

Rocks Lane Montessori Newsletter



Autumn Term 2022 Issue No. 6

Welcome back!



Welcome to another academic year where we begin the year refreshed after our summer holidays. Last term we focused on life cycles and shared celebrations including the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. With heavy hearts we bid farewell to our friends who have left for big school and send them all our love and well wishes as they embark on this exciting new journey. Back in our nursery, we are excited for the harvest in our garden too and cannot wait to the fruits of our labour. We hope you've had a great summer holiday and a very warm welcome to the children and parents who have joined our school this term. We look forward to an exciting term ahead with you!

With love, the Rocks Lane Montessori team

Announcements:

Happiest birthdays to...

- Daisy and Margot (10th September)
- Audrey and Lilah (17th October)
- Freya (21st October)
- Lorcan (27th October)
- Eliza (13th November)
- Agnes (26th November)
- Oliver (20th November)
- Izzy (1st December)
- Rowan (22nd December)

We also welcome the families of:

- Aarya
- Audrey and Lilah
- Coco
- Eden
- Eliza
- Freya
- Gigi
- Gus
- Izzy
- Kiaan
- Kit
- Lewis
- Lorcan
- Rhys
- Rei

Our warmest welcome to our Rocks Lane Family! We are so excited to have you with us.

Dates to remember



Start of Term	6th September
Black Awareness Month	Month of October
Grandparents Day*	4th October
Teacher's Day	5th October
Half term break	24th to 28 th October
Halloween Parade*	31st October
Guy Fawkes Day	5th November
World Kindness Day	13th November
Remembrance Day	13th November
Saint Andrew's Day	30th November
Christmas Party*	14th December
Last day of Autumn Term	14th December

Introducing our Parent Representative!

After a fantastic year of hard work, we'd like to thank Miranda, Felicity's mum, for all her efforts connecting the home and school environments for our families and children.

As a new year approaches, we would like to take this opportunity to introduce our new Parent Representative for the academic year 2022/23. She is Katy, Mum of 2 of our students, Lorcan and Eden.



*Dates for your diary

- Grandparents Day (4th Oct): where grandparents are most welcome to join us in the classroom from 9am!
- Halloween parade (31st Oct): 11am onwards (more details to follow)
- Christmas Party (14th Dec): 11am-12pm

What have we been up to over this Summer term? A term in review.....

It has been an eventful term at Rocks Lane Montessori as we commemorate events and open our doors to visitors and learning opportunities.

Life cycles

This term, we learnt about the life cycles of many different living organisms such as turtles, chickens, lady bugs, sunflower and peas. It was fascinating to learn the growth process of many animals, insects and plants and to understand our role as humans to protect and care for our environment. As the term closed, it was so inspiring for us to witness first-hand the lifecycle of caterpillars turning into butterflies in our classroom! Fly, butterfly, fly!



Fireman visit

It is not everyday that we get to stand amongst the heroes of our communities! We learnt about firemen and the work they do, from the equipment they use to the vehicles they command. We are so thankful to the great work they do everyday keeping us safe in the neighborhood and beyond!



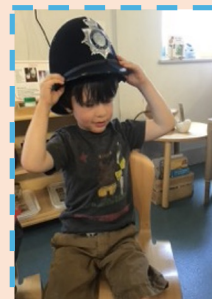
Platinum Jubilee

We celebrated the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II's 70th year as Britain's monarch. We had lots of arts and crafts, stories and even a photo booth to commemorate this special event. Special thanks to Felicity's mum, Miranda who dedicated her time and efforts to bring about this wonderful event. A fantastic morning spent in the classroom indeed.



Police visit

Another group of heroes without capes! The police officers paid us a visit to talk to us about their role in their communities and neighborhood. So many of us want to be police officers when we grow up!



An afternoon soiree with our beloved alumni

It warms our heart to see how well our alumni are doing wherever they are in London, or around the world they may be. It was a lovely late afternoon spent chit-chatting, catching up and sharing past stories in reminiscence of the good times we had together and the friendships that still thrive today.

Sports Day

Ready, steady....go! We organised a mini sports day where we put our physical skills to the test in various friendly matches.



