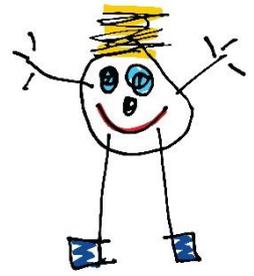


St. Andrew's Montessori School Newsletter



Welcome to our Summer Term - April 2023 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Welcome back after what we hope was a wonderful Easter break! It is lovely to see the sun shining and flowers blooming, we are so looking forward to making the most of our garden at this beautiful time of the year. Everyone seems refreshed and ready for the remainder of the term ahead. We have lots of exciting plans for the coming weeks so please do note dates of the upcoming events on your family calendar.

The Childs View

As Montessori teachers we are constantly trying to see our world through the child's perspective, whether it is acknowledging and celebrating their opinions and points of view or trying to see the world through their eyes. With this in mind we thought it may be quite fun to enlist the help of all our lovely parents and task you (and your child) with the assignment of taking a digital image based on the theme, "What is Spring?". This is purely based on your child's visual interpretation of what THEY think Spring means and could be a photo of absolutely anything they feel fits the theme. We would love one photo per child to be emailed to us no later than Monday 1st May 2023. We will then compile these images in a display in our Reception area and absolutely cannot wait to see what is produced.

Fundraising Fun

I am sure you will all agree that Spring Fete on Thursday 30th March 2023 was a huge success, and we are delighted to announce that we were able to raise £1,181.80 towards Islington Foodbank. We are thrilled to also inform you that we have raised £7,997.88 last year for Macmillan Cancer Appeal and the Ukranian Humanitarian Appeal. Thank you all so much for your incredible generosity and support of these extremely worthwhile causes.

Gardening Initiatives in Islington

It is so lovely to see our beautiful garden come to life again, especially the herb garden that was funded and planted by our children in partnership with the lovely Environmental Team from Islington. Gardening is such a passion of ours, promoting healthy outdoor activities, learning through our senses, creating safe environments for wildlife and teaching children to respect nature and take care of living things. We know how difficult it can be to source gardening opportunities for little ones living in Central London and thought it may be helpful to compile a list of local gardening initiatives in Islington for your information:

<https://www.oldengarden.org/> - run nice open days, children can come and make bird feeders etc

<https://www.thegardenclassroom.org.uk/community/little-explorers/> - free drop ins at King's Square Gardens

<https://www.slpt.org.uk/gardening-activities> - Saturday workshops at the community gardens

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/health-and-wellbeing/children-getting-them-interested-in-gardening> - just a few nice ideas to get children interested in gardening.

Islington Clean Air Parents

At St. Andrew's Montessori, we are keenly aware of the importance of air quality and want to help protect young children at our nursery against the health effects of air pollution. We would like to work with parents by implementing some changes to reduce their exposure and ensure we provide the healthiest environment for our children to learn and grow.

Air pollution can impact our health, and children are some of the most vulnerable to the impacts of exposure to air pollution. We know that over the long term, air pollution can impact the lung development of children and is increasingly being linked to a range of other health conditions, and potentially neurological development in children.

The good news is that according to information supplied by the Islington Council Pollution Team, the quality of our air has been improving over the last few decades. However, parts of Islington do not meet the national air quality limits for one of the main pollutants: nitrogen dioxide. We are keen to support efforts to improve air quality in our local area and are working with Islington Clean Air Parents, drawing on their toolkit to identify ways that we as a school can take action to improve air quality.

Among other measures we will be:

- helping to raise awareness about air pollution among staff and parents
- involving our children in learning about and finding solutions to air pollution, supported by stories, songs and projects
- ensuring that deliveries to the school are grouped together so fewer trips are required
- encouraging drivers to switch off their engines when they pull over

We are also encouraging active travel among staff, parents and children. If there is anything that we can do that would facilitate greater use of bikes or scooters, or that would help to encourage walking to and from school, please do let us know. We would love to hear from you about other ways in which we can improve air quality in Islington. Please do get in touch and feel free to find out how to get more involved at <https://islingtoncleanairparents.uk/get-involved/>.

Classroom Projects and Parent Participation

Each term the teachers love to extend our wonderful Montessori curriculum with individual classroom projects. Please see below for your child's project and feel free to contact us if there is any way you would like to take part in this.

Sophie's Class – The Big Book of Why

Paula's Class – Continents

Tilly's Class – Julia Donaldson

Olga's Class – All about me

Sefi's Class – How things work

Zurina's Class – Land, Water and Air

Marta's Class – Weather

We would also love to thank the following Parents and family members for coming in last term and teaching some super special classes with our children. Thank you to Henry for his wonderful music, Georgina for teaching us about Baba Marta, Nicky for teaching us about being visually impaired and Trevor for encouraging all our little palaeontologists.

End of the day collection

It is so lovely to see the children bouncing out of school at the end of the day and as the weather gets warmer having great fun playing in the garden with their friends. We just wanted to issue a gentle reminder that this is a public space and ask that all Parents, Nannies and Carers be vigilant of their energetic little ones as they dart around, especially with a view to monitoring the exits leading onto the busy road. We advise you keeping your children in sight to ensure their safety.

Suncream and sunhats

As the weather promises to improve, we are so looking forward to topping up our Vitamin D with lots of activities in the garden. With this in mind, we kindly request that each child bring in a labelled sunhat and suncream to be kept for them in school.

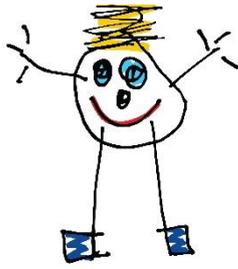
School Photo Time

The talented team from Nice Smile Photography Ltd. will be at school on Tuesday 16th May to take photographs of your gorgeous children. The photographs will be available for you to purchase later in the term. Please ensure that your child arrives at school promptly on the day as we will commence taking photos as soon as possible in order to fit in all the little photoshoots.

Our first Friday parents morning for this term will be Friday 28th April 2023. As always our door is always open, any and all suggestions and feedback is welcomed and we are all very much looking forward to a wonderful term ahead!

With our very best wishes,

Samantha, Nici and the Team



Term Dates 2023

Summer Term 2023

Wednesday 19th April – Thursday 13th July
Half-Term: Monday 29th May – Friday 2nd June

1st May - Bank Holiday

8th May - Bank Holiday – Coronation

16th May – School Photo's

28th June - Yoga joining day

29th June - Yoga joining day

5th July - Ballet watching day

13th July - Summer Party

Autumn Term 2023

Wednesday 6th September– Thursday 7th December
Half-Term: Monday 16th October – Friday 27th October

Spring Term 2024

Wednesday 3rd January – Thursday 28th March
Half-Term: Monday 12th February – Friday 16th February

Summer Term 2024

Wednesday 17th April – Thursday 11th July
Half-Term: Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May