aspire to use my degree to help children to thrive and develop. In my spare time I enjoy cooking and watching my favourite TV shows.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

6TH - 12TH FEBRUARY - CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

14TH FEBRUARY - VALENTINES DAY

21ST FEBRUARY - PANCAKE DAY



JANUARY RECAP

STARFISH ROOM

What a lovely month we have had in Starfish. We have really focused on our messy play this month, extending our learning through different sensory textures and materials.

The children have really enjoyed animals this month so we have incorporated this into a lot of our messy play, creating trays such as animals in the mud, exploring the gloopy soft feeling of the mud. A sensory farm tray with lots of different resources and textures to help broaden our senses, using touch, sight and smell to look at the bright colours and also the smell of the shaving gel and oats. The dinosaurs in pasta, where the children enjoyed stomping the dinosaurs on the pasta and listening to it crack and crunch under the dinosaurs feet.

Starfish children love water, so at every opportunity we explored water, such as an under water animal tray, moving the animals in the water, and splashing around to create even more bubbles in our tray.

It also got noisy in Starfish with a sensory musical mat with foil and the song spoons, we used the song spoons to turn take choosing the song we wanted to sing and then made it super noisy with pots and pans, using the spoons to bang against them to make loads of noise as we sang our nursery rhymes, crunching the foil to make lovely sounds too.

To celebrate Chinese New Year we explored noodles, chop sticks and Chinese lanterns in a tray, the noodles were so squishy, soft, and long, and it was interesting to pick them up and feel them in our hands, and hold the chop sticks to move the noodles around in the tray. Exploring the colours of the brightly coloured lanterns too.





JANUARY RECAP

RAINBOW DOLPHIN ROOM

Welcome back and a happy new year from us in Rainbow Dolphins. The children have settled back wonderfully into the nursery this year and we have been having lots of fun.

To begin this month the children have been learning about houses and homes and using lots of building resources to create their version of what houses and home is. They have enjoyed pretending to be builders and using bricks and shaving foam outside in the garden.

We have also been looking at different under the sea animals and learning the names of them. Lots of lovely water play activities have been created for the children to explore and they have had fun splashing and catching the sea animals.

Chinese New Year has been lots of fun and has brought lots of learning opportunities for the children. We decorated the room for Chinese new year and the children had fun in the role play exploring coloured rice and looking at Chinese takeaway menus. They also got to enjoy so yummy noodles to eat at nursery.

Our book of the month is "three little pigs", rainbow dolphins love learning about animals so we have had some fun farm set ups. One of the favourites activities was three little pigs in gloop, this is great for the children to explore using their senses and exploring.

We have had Winnie the Pooh day too celebrate also and this enabled lots of fun activities such as messy play, drawing and painting.

We look forward to lots more fun in February in Rainbow Dolphins.





JANUARY RECAP

DOLPHIN ROOM

Dolphins have really enjoyed all our activity sets ups relating to the different topics such as our Winnie the Pooh day the children all engaged well in this activity talking about their favourite foods and the characters.

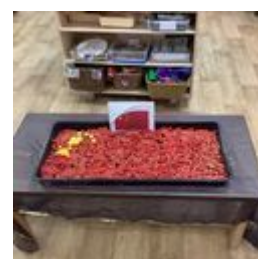
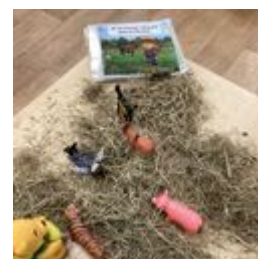
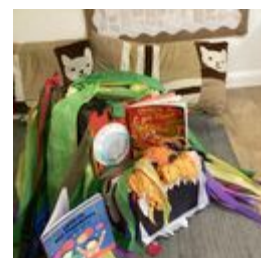
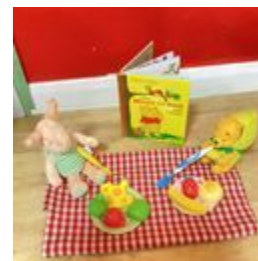
Dolphins have also enjoyed learning all about Chinese New Year by creating our own Chinese dragon using a cardboard box and lots of tissue paper to create the main of the dragon.

Dolphins have also enjoyed making different habitats for each individual animal on the activity and we learn that all animals have different types of homes/habitats which really helped the children understand their learning more by creating their own different type of habitat.

We have also been enjoying our gloop play activity which all the children found sticky and cold which this relates to our topic sealife/under the sea theme.

Dolphins also had their extra curriculum baking activity we all made cornflake cakes using golden syrup, cocoa powder and cornflakes which every time had a mix and stir and then poured it into their cake cases, the children were more excited to eat it than mix it.

