



Spring 2014

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#### Dear Parents & Carers

To ensure that our school is at the forefront of care and education, and following internal audits and reviews, I would like to introduce a new planning system for your child.

**Sonya Kanchan-Lal**

Dear Parents & Carers

I would like to introduce MY MONTESSORI CHILD – pioneering new software that helps Montessori Schools to deliver the best possible educational experience for young children. The software, developed in collaboration with several Montessori Schools in London has now been adopted by Milkshake Montessori School, where it is being implemented in stages during the summer and autumn term this year. MY MONTESSORI CHILD comprises of two parts:

- (1) An i-Pad based wireless system for teachers to use on a daily basis in the classroom and adjacent play areas, and
- (2) A secure website that parents can easily access any time from and web-connected computer. (No part of the system is designed for use directly by any child.)

The teachers' MY MONTESSORI CHILD system runs on Apple i-Pads, which probably know are hand held tablet computers with wireless Internet connection and built in cameras. When teachers observe a child doing an activity, their observation notes and a photo are recorded via the iPad.

All teachers are able to review their collective observations to ensure each child's development is properly supported in accordance with both Montessori principles and the Government's "Early Years Foundation Stage" curriculum. The system also suggests new learning activities and allows teachers to plan what activities to offer the children next.

The parents' MY MONTESSORI CHILD website, which will go "live" as well in the Autumn term, is updated regularly – about once a week- with these same observation notes and photos. You will enjoy seeing your child's self-directed development as recorded by the teachers in words and pictures. (Passwords ensure that no other parents can see information about your child.) The site also keeps you up-to-date with the class topics currently under study and suggests ideas for things you can do at home to support your child's learning at school. The website has notices posted for parents by the head teacher and lots of useful information, plus a simple online form that you can use to write to the school on any non-urgent matter.

The MY MONTESSORI CHILD system is secure and fully encrypted. The iPads' and teachers' identities are checked every time they log in. No Unauthorised person will see your child's data or photos at any time. In the autumn term, your parents' site log-in details will be provided to you by the teachers at your school after an evening presentation in which I will introduce the system to you and answer your questions. I look forward to meeting you then.

Thank you and welcome to MY MONTESSORI CHILD.

**David Gettman**

**Founder & Partner MY MONTESSORI CHILD**

## CHILDREN AT MONTESSORI SCHOOLS ARE BETTER EDUCATED

### Article recently in the news

A controversial schooling method that focuses on personal development rather than exams produces more mature, creative and socially adept children, scientists have revealed.

Psychologists in the US found that across a range of abilities, children at Montessori schools out-performed those given a traditional education.

- [Teachers resisting lessons in British citizenship](#)
- [Half-a-million pupils have education jeopardised in over large classes](#)

Five-year-old Montessori pupils were better prepared for reading and maths, and 12-year-olds wrote 'significantly more creative' essays using more sophisticated sentence structures.

Some of the biggest differences were seen in social skills and behaviour.

Montessori children displayed a greater sense of 'justice and fairness', interacted in an 'emotionally positive' way, and were less likely to engage in 'rough play' during break times.

The schooling system was invented in the early 1900s by Dr Maria Montessori to educate poor children in her native Italy.

Today, there are more than 5,000 Montessori schools in the US, and around 600 in the UK, where they are privately funded.

The method discourages traditional competitive measurements of achievement, such as grades and tests, and instead focuses on the individual progress and development of each child.

Children of different ages share the same classes, and are encouraged to collaborate and help each other.

Special educational materials are used to keep children interested, and there is an emphasis on "practical life skills".

The researchers, who reported their findings in the journal Science, compared children aged three to 12 at a Montessori school in Milwaukee with those at other schools in the same area.

Parents won places for their children at the unnamed Montessori school by entering a 'lottery' run by the local education department.

Both winners and losers, who sent their children to the other schools studied, had similar incomes of between £10,500 and £26,000.

Children were tested for mental performance, academic abilities, and social and behavioural skills. Dr Angeline Lillard, from the University of Virginia, who co-led the study, said: "We found significant advantages for the Montessori students in these tests for both age groups.

"Particularly remarkable are the positive social effects of Montessori education. Typically the home environment overwhelms all other influences in that area."

Not only were five-year-old primary school children better prepared for the "three Rs" at elementary level, they also had higher scores in tests of 'executive function'. This is the ability to adapt to changing and complex problems, and is seen as an indicator of future school and life success.

Although the Montessori children were not regularly tested or graded, they did just as well in spelling, punctuation and grammar exams as those given conventional lessons.

Older Montessori pupils were more likely to choose 'positive assertive responses' when dealing with unpleasant social situations, said the researchers. They also displayed a "greater sense of community" at school.

The scientists concluded: "Montessori education fosters social and academic skills that are equal or superior to those fostered by a pool of other types of schools."

Dr Lillard plans to continue the research by tracking students from both groups over a longer period of time. She also hopes to repeat the study at other Montessori and traditional schools, and assess specific Montessori techniques.