Garden update

Our garden is once again teeming with fruits, vegetables and herbs. Whilst we eagerly check for delicious ripened fruits each day, the crops are also a point of fascination for many of us due to the many mini beasts they attract. We'd like to thank Rowan's mum, Kate for her green fingers and patience in teaching us the basics of gardening and to everyone who looks after the garden each day.



A special message for our graduating children....

It is such a great honor to be able to celebrate not only the achievements but also the transformed lives and growth of each and every child who attends Rocks Lane Montessori. Our heartiest congratulations to the following children on their graduation from the Early Years Montessori education! May the words of Maria Montessori follow you, "free the child's potential, and you will transform them into the world".

Big congratulations to Jack, Felicity, Adam, Oscar, Scarlett, Oliver, Orlando, Lily, George, Rose and Bertie who are leaving for Big School! We are immensely proud of you and of how well you have grown! Your laughter, stories, antics and personalities will be missed, but most of all, we will miss YOU!



Jack



Felicity



Adam



Oscar



Scarlett



Oliver



Lily



George



Orlando



Bertie

We've attached some of our circle time songs below, do check them out and have a go singing and dancing to them at home.

As little ones join in our beautiful classroom this coming Autumn term, what a good time it is for our older children, who have been here for longer, to model appropriate behaviours like respectful speech, kindness and even teaching our new children how to use some of the Montessori materials!

The Montessori Philosophy values vertical grouping, as children of different ages working together presents various educational opportunities such as role modelling and teaching. Self-esteem and confidence come naturally to children in an environment where leadership opportunities are available. The classroom is grouped vertically (2-4 year olds) with various opportunities for spontaneous exciting learning.

Teachers are not the sole source of guidance, as children gain value insights from watching each other work. Vertical grouping is characteristic of the Montessori approach in recognition of the fact that children have different paces in physical, emotional, social and cognitive development and are more sensibly treated as individuals rather than lumped into chronological age groups.

A few notes, requests and reminders....

The beginning of this year seems like a great time to send home some reminders:

We're so excited about the curriculum for the new term.

Curriculum Focus Topics, Autumn 2022						
Week	Project	Numbers	Sounds	Shapes	Books	People
6th September	Welcome to school	Introduction and revision	Introduction and revision	Introduction and revision	My First Maria Montessori by Sanchez Vagara	Maria Montessori
12th September	Grace and Courtesy	1, 11	a	circle	Gruffalo's Child by Julia Donaldson	Maya Angelou
19th September	The Planets	2, 12	b	square	How to Catch a Star, by Oliver Jeffers	Yuri Gagarin
26th September	Planet Earth	3, 13	c	triangle	Greta and the Giants, by Zoë Tucker	Greta Thunberg
3rd October	Land, Water and Air	4, 14	d	rectangle	What's Up: A Book About the Sky and Space, by Mick Manning	Frida Kahlo
10th October	Gravity, Rockets and Astronauts	5, 15	e	oval	Room on the Broom, by Julia Donaldson	Chris Hadfield
17th October	Day and Night	Overview of numbers	Overview of letters	Overview of shapes	Guess How Much I Love You, by Anita Jeram	Vincent van Gogh
Half term break: 24th-28th October						
31st October	Europe	6, 16	f	circle, sphere	Possum Magic by Mem Fox	Ursula von der Leyen
7th November	North America	7, 17	g	square, cube	Gruffalo by Julia Donaldson	George Washington
14th November	South America	8, 18	h	rectangle, cuboid	Share and Take Turns by Cheri Meiners	Paulo Coelho
21st November	Africa	9, 19	i	triangle, pyramid	Cat in the Hat by Dr. Seuss	Queen Sheba
28th November	Asia	10, 20	j	oval, cylinder	Crab & Whale (Mindful Storytime) by Mark Pallis and Christiane Kerr	Genghis Khan
5th December	Australasia	Odd and even numbers	k	rhombus, cone	Snowman by Raymond Briggs	Jacinda Ardern
12th December	Antarctica	Overview of numbers	l	Overview of 2D and 3D shapes	A House for Hermit Crab by Eric Carle	Sir Ernest Shackleton
Last day of term: 14 th December						