ST. ANDREW'S MONTESSORI

SCHOOL • THORNHILL SQUARE, ISLINGTON

PARENTS' NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN TERM 2026

Welcome back to our little gem of a school

Dear Parents,

A very warm welcome back to the Autumn Term at St. Andrew's Montessori! We hope you all had a wonderful summer break. It certainly was a very hot and sunny one!

We are delighted to welcome everyone back and are looking forward to a fun, engaging and exciting term ahead, filled with outdoor learning, creative exploration, new projects and plenty of opportunities for the children to learn, discover and grow.

Parents' Friday Morning

Our Parents' Friday Morning begins on Friday 25th September. Parents are warmly invited to come into school with their children from 8:45am–9:30am to spend time in the classroom and enjoy activities together.

Extra-Curricular Activities

All extra-curricular activities will begin from Monday 14th September. If you have not yet signed your child up, please email the School Office and we will be happy to advise you on the options available. If your child is turning three this term, please also enquire about joining our School Choir.

School Entrance & Church Restoration

Restoration work on the church spire is continuing, and scaffolding remains in place to allow the necessary works to progress safely. We greatly appreciate your patience and understanding while this work is carried out and will continue to share any important updates regarding access to the school.

Thank you for bearing with us during this period. We are very much looking forward to seeing the completed restoration and the church spire looking its best once again!

A Warm Welcome to Our New Children

A big, warm welcome to all the new children and families joining us this term. We are so happy to have you as part of the St. Andrew's Montessori community!

We look forward to helping each child settle into their new environment, build relationships with their teachers and friends, and begin their nursery adventure with us. For our new parents, please remember that we have an open-door policy. You are always welcome to speak with us, ask questions or contact the School Office.

Staff Updates

Our lovely teacher Uzma will be moving into the School Office, where she will continue in her role as Co-Head, working closely with Nina on the day-to-day running and operations of the school. Uzma will also continue to bring her passion for literacy into her role, helping us further nurture a genuine love of reading throughout the school.

Simona is currently enjoying some very special time away from school on maternity leave, having recently welcomed her beautiful baby boy, Aksel! A huge congratulations to Simona and her family. We wish them lots of love and happiness as they enjoy this precious time together.

We are also delighted to welcome Emilie to our team this term. With her warm and friendly approach, we are sure she will quickly build lovely relationships with our children, families and staff. Please join us in giving Emilie a very warm welcome!

Author of the Term – Eric Carle

As part of the National Year of Reading 2026, we are continuing to nurture a strong love of books and reading throughout our school. Each term, we celebrate a different author to inspire the children's interest in stories, language, illustration and imagination.

This term, we are celebrating the wonderful Eric Carle! Known for his distinctive, colourful illustrations and much-loved stories, Carle brings the natural world to life in a way that captures children's imaginations. We will be enjoying favourites including The Very Hungry Caterpillar and The Very Busy Spider.

We would love families to support this at home by sharing Eric Carle's books together. Children are also very welcome to bring their Eric Carle books into school to share with their class.

Animal Bags & Show and Tell

Each class has a special Animal Bag, which children will have the opportunity to take home for the weekend. Inside is a collage book where your child can add one photograph showing something they did with their class animal. The following week, they can share their experience with the class as part of Show and Tell.

Please return the Animal Bag on Monday with the book ready to share. If you are unable to print a photograph, simply email it to the School Office and we will help your child add it to their book.

Breakfast Club

We are pleased to offer a Breakfast Club for families who require an earlier start to the day. Children can enjoy a relaxed and friendly morning with breakfast and time to play before the school day begins. Please speak to the School Office for timings and booking information.

Information About Ofsted – Report Cards & Grades

Ofsted is introducing changes to the way inspections and inspection outcomes are reported. Rather than relying on a single overall effectiveness judgement, the new approach uses a report card to provide parents with a more detailed picture of a setting across different areas.

The new five-point grading scale is:

- Exceptional
- Strong Standard
- Expected Standard
- Needs Attention
- Urgent Improvement

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St. Andrew's Montessori is likely to be inspected soon, and we very much welcome the opportunity to share the wonderful work taking place throughout our school and showcase everything that makes our setting so special.

