

Rocks Lane Montessori Newsletter



Summer Term Apr-July 2023 Issue No.8

Welcome Back!

The start of the Summer Term brings new warmth and beautiful flora and fauna all around us. Our garden teems with new vegetation and warmer weather brings lots of opportunities for outdoor learning. We have had an amazing Spring Term learning about geography, the world of animals, and the importance of the sun in supporting all life on Earth. We celebrated Chinese New Year, World Book Day, Mother's Day and Easter too. We have also had many visits from members of the community such as ZooLab introducing to us the world of animals through the story of the Zagaro, and Hounslow Music Service who exposed us to the music of the Indian culture. We can't wait for what this new term brings!

Love, the Rocks Lane Montessori team

Announcements:

Happiest birthdays to the following children...

- Theodore (10th April)
- Cosette (18th April)
- Violet (23rd April)
- Elizabeth (24th April)
- Kit (9th May)
- Lorcan (St) (4th June)
- Ottilie (26th July)
- Rhys (31st July)
- Gus (5th August)
- Thea (11th August)
- Coco (19th August)

A warm welcome to the following families:

- Theodore
- Cosette (Winston's sister)
- Ella (Ethan's sister)
- Eddie
- Oliver (AT)

To all our newest families who have just joined us, we would like to extend our warmest welcome to you to our Rocks Lane Family. We are so excited to have you with us!

Dates to remember: April- July 2023

<u>Summer Term Dates</u>	
	Wednesday 19th April to Wednesday 12th July (Half term: 29th May to 2nd June)
April Fool's Day	1st April
Good Friday	7th April
Easter Day	9th April
Earth Day	22nd April
St. George's Day	23rd April
King Charles III Coronation	6th May
Coronation Bank Holiday	8th May
National Children's Day	14th May
Sports Day	29 th June (11am)
Photo day	16th June
Graduation to primary school	7th July (Friday) 1-2pm
End of Summer term	12th July 2023
Holiday Camp! Details to follow!	17-21st July

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

This term has been an eventful one as we organised many open-door events inviting our families to join us with us in the classroom. Check out the events we held over the Spring term!

1. Pancake Day

We had a flipping good time making pancakes together:



2. Chinese New Year



Happy Lunar New Year! At Rocks Lane, we organised a dragon dance performance and talked about the significance of this festive period for the Chinese people. We then made our own dragons to take home and beautiful calligraphy of the word "spring" (chun) in Chinese characters.

3. ZooLab



We had a very special visit from our friends, large and small, at ZooLab. We explored the world of animals and insects and got the chance to get up close and personal with them through the story of the Zagaro! We used our senses to explore the creatures we saw, igniting a sense of wonder in the world of nature and wildlife. Who knew an entire world of minibeasts lived under our foot, out of the naked eye! Thank you ZooLab for the visit!

3. National Storytelling Week

A very special thank you to Audrey and Lilah's Mummy, Katy, for spending the morning with us during circle time reading some of our favorite books with us!

4. World Book Day



Reading allows us to be transported from our own world to another. Between the pages of a book, we can become immersed in the lives of fictional characters and learn about a culture entirely different from our own. We can also learn new words and phrases, experience a range of emotions, and acquire skills and knowledge.

This World Book Day, characters from our beloved books wandered our classroom and paraded their beautiful costumes for all to see!

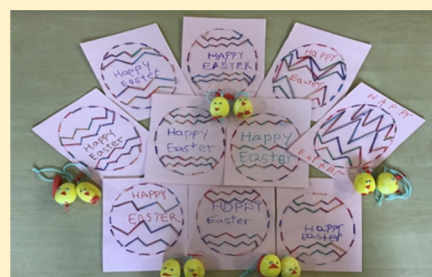
5. Mothering Sunday



It is our honour and pleasure to present some handmade pots and cards to our wonderful Mums. We wish our community a very happy Mothering Sunday!

6. Easter

Our children have been practicing their sewing skills this term which culminated in them designing their very own unique Easter cards. They also got to take home a little Easter chick to look after and admire! Wishing everyone a Happy Easter!