The Montessori method has had its share of criticism. Some parents believe the classroom environment is 'too free' while others question Montessori teaching priorities, or the fact that children are not normally assigned homework.

In Britain the Government is funding a joint project with the Montessori Schools Association to develop the teaching practice in a state primary school for the first time.

The aim is to raise standards at the 350-pupil Gorton Mount Primary School in inner-city Manchester.

The school, where 36 different languages are spoken and 71 per cent of children have free meals, has had seven head teachers in six years and was placed in 'special measures'.

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-407528/Children-Montessori-schools-better-educated.html#ixzz2zhIMv0JP>

#  
# **Don't forget to use the feedback forms / communication box in the entrance for any thing you wish to suggest / raise.**  
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# For more information on your child's cooked meal we have included every ingredient on the menu, if you do not wish you child to have ketchup or mayonnaise please email the office.  
#

# **PLEASE CAN PARENTS BRING IN:**

- # • Plants or seeds for planting and growing

# Thanks in advance!

# **Safeguarding – Vit D vs. Sun Block**

# We hope that the weather continues to improve this term, our policy on sun apply sun block to your child before you drop them off to school, we will re-apply as required.  
#

# However, studies have shown that 10-15 mins in the sun without block is enough for the body to produce its own Vitamin D, which is essential for the body growth and function. If you wish for us to apply sun cream after 15 minutes of your child being in the sun, please let us know by email.  
#

# Please bring in some sun cream and sun hats for you child clearly labelled with their name.  
#

# Summer shoes

# Please can we ask that parents still bring children to school in shoes which have a covered heel and toe.  
#

# **Thank you!**  
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# **Termly Invoicing**

You should have received your spring term's invoice.

This is more detailed with a weekly breakdown of fees and grant funding. Fees are still due 1st<sup>st</sup> day of term or split into 3 and paid first day of every month.

If you have not yet received your invoice please contact the office. Thank you for payments received.

# **School Trips – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July**

Following a review this year we have decided to split school visits so the children can benefit from more age appropriate activities.

This year the children in the Mango room will be going to Hounslow Urban Farm.

The Strawberry and Banana children will be going to Legoland Windsor.

More details on the visits will be sent out to you shortly.

# **Grandparent's day**

Grandparents day is on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May at 2.00pm. We will be sharing learning journeys and some fantastical stories.

All grandparents and children who do not attend on that day are welcome to attend.

The Montessori directresses will be conducting presentations to further help support the implementation of the Montessori philosophy at home for Grandparents.

# **A BIG THANK YOU TO THE TEAM!**

A big thank you to the team who have all worked very hard during our Montessori Re-accreditation. We are only 1 of a 150 schools in the whole country to have this and are very proud of our achievement!  
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## **Other items**

### **Internal spaces**

We are full until September and we would like to offer registered parents priority on booking extra spaces. We are filling up fast with new registrations for autumn term.

Please contact Sonya @ [info@milkshakemontessori.co.uk](mailto:info@milkshakemontessori.co.uk) to put your child's name down for specific sessions in September.

Places are given on a first come first serve basis.

### **Contact details**

Please inform us if you have moved or if your or your partner's telephone number has changed.

### **Safeguarding**

Please note cases of Chicken Pox, Scarlett fever and other viruses are particularly virulent during the spring, we will be extra vigilant in noticing these cases. We ask parents and carers to inform the school of any illnesses and ask them to observe the exclusion period.

### **HAVE YOU SEEN OUR P.A.N.T.S?**

NSPCC campaign for children – details on our notice board. Please take a look.

**Please note: We are duty bound to inform the local authority if we feel there is any cause for concern regarding the safeguarding of the children registered at Milkshake Montessori School.**

### **Website**

We have recently updated our website to include all important policies, yearly planner and information

For new and existing parents. Please check it out: [www.milkshakemontessori.co.uk](http://www.milkshakemontessori.co.uk)

### **Inset day, Summer Term, Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June**

We will be closed for internal training on the "My Montessori Child" IPAD system. For more information please contact the school or [www.mymontessorichild.com](http://www.mymontessorichild.com)

## **Leaver's party/ Family day – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July**

The time has come to say goodbye to our class of 2014. We will be having a bouncy castle, treats and our infamous graduation ceremony from 2.30 onwards. We look forward to celebrating with you then.

### **Team Milkshake – movers and shakers**

A Big Congratulations to Charlotte Saunders – on passing her Montessori Diploma exams and is now a qualified Montessorian. Well done!!

We welcome Rebecca Weenan our Montessori trainee apprentice.

We welcome Sharon Javanda who is out Montessori intern; she has passed her diploma and is now completing her teaching practice with us.

We say goodbye to Seema Dhillon-Marwaha who has moved on to work on new property projects, we wish her the best of luck!

Bhavna is our deputy manager on Monday, Tuesday & Fridays.

Kat is our deputy manager Wednesday & Thursday

### **YOGA & GONG MEDITATION**

Classes are on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays and Full Moons, we hope to see you there!

[www.universalresonance.co.uk](http://www.universalresonance.co.uk)