General Daily Routine & Requests

To help us maintain the smooth and safe running of the school, we kindly ask parents to inform us by email of any changes that may affect your child, the school or our safeguarding procedures. This includes:

- Mobile or work telephone numbers and home addresses
- Collection arrangements, including updated photographs of authorised collectors
- Medical conditions, allergies or other health information
- Planned trips or periods away from school

Thank you also for your continued efforts to adhere to our set drop-off and collection times. Arriving promptly helps the whole school begin the day together and ensures children do not miss important activities or information.

Autumn & Winter Wear

As we move into the autumn and winter months, we will continue to take the children outdoors, come rain or shine! Please ensure every child brings:

- A raincoat
- A pair of wellies (Wellington boots)

Please ensure that all clothing, footwear and personal belongings are clearly labelled with your child's name.

Parents as Partners

We are extremely proud of the strong and trusting relationships we have with our families and truly value the important role parents play within our school community.

We love welcoming parents into school to read a story, share a special interest or skill, lead a small activity, or talk to the children about their jobs and professions. These experiences bring learning to life and inspire the children's imaginations. If you would like to get involved this term, please speak to your teacher or the School Office.

Parking & Engine Idling

We kindly ask all parents and carers to be considerate when parking on the surrounding streets during drop-off and collection times. If you are stopping, even for only a few minutes, please remember to switch off your engine. Reducing unnecessary engine idling makes a real difference to the quality of the air our children breathe.

Notice Period – A Reminder

A clear, full academic term's notice must be provided in writing before the first day of the relevant term, in accordance with our Terms and Conditions. For example, if you wish to withdraw your child at the start of the Spring Term, written notice must be provided before the first day of the Autumn Term. If notice is provided after the relevant deadline, the following term's fees will remain payable in full.

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SCHOOL PROJECTS

A glimpse at what our classes will be exploring this term

SARAH'S, DIMITRA'S & EMILIE'S CLASSES

Around the World

All aboard our pirate ship for an adventure around the world! The children will travel across the seven continents, discovering different countries, cultures and traditions through stories, songs, crafts and fun activities.

ANAÏS' CLASS

Caring for Our Planet

The children will discover how small actions can help care for our planet. Through hands-on activities such as planting seeds, composting and making a bird feeder, they will learn about saving water, reducing waste and caring for plants and animals.

ZURINA'S CLASS

Transport

Get ready for a transport adventure! The children will explore transport on land, water and in the air, as well as the important role of emergency vehicles, through songs, stories, creative activities and imaginative role play.

MARTA & UPULI'S CLASSES

Autumn & Winter

The children will explore the magical changes of Autumn and Winter, from colourful falling leaves to hibernation and migration. They will also discover seasonal celebrations including Harvest, Diwali, Halloween and Christmas.

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Important Dates for Your Diary

DATE	EVENT
Friday 18th September	**Jeans for Genes Day** Children are invited to wear their favourite piece of denim and bring in a £2 donation to support Jeans for Genes.
Friday 25th September	**Parents' Friday Morning begins** 8:45am–9:30am.
Week commencing Monday 16th November	**Parents' Meetings** Individual time slots will be sent by email.
Monday 30th November	**School Outing** Further information to follow.
Tuesday 1st December	**Yoga Parent Joining Session** Further information to follow.
Wednesday 2nd December	**Ballet Parent Watching Session** Further information to follow.
Tuesday 8th December	**Christmas Nativity Play**
Thursday 10th December	**Choir Performance** Further information to follow.
Friday 11th December	**Christmas Party** Further information to follow.

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Term Dates

AUTUMN TERM 2026	SPRING TERM 2027	SUMMER TERM 2027
Wednesday 9th September – Friday 11th December	**Thursday 7th January – Friday 26th March**	**Wednesday 21st April – Wednesday 14th July**
Half-Term: Friday 16th October – Monday 2nd November	*Half-Term: Friday 12th February – Monday 22nd February*	*Half-Term: Friday 28th May – Monday 7th June*

Lastly...

Once again, a very warm welcome to all our new starters at St. Andrew's Montessori, and a heartfelt welcome back to all our returning children and families. We are so happy to have you with us.

The team is feeling refreshed, energised and ready for a fantastic term ahead! As always, we have an open-door policy. Please feel free to have a chat with your child's teachers at drop-off or collection, or get in touch with us by telephone or email if you have any questions or queries.

Thank you for being part of the wonderful community that makes our school so special. We are looking forward to another happy, busy and exciting term together at our little gem of a school!

With our very best wishes,
Nina and the Team