Mandarin lessons on the go...

Our Mandarin lessons for this term focuses on numerals 0-9. Check out this easy-to-read guide on how to count in mandarin!

You can also practice with your child through this sing along song:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8qAZ68A_PQw

0	zero 零 líng	one 一 yī	1
2	two 二 èr	three 三 sān	3
4	four 四 sì	five 五 wǔ	5
6	six 六 liù	seven 七 qī	7
8	eight 八 bā	nine 九 jiǔ	9

Pottery

We are doing lots of pottery this term! The art of pottery gives children the opportunity to knead, pinch and roll with their hands, supporting the development of fine motor skills as well as nurturing our creativity. Working with clay also helps to improve children's penmanship as it strengthens finger and wrist muscles. Check out our creative pottery lessons and some of the lovely artworks produced!



Special Feature...

A very special thanks to Senjuti Dass of the Hounslow Music Service who spent an afternoon introducing us to the world of Indian folk music and dance!



Montessori Focus - Care of the indoor and outdoor environment

Keeping a clean, orderly classroom is important in a Montessori environment. The practical life activities teach children how to take care of the space around them, –from physically cleaning to, on a deeper level, appreciating one’s environment.

Examples of activities which promote care of the environment include:

- setting the table
- sweeping and mopping the floor
- watering plants
- washing dishes

Through these activities, children get to make choices about what will make their environment most beautiful, taking responsibility, and performing a very involved sequence of tasks with a natural sense of order (eg. separating the flowers, filling vases with water, etc.)



Royal Academy of Arts - Young Artist Summer Show- Competition

We are proud to submit artworks by our children to the Royal Academy of Arts- Young Artist Summer Show. We used various raw materials such as foil, clay and scraps of paper to create works inspired by Matisse, Toshihiko Mistuya and Tony Marsh.



Here is our Summer Term Curriculum!

In the first half of the term we will be looking at all things to do with oceans, and in the second half of term we will be looking at storytelling.

Curriculum Focus Topics, Summer 2023						
Week	Project	Letters of the week	Numbers of the week	Shape of the week	Book of the week	Person of the week
20th April	Somebody Stole Stanley	i, k	1, 10	circle	Somebody Stole Stanley by Sarah Roberts	Fridtjof Nansen
24th April	Oceans of the World	q, n	2, 12	triangle	Commotion in the Ocean by Giles Andreae	Sylvia Earle
1st May	Layers of the Ocean and Ocean Life	u, w	3, 13	square	Deep in the Ocean: by Lucie Brunelliere	Walter Munk
8th May	Ocean Waste and Recycling	y, b	4, 14	rectangle	The Whale Who Ate Plastic Stephanie O'Connor	Kathryn Sullivan
15th May	People who care for oceans and seas	x, l	5, 15	rhombus	Shark Lady by Jess Keating	Matthew Fontaine Maury
22nd May	The Water Cycle	m, k, d	6, 16	kite	Drop: An Adventure Through the Water Cycle by Emily Kate Moon	Sir John Murray
Half term break: 29 th May – 2 nd June 2023						
5th June	The Gruffalo	c, s	7, 17	sphere	The Gruffalo by Julia Donaldson	Julia Donaldson
12th June	The Tiger Came to Tea	h, t	8, 18	cube	The Tiger who Came to Tea by Judith Kerr	Judith Kerr
19th June	Billy Goat Gruff	a, j	9, 19	cone	The Three Billy Goats Gruff by Peter Christen Asbjornsen	Enid Blyton
26th June	The Three Little Pigs	z, p	20	pyramid	The Three Little Pigs by James Halliwell-Phillipps	Hans Christen Andersen
3rd July	Goldilocks and the 3 Bears	e, g	odd and even numbers	cylinder	Goldilocks and the Three Bears by Robert Southey	David Walliams
10th July	Getting Ready for School + Graduation	o, v, f	revision of numbers	cuboid	Harry and the Dinosaurs Go To School by Ian Whybrow	Roald Dahl