

MONTY'S MONTESSORI SCHOOL

where individuality blossoms

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Principal: Carole Montana

News Letter Autumn Term 2008

Dates for your Diary

- Montessori in the Home Presentation Evening - Presented by Wendy Fidler
October 14th 7.30pm
- Diwali
Friday October 25th
- Half term-school closed
Monday 27th October - Friday 31st October
- Day Outing to the Animal Farm
Friday 14th November (Time to be arranged)
- Thanks Giving Day and Harvest Festival Day
Thursday 27th November
- Winter Activities Afternoon
Saturday December 6th
- Last day of term Children's Festive Celebrations
Friday 12th December 2008
- Winter School
Monday 15th December – Friday 19th December

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to welcome you all back following the summer break; it was lovely to see some of you at Summer school which was a great success. We will be planning winter school 2008 shortly and will let you know dates and fees over the coming term.

Last term the children worked very hard planting the trees and the shrubs in the garden. In addition we have added an African Thatched Gazebo which looks great. Ann Hui (a former member of staff) has been in school all summer making new materials for the hand made shelving that should be arriving soon in the gazebo. In the mean time the children have enjoyed using it in various different ways including, art, yoga music and meditation.

We are very much looking forward to getting engaged into the autumn term and would like to take this opportunity to update you on what's new and what's happening this term.

Many thanks
Monty's team

Welcome

We are very pleased to welcome eleven new children and their families to Monty's this term. We would like to welcome Sarah and Mark parents of Alex Eckersley, Katrina and Andreas parents of Alexandra Jenkins – Eleftheriou, Nadine and Mike parents of Arin Conradi, Rob and Frances parents Benjamin Challen, Audrey and Adam parents of Calum Penny, Naomi and Zuky parents of Esther Serper, Dianne and Craig parents of Juliette Moehl, Claire and Gary parents of Martha Butler, Natasha and Nick parents of Mischa Tabori, Katie and Richard parents of Poppy Beck, Alessandra and Will parents of Sophia Tipper, Jana and Nikolai parents of Yannik Delvendahal. In addition we would like to welcome Miro's little sister Mia da Costa Tuff daughter of Alex and Mark.

Settling In

A big thank you to all the new parents for helping their children to settle in during summer School. We really appreciate your help during this sometimes sensitive process.

Graduation

Thank you to all those who attended our graduation ceremony. Together, we wish all of the children who have moved on to big school all the very best we hope that their new teachers enjoy working with them as much as we have. They are all great children. It was a real pleasure to have them with us at Monty's. Our door is always open and they can come back and visit whenever they wish.

BBQ

Thank you for all those who attended our BBQ and those families who helped before during and after. This was our second BBQ it went really well and a good day was had by all. It was nice to see past families joining in the fun.

Terms Topic

The children's enthusiasm in the garden was phenomenal and observed in great detail last term. We discovered that they had developed various interests such as planting, looking for bugs and life cycles. We followed their spontaneous interests and ended the term with a brief introduction to

composting. We have decided to incorporate this interest in our Montessori and Early Years Foundation Stage planning. Any parents who can provide help and information with regards to composting please do let us know.

Outing

We would like to link our terms topic with our outing for this term. We have researched numerous city farms and one of which is Spitalfields City Farm, Buxton Street, London, E1 5AR. This farm offers projects such as sustainable education, healthy living, horticulture and animal care. The farm also offers organic gardens, the coriander club alongside a lively farm yard with many rare breeds. The following facilities are on sight, toilets, play area, garden nature area, and play activities. Accessibility: Hand washing, covered area, picnic area. We believe this may be a whole days outing, further details will be provided nearer the day.

The aim of the outing is to link and extend the knowledge acquired within both the indoor and outdoor environment here at Monty's. The farm is for you and your child to explore and discover the beauty of all living creatures. You will be responsible for your child during the outing. For those of you who joined us for the last outing to Waterlow Park you may wish to re-use the wristband we provided for this outing. For those children who didn't attend the last trip we will provide your child with a wrist band upon which you can write a contact number in case of an emergency.

We plan that the school will be closed all day. We are looking into the costs to hiring a Mini Bus to transport us to the farm and back, however this will only happen if the cost of the mini bus and additional insurance is within our budget.

Outing Schedule - To be given at a later date

Montessori Evening

We are continuing with our series of Montessori evenings for parents. Those of you who attended our first presentation with Barbara Isaacs experienced and appreciated the wealth of knowledge Barbara had to share. We would like to offer another evening relating to Montessori within the home environment presented by Wendy Fiddler.

Wendy is a forensic education consultant specializing in education law, education negligence and special educational needs. She is a Fellow of the royal Society of arts a trustee of the Dyspraxia Foundation and a member of the special education consortium policy group. Wendy was awarded the EYE special award for her work with young children Wild wood Montessori school. An experienced Ofsted nursery and special needs Inspector. Wendy also writes and lectures on Montessori education, early years and special educational needs.

Diwali

As many of you have experienced our culture celebrations we start this term with Diwali. Diwali is the celebration of the Festival of Lights. Monty's team wear national dress and the children wear white or gold. We create a classroom environment to represent this special time of the year. Traditional Indian dishes are served (mild). The children make Diya's and experiment and make patterns with Rangoli colours. All children are welcomed in joining the lunch.

