

# St. Andrew's Montessori School Newsletter



## Welcome to our Autumn Term - September 2023 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Welcome back after what we hope was a wonderful Summer break! We are very much looking forward to seeing all the children, full of energy and enthusiasm for the school year ahead. We have lots of exciting plans for the coming weeks so please do note dates of the upcoming events on your family calendar

### Settling in Top Tips

**Please do not hesitate to ask:** All the team are here to help and settle you in as much as your little one. We are happy to answer any and all queries.

**Every child is individual:** While we recommend a staggered settling in over the first three days, we are aware that some children may not need this at all, and some children may need more time. You know your child best, communicating what you think would be the best approach is incredibly helpful and remember, we are in this together.

**There may be tears:** Sometimes children get upset when saying goodbye to parents. We completely understand how upsetting this can be and have seen this many times. Please have trust in the teacher's expertise and remember that your little one is completely attuned to your feelings. If you are positive, happy and excited, your little one will be as well.

**Paperwork:** If you could please ensure that the school office has all your up-to-date paperwork, that would be much appreciated. Most importantly to start, your contact details and those of anyone authorised to collect your child. We are incredibly safety conscious and will not hand over your child to anyone not authorised on their collection form.

**Last but not least:** Have fun! We are delighted you have joined our wonderful school and look forward to many years of learning ahead.

### Classroom Projects and Parent Participation

Each term the teachers 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 – My Superhero Powers!

Paula's Class – Cosmic Address

Olga and Uzma's Class – How many animals are in the world

Sefi's Class – Shapes in Nature

Zurina's Class – Colours around us

Our first parent's morning for Morning and Full Day children this term will be Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023; 8.45 – 9.30 am. Thursday afternoon visits will commence on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2023; 1 – 1.30 pm. Our door is always open, any and all suggestions and feedback are welcomed, and we are all very much looking forward to a wonderful term ahead!

### **Ten things to do with leaves this Autumn**

Each season in a year is enveloped in its own special magic, and for autumn; it's the warmth of the colours – the red, gold and brown leaves drifting from the trees, swirling gently into sea-sized blankets that hide an abundance of treasure waiting to be uncovered by little hands.

Nature is one of a child's greatest learning tools – Maria Montessori knew it:

*"... the first thing his education demands is the provision of an environment in which he can develop the powers given him by nature. We have to adjust our minds to doing a work of collaboration with nature, to being obedient to one of her laws, the law which decrees that development comes from environmental experience."* (The Absorbent Mind)

Autumn offers so many beautiful opportunities for fun and learning, simply by being outside...but the leaves are something quite special. Here are ten fun, family activities all to do with leaves this season:

1. **Leaf Weddings** – there is something about leaves that compel us to scoop them into a bundle and throw them up high, allowing them to rain down like confetti. This keeps kids entertained for ages and may even end up in a game of 'leaf-IT'!
2. **Raking & Jumping** – even if you don't have a garden, there will be plenty of leaves in the park or on the pavement to rake into a glorious pile...perhaps you'll bin the bundle (but not before collecting a few for some fun autumn arts & crafts) or perhaps the kids will have a lovely jump about in the leaf pile, inducing a cycle of raking and jumping – this could be your entire afternoon!
3. **Collecting** – how about a leaf hunt instead of a bear hunt? See how many different types of leaves you can collect.
4. **Inspecting, Comparing & Naming** – sometimes the simple act of collecting leaves is enough but sometimes, children will want to study their bounty; this could involve comparing the colours and shapes of the leaves and perhaps even Googling (or visiting a local library) to find out names and characteristics.
5. **Leaf Trees** – this will require a collection of leaves, some paper, glue and coloured pens or paints: children will then draw the tree trunk and branches (one tree or many) and stick the leaves on to create their very own leaf tree.
6. **Leaf Animals** – use leaves that you've collected outside to create your very own leaf animals (real or fantastical); you'd need glue, leaves, paper and colours for this activity. You could even get children to create a name for their creature and make up a story, too!
7. **Leaf Chains** – collect some robust leaves from your park or garden and stitch or staple them together to create a leaf chain that could be the decoration for an autumn themed tea party or perhaps a piece of jewellery for a special teddy.
8. **Printing** – spread paint onto some leaves you've collected from the park or your garden and then stamp them onto a piece of paper; you could create fairy lands and creatures or beautiful designs.
9. **Pressing** – go on a leaf hunt and save your most favourite leaves to press between the pages of a heavy book; collect as keepsakes to stick in a journal or, for smaller children, turn the pressed leaves into an Arts & Crafts activity.
10. **Which leaf goes on which tree?** – this is a fun game to play when walking out and about with your family. Spot leaves on the floor and then figure out which tree they belong to. Extend the game by naming the tree itself!
- 11.

Happy autumn, everyone!

### **The Childs View – "What is love"**

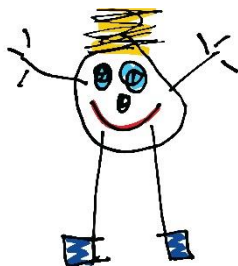
Last term we had great fun trying to see our world through the child's perspective and tasked our families with the assignment of taking a digital image based on the theme, "What is Spring?". This was such a success that we think it would be great to repeat this exercise. With this in mind we would love one photo per child based on the theme "What is Love" to be emailed to us no later than Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023. We will then compile these images in a display in our reception area and absolutely cannot wait to see what is produced. These are purely based on your child's visual interpretation of what THEY think love means and could be a photo of absolutely anything they feel fits the theme. Where possible we would like the children to take the photos, or in the case of the younger children, be a part of the thought process behind the image.

### **End of the day collection**

It is so lovely to see the children bouncing out of school at the end of the day and 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.

With our very best wishes,

***Samantha, Nici and the Team***



### **Term Dates 2023-2024**

#### **Autumn Term 2023**

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December  
*w/c Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October – Parents Day appointments (details to follow)*  
Half-Term: Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November  
*Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November – Yoga Joining Morning*  
*Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November – Ballet Recital*

#### **Spring Term 2024**

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

#### **Summer Term 2024**

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