We have also experimented with powder paint this got very messy but the children all had aprons on and they all enjoyed themselves. Well done dolphins.





JANUARY RECAP

CORAL REEF

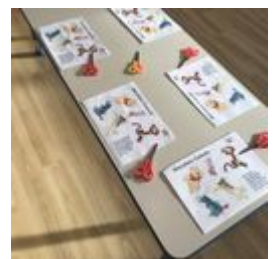
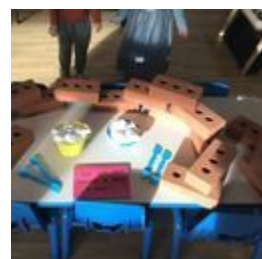
Throughout January the children learnt about a range of different topics, during under the sea week the children learnt about all of the different sea animals, where they live and what different things they eat, the children also created some lovely jellyfish to take home to their families.

The children have also been working on their fine motor skills, to celebrate Chinese New Year the children used chopsticks to pick up the different coloured pipe cleaners in the rice. The children also learnt about why we celebrate Chinese New Year and practised their mark making skills in the flour and they copied the number symbols.

During habitat week the children learnt about where different animals live and where we may find these habitats in the world. We even went on a bear hunt in the tuff tray, the children were able to listen and recite parts of the story and enjoyed learning about the different textures of the mud, grass, snow and water!

Towards the end of January we got involved in story week, we have learnt about all different stories and engaged in some lovely activities relating to them, such as, creating our own Elmer, having a Gruffalo puppet show and creating wands to become a witch. We have also been lucky and had a visit from Sebastian our tennis coach where the children learnt different tennis skills and played different games.

Sylvana our Spanish teacher, where the children learnt and played games in Spanish and Beth from Jo jingles, who taught us lots of lovely songs! We have been very busy in coral reef this month!





REFER A FRIEND

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

(T&C's apply)

IMPORTANT NOTES FOR PARENTS

FACEBOOK PRIZE DRAW

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 contact details are up to date.
- Please check the parent/carer area on the website regularly for updates.
- Please ensure that your children have suitable clothing and footwear for the weather outside as we are an all weather nursery and will still be spending time in the garden every day wherever possible.
- Please ensure Starfish, Rainbow Dolphin and Octopus children have slippers at nursery.

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 reviewed our nursery!





COVID GUIDANCE

WHAT TO DO IF ...	ACTIONS REQUIRED ...	YOUR CHILD MAY RETURN WHEN ...
... your child has symptoms of COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not send your child to nursery Inform the nursery Book a PCR test immediately Self-isolate at home 	... there is a negative test result, or they have been advised that they do not need to isolate
... your child tests positive for COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not send your child to nursery Inform the nursery self-isolate for 10 days 	... your child feels better, and they have completed 10 days of self-isolation. Some symptoms such as cough and loss of taste/smell can remain even when the infection has gone
... somebody in your child's household has symptoms of COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Household member to book a PCR test immediately Inform the nursery Self-isolate at home Inform nursery of test result 	... your child may attend nursery as they are under the age of 18 years old as long as they are well with no symptoms of COVID-19
... somebody in your child's household has tested positive for COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform the nursery Self-isolate at home for 10 days Book a PCR test for your child 	... your child may attend nursery as they are under the age of 18 years old as long as they are well with no symptoms of COVID-19
... NHS Test & Trace have identified your child as a close contact of someone with confirmed COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not send your child to nursery if you have been advised by NHS Test & Trace to self-isolate for 10 days (e.g., if they have come into contact with someone with the Omnicrom variant) Inform the nursery Self-isolate at home for 10 days 	... your child may attend nursery as they are under the age of 18 years old, provided they have not come into contact with someone who has the Omnicrom variant.
... you have received medical advice that your child should shield or should resume shielding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not send your child to nursery Follow medical advice Inform the nursery 	... you are advised that your child no longer needs to shield
... you have received medical advice that someone in your household should shield or should resume shielding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not send your child to nursery Contact the nursery manager to discuss any concerns 	... you are advised that the individual no longer needs to shield
... your child has just returned from abroad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not send your child to nursery until they have taken a PCR test on day 2 after they have returned to the UK Inform the nursery Self-isolate at home for the defined period, this includes whilst you are waiting for their PCR test results. 	... you have completed the defined period of self-isolation; this includes whilst you are waiting for the PCR test results.
... I am unable to get a test for someone in the household who has symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you are not able to get a test in the first 5 days of having symptoms, your child and anyone they live with should stay at home and self-isolate for 10 days. Anyone in your support bubble must also stay at home 	... your child has completed 10 days of self-isolation



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	All blisters must have dried out before returning to nursery, usually this is after approximately 4-6 days.
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.