Schedule

Those children in all day stay all day and those children who are afternoon only arrive at 11.45am. Our children who are not normally in on this day please arrive at 11.45am. Our children who normally go home in the afternoon on this day please collect them at 1.15pm instead of 12.00pm.

Since Diwali is falling on the 27th October 2008 which is during our half term we have now arranged it to commence on Friday 25th October 2008.

Thanks Giving Day

Thanks' giving is a day for saying Thank You. Last term we introduced the meaning of thank you in our Grace and Courtesy Curriculum. We presented saying thank you through various role play situations. This was extended to the children from the teachers in a way of saying thank you verbally before we ate lunch. For example, thank you for helping in the garden, Thank you for our lovely food, etc. The children spontaneously lead the way in volunteering to say their special thank you before lunch. This has now become a big part of Monty's lunch time routine.

This Thanks Giving we would like to contribute to feed the Children of Africa. Our harvest sharing this year will support children in desperate need in places like Uganda, Kenya, Angola and Liberia as well as provide relief in emergency situations both of the immediate emergency and the ongoing support needed in the months and years afterwards. Harvest fund raising focuses on the most basic needs, food everyday, clean water and warmth at night. Monty's would like to contribute in requesting for your help. We would welcome the following gifts from each family, rice, dried pasta, and dried pulses (peas, beans, lentils) dried fruits.

All food should have a best before date more than six months ahead. Food the children are unable to accept out of date food, fresh foods or packs that have been opened.

After lots of interviewing we have finally found a suitable new member of staff,

Shompa Mazumder

Hi, my name is Shompa Mazumder and I am delighted to be joining Carole and her team in the new term. I am from Glasgow, Scotland where I trained and qualified as a Montessori Early Years directress in 2004. Since then I have enjoyed employment in 2 Glasgow pre-schools and more recently I have been running a child minding service from my home. I am also a keen musician and play classical cello, double bass and sarode (a classical Indian instrument).

I hope to bring these influences to Monty's to share with the children so beware of any loud screeching! Most of all, I look forward to returning to the classroom environment and meeting you all.

Due to final work commitments in Glasgow, Shompa will be able to attend our training week after that, she will return to Glasgow, her commencement date at Monty's is Monday 22nd September.

Sound of the week

We will be continuing with our sound of the week as of Monday 22nd September. If your child would like to bring in an 'a' object to school for show and tell that would be much appreciated. We will display the sound of the week on Monday so that the children can bring in appropriate items should they wish to during the remainder of the week. Please refer to your calendar detailing the sound of the week, festivals and activities that we will be celebrating at school over the coming term.

Door duty

The children really love being on door duty and it is one of the most popular jobs at school! Can we please take this opportunity to remind parents/carers to wait behind the gate until the child on door duty calls 'next mummy/daddy/nanny please'. Many thanks.

If possible we would like to request that all children who arrive at 11.45am are dropped off at the door where Carole or a member of the team will be ready to take them in to the classroom. This is a very busy time of the day for us with children arriving and others preparing to go home, we are also

much busier in the afternoons than ever before, therefore we are keen to keep this time of day as calm and as smooth as possible. We feel that this would be greatly helped if parents and carers can say their goodbyes to their child at the door.

The children who are staying for extended lunch and leaving at 1.00 please could parents carers wait downstairs behind the gate the door will open at 1.00 where as child will be waiting eagerly to greet you. Please then come up the stairs and collect your child.

The same procedure follows at 3.00

We would like to remind parents and carers that we are unable to store any push chairs inside the entrance hall due to fire regulations, however we are happy for the children's scooters and bikes to be tucked in neatly under and next to the chairs but we would kindly request that they are labelled with your child's name as many of the children have exactly the same scooter! You are welcome to lock your push chairs underneath the green gazebo please do remember to lock it, Monty's Montessori cannot take responsibility for any belongings that go astray.

Home school link

We very much value all the help and effort that goes in to the home school links such as bringing in fruit and objects for sound of the week, help with creativity and the time spent to join your child at school events. We are conscious that the lives of parent's can be exceedingly busy so your continued support is thoroughly appreciated.

Winter activities afternoon

We would like to invite all families to our Winter Activities Afternoon. This afternoon will be held on Saturday 6th December where you and your child come to school to participate in a "craft" afternoon together. It is a festive afternoon for all. RSVPs will be sent out in the middle of November.

End of term arrangements

On the last day of the autumn term, Friday 12th December we would like all of our children to arrive at 12.00 for a special festive celebration afternoon. We invite them to dress up in their best party outfits. Sanatsaurus will be joining us too!

At 2.30 will be having a leaving ceremony for those children who are moving on too big school in January. We would like to invite the mummies and daddies of those children in during the afternoon to help us celebrate their child's achievements while at Monty's.

Finally

Big congratulations to:

Gillian, Robin, Olivia and Elliott and their new baby brother Barnaby,

Lucy and her new arrival baby George.

Jo, Declan and Conal and their new baby girl Nina Melody.

It's Monty's second year this September a big thank you to all the families at Monty's for being so supportive towards the school and staff during this time. Many thanks

Monty's team