



Rainbows Montessori Nursery Newsletter Spring 2026

Dear Parents/carers

This is our first newsletter for 2026. We hope you all had a lovely Christmas and have a happy 2026! Thank you for all of the lovely cards and gifts that were sent in for Christmas.

We'd like to send a special welcome to our new families who I know will have mixed emotions leaving their little ones with us for the first time. To help settle the new children, we like to make a display of our children and their families. If you haven't already done so, please provide a photo of your family (anyone you want to include) and either bring in or send for us to print. We keep the display up all year and children do refer back to it and are proud to tell us who they are with.

It's been lovely to see all of the children back and getting used to the new arrangements with the new class set up and it has already been a very busy start to the term. There has been a lot of work going on in the background. The new curtains have been fitted in Butterfly Room. They look lovely and make a positive difference to the acoustics and feel of the room. Blinds have been fitted in the new baby room, which we have decided will be called Rainbow Room. The office and Rainbow Room will be emptied this week, in preparation for new flooring (and possibly a new floor), next week.

Work has started in the new sensory garden; all will be revealed soon!

Work has also started in the main outside area. The playhouse was removed some time ago as it was deemed unsafe. This is being replaced by a new playhouse, hopefully before the half term. The planter and mud kitchen were also beyond repair, not safe to play with and have had to be removed. The mud kitchen will be replaced shortly too. We have already purchased wooden climbing equipment. The garden does look rather uninviting, but rest assured that this is temporary and I am working as hard as possible to get things done and get them right so that they can be safe and enjoyed. The children are using the new wooden climbing apparatus that we get out some afternoons. Also, they are playing outside with other toys and items that you may not see on drop off and pick up because they have either not been set up or have been put away.

Our topics this term are Winter, North America, Arctic, Asia, Spring and Easter.

On the whole, staffing for this term has remained the same, but it will have some slight changes in the coming weeks. Hayley is the Nursery Manager and will be in nursery Monday to Friday. Nikki is our deputy manager and will be in the nursery on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Our Montessori teachers are Sam, who is also our SENCO and Caterpillar Room lead. She works on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays and Lizzie, who is also our deputy and Butterfly Room lead. She works Monday to Thursday. Kelly is returning from maternity leave to be our Rainbow Room lead. She will be working on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. We have an early years teacher Liz, who works Monday to Thursday and our Early Years Educators are Kath; Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Tracy who is in Monday to Wednesday, Sue who is in on Mondays and Charlotte who will be in Rainbow Room on Monday and Wednesday mornings. Our music teacher is Anna on a Thursday and our apprentice practitioner is Emma, who is in every day except Friday. We are in the process of recruiting another practitioner or Early Years Educator for Rainbow Room.

Following on from the parent survey that was sent out last year, please can you contact the office if you were among the parents that said you would like to be involved in a PTA/fundraising committee. We are planning to organise some fundraising events as these have been a success in the past and enable us to add to our resources. We would also like some help and ideas with organising social events.

To comply with regulations, Rainbow Room will be 'no outdoor shoes'. This will ensure a clean space for crawling babies. Also, research suggest that wearing slippers can support wellbeing. Many of the children in nursery like to take their shoes off, and while we want the children to feel calm and relaxed, we cannot have bare feet for safety reasons.. Wearing slippers is also better for developing bones in little feet, they help with keeping the environment clean and changing shoes encourages independence.

Therefore, I'd like to promote this throughout the nursery. If possible, please provide a named pair of slippers that can be left in nursery, (please note that there is no obligation to do so). If this is not possible, a pair could hopefully be brought in each day in your child's bag. These will be changed into for our classroom time. Thank you in anticipation for your support with this.

In praise of Slippers!

A while ago there was a news report about a school in Derbyshire that stated that their children wear slippers as it helps them get better grades. Although this may have caused the majority of people to chuckle in disbelief, for us at Casa dei Bambini Montessori it rang true!

In all Montessori schools; a very common morning ritual is the children taking off their outdoor shoes and putting on their slippers. We do this as it helps the children's independence and ability to dress themselves, it makes them feel at home, it is comfortable and it helps them feel like part of the school community. It also ensures the floor stays clean and therefore the environment attractive.

Please could I politely remind you that socks need to be kept in forest school bags. Forest school is very wet at the moment and we don't have many spares left. Thank you!

I thought I would add QR codes for childcare and funding so that you can check whether you are accessing all the funding and benefits for childcare that you are entitled to. Here you will find information about the 15 /30 hour funding and also the government tax free saving scheme which can save you money on childcare payments too. Hope you find this useful.

North Somerset Council

Childcare choices



Recently some of the team attended the Paediatric First Aid course (some as a refresher which we have to do every 3 years). The trainer mentioned that the most dangerous time in a Nursery is lunch and snack time; you may have seen the occasional tragedy on the news. Our lunches and snacks are all prepared appropriately for the children and they are supervised at all times but occasionally we find some items in lunch boxes that we need to cut. For example, foods like grapes, blueberries and cherry tomatoes should be cut lengthways (and again across), and food that is large or likely to cause a choking hazard should also be cut into smaller pieces for children of nursery age.



Please scan the QR codes below for information on safer food preparation for young children,



healthy meal options for children



and the nutritional value of fruit based foods marketed as healthy for children.

Keeping us updated

If you have moved and you have a new address, email or telephone number please let us know that too – along with if your family circumstances have changed – everything is confidential so we would welcome an understanding of how best to work with your child – as of course they are our priority.

Please feel free to email any new milestones in or any worries that you may have – I would encourage any of you to put any messages on Tapestry as these will go direct to your child's key person. For new children a Tapestry login should have been sent but please do ask if you have not received this. Observations of the children are uploaded onto this system so you can have a taste of what they are doing during their time with us and we also use it as a method of communication, so please do make sure you can access your child's account. If you would like an update chat with your child's key person then please let me know and they will happily give you a call at your convenience. Whether it's big or small, if it's worrying you then please let us know asap and then we can help to try to put things right for you.

Kind regards Hayley Wade