

School contact number

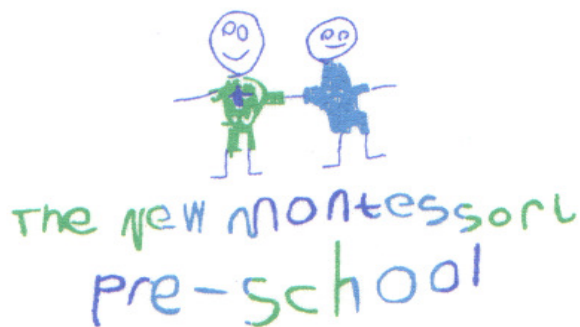
01903 535412

Please remember you can text us!

Ask for our mobile numbers at the school.

Email: info@theNewMontessoriPreSchool.org.uk

Web: www.theNewMontessoriPreSchool.org.uk



Methodist Church, Tarring Road, Worthing, BN11 4ET

March 2009 Newsletter

Progress Visits - Feedback

'Parents are children's first and most enduring educators. When practitioners work together in an early years setting, the results have a positive impact on children's development and learning.' (The Early Years Foundation Stage - Department for Education and Skills). Thank you to all of you who returned the feedback forms following your child's Progress Visit. We are delighted with your responses to this and have had some very lovely comments about what we do and how we do it. For many of you, the opportunity to watch your child orienting him/her/self in our learning environment was very insightful as often the child will not volunteer much information about their day! Your child's progress is recorded in their observation books through photographs and observations and their individual work plans are documented in their Learning Journals - these too were found to be very informative.

It is important perhaps to mention here too that it is just as crucial for us to impart our knowledge and understanding of your child as it is to learn about your child from what you can tell us. It is so important to inform us of any changes to your child's home life so that we can better understand their view of their world. Please feel reassured that all information remains confidential and that we do not pass judgement.

Another man in uniform visited!

Thank you to Lottie Cobb's father for recently taking the time to come in and talk with our children about his role as a policeman. The children really benefit from these types of opportunities to engage with adults talking about what they do. Again, if you would like to come in and talk to the children at Circle Time about your job or even your interests do please be aware that you would be most welcome.

Recent Fundraising Meeting News

Despite there only being two people in attendance (!) there were some very good suggestions for fundraising events this year. To celebrate our 10 years service there were suggestions for a family disco and/or a Treasure Hunt. Sarah Clark and Kate Armitage (fiercely proactive mothers - ! - who will soon - as their children move onto primary - be leaving our Fundraising Committee will be finalising a May date for another 'Frock Exchange' - for those of you that attended the 'Winter Season Collection' will know that this was a great event. Details to follow. Next meeting is Wednesday 1st April (. . yes, really!) at 6pm in The Chapel Class.

Confirmation of your child's sessions - Summer Term 2009

Thank you for promptly returning the above confirmations. It has been noted that, for some of you with children moving onto primary, there has been some pressure from the primary school to **not** defer. If, as in one families case, this happens to you please let us know and we will quite happily telephone the primary school to remind them that this practice breaches the Governments admission policy - where individual schools put pressure on parents to enter their child in order to secure a place at that school. This will not be tolerated and it is accepted that local authorities should investigate reported cases of schools putting pressure on parents to accept reception class places. You will not lose your child's place if you decide to defer for up to two terms.

Staff Training Days

As part of our continued professional development, 18 staff members spent another Saturday in The Chapel Class learning about Health and Safety. We are proudly displaying our recent certificates and achievements in our cloakroom. A number of our staff are attending The Annual Oxford Montessori Lecture at University College, Oxford, by Sir Richard Bowlby (the son of John Bowlby, the psychologist who is famous for his pioneering work on attachment) on the topic of 'Reducing Anxiety in the pre-school'. This is an important topic, especially as so many settings have to take younger children, so attachment problems (both in children and their parents) become more pressing.

Pants and knickers!

We thank you and appreciate the return of our pre-school clothes to us washed and ready to return to our reserves. Often children will arrive with their own spare clothes but prefer to choose something from our own collection! However we are in short supply of pants and knickers for those children who are still gaining mastery of their bodily functions. We would be grateful if you have any spares to donate!

Studio 129 - our preschool photographer

Steve Ward will be shortly visiting us over a course of two weeks. His discreet presence in our classrooms ensures that he captures your child 'at work'. Steve Ward has all appropriate police checks, has been known to our pre-school for a good few years and currently has his second child attending.

End of Term Spring Party

Preparations for our Spring Party are underway. This is on **Friday 3rd April at 10.30 - 1pm** and *all our children are invited to attend. May we suggest however, that if your child is fairly new that they may find the party slightly overwhelming and so could upset their 'sense of order'. There will be plenty of parties that your child will be attending here - but it is advisable that if your child is still relatively new to our environment and still settling in (i.e. been with us just a term) it may be best to wait until the next one! We have to, because of Health and Safety reasons, restrict the numbers of parents/siblings at our parties although a Parent Help List and other party news will soon be available. There is no charge for our end of term parties and the costs are paid for by the Fundraising Team. It will typically be a very crowded and busy do! There will be lots of spring/Easter themed activities and maybe even a guest appearance from the Easter Bunny at the end of it! The Easter Bunny will be handing out tubes of chocolate that in our pre-school tradition hopefully returns to us with loose change that is then patiently counted by our Fundraising Team.

* For those children that attend only our Free Entitlement sessions (Monday - Friday 2pm - 4.30pm) please remember that the last day of term is Friday 27th March and should your child want to attend our end of term party we ask for a contribution of £11.50.

Term dates reminder

Summer Term - April - July 2009

Monday 20 April - Term resumes

Bank Holiday - Closed Monday 4 May

Bank Holiday - Closed Monday 25 May

Thursday 23 July - Last day of term

Friday 24 July - Party Day - 10.30-1pm

14 week term length

Free Entitlement Class - only

(2 - 4.30pm provision)

Monday 27th April - Term resumes

Bank Holiday - Closed Monday 4 May

Bank Holiday - Closed Monday 25 May

Friday 17th July - Last day of term

12 week term length

May we take this opportunity to wish you all a very pleasant Easter
and of course a super Spring Holiday!

