

Rocks Lane Montessori Newsletter



Autumn Term 2023 Issue No.9

A very warm welcome to our new academic year where we are refreshed after our summer holiday break, and ready for all the adventure this year will bring. With heavy hearts we bid farewell to our friends who have left for big school and send them all our love and well wishes as they embark on their exciting new journey at big school. Back in our nursery, we are excited for the new activities on our shelves, the harvest in our garden, and cannot wait to explore them with our new friends. We hope you've had a great summer holiday and a very warm welcome to the children and parents who have joined our school this term.

With all our love, the Rocks Lane Montessori team

Announcements:

Happiest birthdays to the following children....

- Elodie (6 September)
- Ava (13 November)
- Poppy (13 November)
- Oliver G (20 November)
- Margot (15 December)
- Eddie (17 December)

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!

A warm welcome to the following families:

- Annabel
- Ava
- Atlas
- Emilia
- Elodie
- Flora
- Hector
- Inez
- Izzy
- Josephine
- Lara
- Leandros
- Margot
- Nala
- Penelope
- Poppy
- Posie
- Sofia

Autumn Term Dates to remember

Term dates	Tuesday 5th Sept to Thursday 14th Dec (inclusive)
World Teacher's Day	5th September
Emergency Services Day	9th September
Grandparents Day	29th September
Halloween	31st October
Remembrance Day	11th November
World Kindness Day	13th November
World Children's Day	20th November
Thanksgiving	23rd November
Winter Solstice	21st December
Christmas Performance	14th December
Start of Spring Term	Tuesday 9 th January



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@rockslanemontessori

What did we get up to last term? Summer 2023 in review...

1. Kings Charles III Coronation

Rocks Lane wishes the newly coronated King Charles and Queen Camilla a happy coronation!



2. Visit from a police officer

PC Kaine came and talked to us about stranger danger and how the police can help us to keep us safe in our neighborhood. PC Kaine also showed us his "kit" including handcuffs, walkie talkies and the different helmets he wears.



3. Visit from our firefighters



Did you know that fire fighters only have 90 seconds to get dressed when an emergency call is made? Our heroes without capes not only don heavy gear but a brave spirit everyday to come to our rescue whenever we need them! A big thank you to our amazing firefighters!



4. Visit from a movie producer



Lights, camera, action! Movies tend to have 3 acts in them - this was something interesting a real-life producer, Lindsey (Rhys' mummy), shared with us. Lindsey gave us an amazing talk about being a movie producer and we all got a turn at yelling through the megaphone!

5. Visit from a train driver



Did you know that the Central Line is the longest line on the London Underground? Or that the oldest underground line is the Metropolitan line? Matthew, a train driver driving the District Line on the Richmond route spent the morning with us sharing very interesting facts about being a train driver!

6. Sports day



Ready, get set, go! Our annual Sports Day was met with much excitement and enthusiasm as we ran, laughed and engaged in some healthy competition! We had a children's race and witnessed our Mums and Dads race their hearts out in a high-energy parents' race. Well done to all our children and families for their amazing sportsmanship!



Rocks Lane Stories and Poems

We are so proud to have created our very first publication of “Rocks Lane Stories and Poems”, written by the children of Rocks Lane Montessori. We hope that many more generations of children will get to publish their own stories in our special book. Well done to all our little authors in the making!



Some gentle reminders:

- **Smocks:** A polite request from the teachers please for children to come to school already wearing their smocks. Of course if there is a smock battle, please don't worry and we will help, but if children are happy to put their smock on before coming, it helps greatly with the transition at the door.
- **Labeling:** Please label things that come to school to avoid lost items. At [easy2name.com](https://www.easy2name.com) please use code FR-ROCKS-47 in the “discount code” box to get free shipping.
- **Nails:** Please keep nails trimmed to ensure they are cut neatly to prevent germs and accidental scratches!
- **Punctuality:** We are very grateful if you could drop off and pick up on time

Our Favourite Songs:

- **Let's Go Swimming:**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cq-wnQKRHTs>
- **Jolly Phonics:**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nv28ddzc9Oc>
- **Green Grass Grows All Around:**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AkAOeIMyppg8&t=4s>
- **Numbers Song:**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e0dJWfQHf8Y>

Montessori Focus-Practical Life

What are practical life activities?

Practical life activities are applicable for all ages, and evolve with each stage of development. The activities can start with something as simple as putting a coat on or washing hands.



Why do we love practical life activities?

Practical life activities are amazing to support settling in, providing a link between home and school. They support fine and gross motor skills and hand-eye coordination, a preparation for writing. Rather than “just” getting dressed or “just” juicing an orange, children are doing it for themselves, following a complex motor sequence, independently, in order to fulfill his or her own desires and needs. When taught early in life, this helps a children to believe in themselves as well as to develop independence.



What types of practical life activities are there?

- **Care of Self:** These activities provide the means for children to become physically independent. Activities in this area may include learning to wash one's hands or learning to put on one's clothing.
- **Care of the Environment:** Keeping a clean, orderly environment is important in a Montessori classroom. 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. These activities may include how to set the table, how to clean dishes, or how to water and care for plants.

There are multiple layers to these activities. They may seem straightforward and repetitive, but a lot is going on under the surface.

Read more about Practical Life here:

<https://www.guidepostmontessori.com/blog/practical-life-activities-montessori-method>

Introducing our Parent Representative

We are really delighted and grateful to announce our Parent Representative, Miranda, who is Mum to Felicity (5), and Annabel (2). Miranda is not only a parent at school, but also a qualified, experienced and passionate Montessori teacher herself, so we are very lucky for the perspective she has about both school and parent life.

This role provides another point of contact to help ensure that parents are an active part of shaping our school and partnering with us. Parents can come to any of the team, and now also Miranda if there are any questions you have, or any way that we can support you.

Thank you so much again Miranda, we hugely look forward to working with you.



A special message for our graduating children...

It is such a great honor to be able to celebrate not only the achievements but also the transformed lives and growth of each and every child who attends Rocks Lane Montessori. Our heartiest congratulations to the following children on their graduation from the Early Years Montessori education! May the words of Maria Montessori follow you, "free the child's potential, and you will transform them into the world".

Big congratulations to Agnes, Caspar, Coco, Elodie, Ethan, Elizabeth, Daisy, Jasper, Lorcan, Otilie, Margot, Rowan, Rhys, Violet and Winston, who are starting the Reception year of Primary School! We are immensely proud of you and of how well you have grown! Your laughter, stories, antics and personalities will be missed, but most of all, we will miss YOU!



Agnes



Caspar



Elodie



Elizabeth



Ethan



Daisy



Jasper



Lorcan



Otilie



Margot



Rowan



Rhys



Coco



Violet



Winston