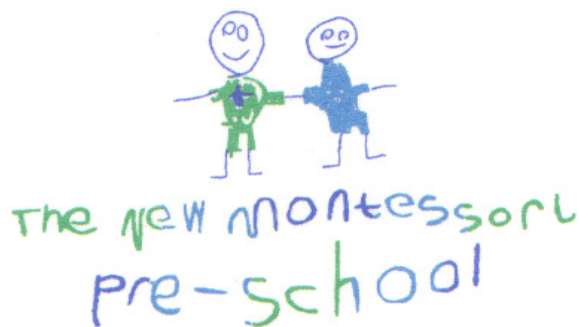


School contact number

01903 535412

Please remember you can text us!

Ask for our mobile numbers at the school.



May 2009 Newsletter

Summer Term 2009

Here we are already in our third week of term! The Summer Term is always a particularly busy term as many of you, in preparation for your child attending primary school, have chosen to increase your child's sessions. New children are always arriving - we currently have 94 children attending our pre-school. This 14 week term promises to be typically industrious with interesting projects in both classrooms in addition to the Montessori Curriculum. These projects are designed for those children who are at the stage in their development where they are keen to put their findings in a more concrete form - i.e. writing - please do not be concerned if your child has not yet shown an interest in the mechanisms of writing - it takes many steps to get there and it will come eventually! May we suggest an excellent website for the correct pronunciation of the *phonetic* alphabet - www.focusonphonics.co.uk - but please remember only discuss with your child when *they want to!* Do ask for advice on this subject.

Transition

Transferring from pre-school to primary school can be both an exciting and anxious time for parents and children. Planning well for transition, in partnership with parents, can ease a child's entry into Reception Class. We will contribute by encouraging children to work with others who will be attending the same school and can introduce parents to each other. If no other children here are going to the primary school that your child is going to we will offer to go on a visit with the child. Some of our local primary schools have made arrangements already to come and visit children starting with them in September. Through time and activities children will be encouraged to share their feelings about starting school. For each child the separation from the familiarity and security of our pre-school and the adventure of starting primary will feel very different and will generate very different responses. We will be holding Progress Visits for those children transferring and these have been scheduled from Monday 8th June.

Deferring your child

Some of you have made the difficult decision to defer your child's place at Reception Class/Primary School and some of you are reconsidering your child's start date with their primary school. WSCC Regulations state that your child does not have to start Primary School until the term **after** their fifth birthday. You do have the legal right to defer your child for up to two terms with no risk of your child losing their place. For children born between Jan 2005-Apr 2005 will not be full-time until Spring 2010 and for summer born children a full-time place is not likely to be offered until Summer Term 2010.

Studio 129 - our pre-school photographer

We are promised the imminent arrival of the photographs taken last term of your child 'at work'. We are sure you will be delighted with these natural shots and as soon as they do arrive we will let you know by means of a notice. Up to four different shots of each child were taken and details on how to order your chosen colour/black and white photographs will be available shortly.

Keeping safe in the sun

As you are aware young children's skin is especially vulnerable and even on those more typical cloudy days it is necessary to protect children from harmful rays. Some of you will have already applied protective cream prior to them starting their day with us. We encourage all children to apply (supervised!) protective cream and have a supply of sunhats that they can choose from. If you would prefer your child to wear your own choice of protective cream please bring into school - clearly named - and we will ensure that it is applied. We do need your permission to apply sun screen - a form you would have signed within your Child Pack.

Creatures of the scalp!

Unfortunately nits seem as hardy as cockroaches and we have a recurring problem with these pesky little creatures. PLEASE DO NOT knowingly send your child to school with them - as with colds/stomach aches/other infectious illnesses it really isn't fair on your child or to put others at risk. We will telephone asking you to collect your child in these circumstances.

The MEAB Accreditation

The Montessori Schools Association, working with the British Accreditation Council and the Independent Schools Inspectorate, has developed a national scheme to give us and other Montessori Pre-schools official accreditation and support. We invited and welcomed MEAB to our pre-school and it provided us with a very positive reflection on who we are, what we do and how we do what we do! You may have noticed a lady with a clipboard furiously taking notes here the other week - indeed she spoke with some of you for parents' perspective on our service to you all as a family. We looked at our policies and procedures, our ground rules and daily routines and discussed the links with the four principles of the EYFS. We evaluated the way our children are free to move within our mixed age classrooms and how we interact with the children and when to stand back. We discussed how we record and share our observations of each child. The children of course, as they are with all visitors to our pre-school, delighted in telling her all about their pre-school and evidence of their attachment here was obvious. We look forward to receiving our full report in due course and this will be made available for you to read.

We are due an Ofsted inspection at any time now and we will embrace that too when it comes!

Fundraising News - in brief - own newsletter to follow!

There was a Fundraising Meeting on Tuesday 5th May so a report/newsletter following this will be out soon.

We would like to thank Jake Clifford-Garrod (Simone's teenage son) for his **10 mile sponsored cycle** in aid of The New Montessori Pre-school. Jake raised **£63** and we respect and admire the fact that he did this all on his own steam. Fantastic!

YES! We are collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers and this is ending 3rd June! Each and every voucher will count towards active equipment and we thank you for sending them to us. One last push - please too remind friends and family we are collecting! Many thanks.

Smartie Tubes - thank you so much for returning these to us - we are very grateful for your generosity. It appears that some of our children were on 'a real mission' getting these filled!

Following the huge success of the last **Frock Exchange Party** back in November when over £600 was raised for the replenishing of equipment another Frock Exchange Party will be taking place on the **evening of Thursday 14th May**. Please do support this event if you can - the evening is guaranteed to be a good one! You would have seen the posters and flyers advertising this event and if you don't have anything to swap you would be very welcome to assist in the preparations or be involved in the evening's event.

The **Charity Car Boot Sale** is on **Sunday 7th June** - have you had the opportunity to have a 'good clear out'? Again, posters and flyers have hopefully made their way to you too advertising this event.

The Fundraisers have other events coming out later this term **The Sponsored Wheels** and **The Teddy Bear's Picnic** being very popular annual events held in Victoria Park. We are just waiting to hear from the council to agree a date. We shall of course keep you posted.

Other dates for your diary

The second Bank Holiday in May! - Monday 25th May (pre-school closed)

Friday 17th July - Last day of term for the afternoon FE CLASS

Thursday 23rd July - Last day of term

Friday 25th July - End of term Summer Party