

# St. Andrew's Montessori School Newsletter



## Welcome to our Summer Term - April 2024 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 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.

### **Fundraising Fun**

I am sure you will all agree that Spring Fete on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024 was an enormous success, and we are delighted to announce that we were able to raise £4047.00 for the Weiner Steiner Foundation. Thank you all so much for your incredible generosity and support of this extremely worthwhile cause.

### **Storytelling in the shade**

We are so happy to announce that in partnership with Islington Council and one of our lovely families we can go ahead with a project that we hope will be enjoyed by all that use our beautiful garden. We will be creating a little seating area made up of stumps and logs beneath the lovely tree outside our front door. We hope this encourages many a teddy bears picnic as well as stories being read in the shade on warm summer days.

### **First Aid course for Parents / Nannies Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024 9 am – 12 noon**

A huge part of our everyday practice is about keeping children safe. As practitioners we are all Paediatric First Aid trained and thought it may be useful to offer our lovely parents and nannies a three-hour workshop on Essential First Aid. We have 30 places available, and these would be allocated on a first come, first serve basis. **Please do email Nici or Becca to book your free place.** The Tigerlily Training Essential First Aid course will give you the confidence to act quickly and effectively in a first aid situation and provide immediate first on the scene help while waiting for a qualified first aider. Tigerlily Training use scenario-based training techniques as these are proven to maximise recall and provide learners with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to act effectively when emergencies arise. On completion of the course, you will receive an Essential First Aid certificate valid for 3 years.

### **Course Content will include:**

- Roles & Responsibilities of the First Aider
- Assessing an Emergency Situation & Prioritising Action
- Minor Injuries
- Asthma
- Unresponsive Casualty (Not Breathing)
- Unresponsive Casualty (Breathing)
- Choking
- Extreme Temperatures
- Head Injuries
- Anaphylaxis
- Bites & Stings
- Bone, Muscle and Joint Injuries

## Royal Academy of Arts Young Artist Competition

Paula and Sophies classes had a wonderful time creating their submission to the Royal Academy of Arts Young Artist Competition. The children made masks depicting the emotions they feel when listening to music. Through this art installation they encourage others to play on the keyboard and find a mask that fits the emotion evoked. The materials used to create this masterpiece were salt dough, paint, tissue paper, black and white ribbons, as well as an electronic keyboard and wooden display stand that were rescued from the skip. This piece was titled "Good Vibrations", a play on how sounds make you feel as well as the all-time favourite Beach Boys's song. We will know in May if we have been selected for the Young Artists exhibit. Please see below for further information.

<https://youngartists.royalacademy.org.uk>





### **What are the benefits of children drawing family portraits?**

Young children's personal and social identities are directly connected to their families. They understand themselves based on the people they love most, know best and have learned everything from – making the subject of 'family' deeply personal and meaningful. Naturally curious, children enjoy learning about their friends' families, which may look quite different to their own! Some families are bigger and others smaller, some live together and others apart, some children have stepparents, siblings or grandparents and other children may have family members on a different continent altogether. This wonderful uniqueness allows us, at St Andrew's Montessori, to celebrate difference and encourage conversation around acceptance and empathy.

Children's artwork can also be a visual reference for diversity. When children have drawn family portraits, we might ask them to tell us (the group) about their pictures (engaging verbal, thinking and expression skills); giving other children a chance to ask questions. This is a terrific opportunity for social interaction, cooperation, and the development of interpersonal skills.

The process of drawing or painting a family portrait is an opportunity for children to reflect on their relationships, facilitating a deeper emotional connection between them and their family members, which in turn fosters a sense of belonging and emotional well-being.

When children have created a beautiful, quirky, wonderful picture of their family, display it! Ask them about it! And most of all, treasure it.



Frankie age 3 years - "My Family"

### **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 Cat in the Hat Learning Library

Paula's Class – The Story of Life

Nina's Class – British Wildlife

Olga and Zurina's Class – Continents

Sefi's Class – We are Actors

Marta and Uzma's Class – The Solar System

### **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.

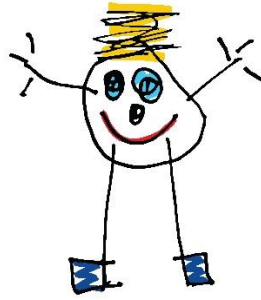
### **School Photo Time**

The talented team from Nice Smile Photography Ltd. will be at school on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> 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 to fit in all the little photoshoots.

Our first Friday parents' morning for this term will be Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024. Our door is always open, all suggestions and feedback are welcomed, and we are all very much looking forward to a wonderful term ahead!

With very best wishes,

*Samantha, Nici and the Team*



# Term Dates 2024-2025

## Summer Term 2024

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April – Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July

*Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May – May Bank Holiday*

*Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May - Nice Smile School Photo's*

Half-Term: Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May

*Parents First Aid Course – Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June (pls email office to book)*

*Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July – Yoga Joining*

*Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July – Ballet Recital*

*Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July – End of term Summer Party 9.30 - 12 noon*

## Autumn Term 2024

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December

Half-Term: Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October

## Spring Term 2025

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January – Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April

Half-Term: Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February

## Summer Term 2025

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April – Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July

Half-Term: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June