

# Rocks Lane Montessori Newsletter



Autumn Term 2021, Issue No. 3



## A special message:

As another academic year begins at Rocks Lane, we are excited for all that the year has in store for us. For those who have returned, we hope that you had a good rest over the summer catching up and spending time with loved ones doing the things we love. To all our new families, we heartily extend a warm welcome into our Rocks Lane family. Best wishes for the new season! Here's to learning, making new friends and having fun!

With love, the Rocks Lane Montessori team

## Announcements:



Happiest birthday to...

- ☆ Lola (9<sup>th</sup> September)
- ☆ Daisy and Margot (10<sup>th</sup> September)
- ☆ Lara (5<sup>th</sup> October)
- ☆ Lorcan (27<sup>th</sup> October)
- ☆ Agnes (26<sup>th</sup> November)
- ☆ Orlando (29<sup>th</sup> November)
- ☆ Rowan (22<sup>nd</sup> December)
- ☆ Lily (27<sup>th</sup> December)

Many congratulations to Miss Zahra on the birth of her son, Maytham! And Lily on the birth of her baby sister, Charlotte.

## See you soon Miss Zahra!

We bid a fondest farewell to our beloved Miss Zahra who has embarked on a new journey of motherhood! We wish her a very wonderful journey ahead, and we can't wait for your return.

## School songs:

We love singing at school; children are captivated by music, with songs supporting learning. You may hear your child singing new songs at home, and if you would like to sing along, here they are:

- **Jolly phonics letter songs:**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=74klrFdOaPw>
- **Goldfish Song:**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cg-wnQKRHTs>
- **Mountains and Rivers:**  
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kG3SivKDijk>)
- **Sticks in the air:**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M-UKTeWNgOk>

Some of our songs (e.g. the Continents and Volcano songs) are not online but let us know and we can sing them for you!

## Focus topic: The Work Cycle

Montessori education follows a 3-hour work cycle, which aims to:

- Increase independence and self-esteem
- Build focus and concentration
- Provide deep joy and satisfaction from materials selected and mastered independently

## Importance of a work cycle:

A Montessori work cycle is an uninterrupted block of time within a carefully prepared environment. During this time, we trust and follow the child's own choice of activities. Children explore independently, taking a tray, working with it for as long as they like, then returning it to the shelf, or joining their teachers and friends in activities together. Uninterrupted time means children choose the work they are drawn towards and that meet their development needs, with the time to master self-teaching materials with as little adult input as possible, leaving a child feeling empowered by their own discoveries. Throughout the work cycle, children receive individual and small group lessons, and work at their own pace.

## Welcome Miss Duska!

This term, we would like to extend a very warm welcome to the newest member of our Rocks Lane family, Miss Duska! Miss Duska is originally from Croatia and is a qualified and experienced Montessori Teacher.

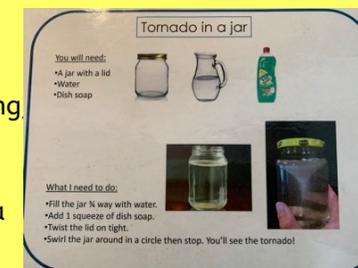


In her free time, Duska loves travelling and baking the most delicious cakes. warmest welcome to her!

## Focus on science

Science experiments are very popular in our classroom. The wide range of science experiments appeal greatly to the children as they make their selection of experiments to carry out with their classmates under the supervision of teachers.

One of the children's favorite experiments right now is the tornado in a jar. Involving only a jar, water and dish soap, the swirling twirling water never cease to fascinate the children as they wonder how these dramatic circular motion appear in a tiny jar, which is then explained looking at the earth models.



### Some suggestions for lunch boxes:

We are planning a small lunch box recipe book, so please send us any ideas for your favourite lunch box ideas.

Our top tips are:

- ☆ A child's thermos keeps food hot until lunchtime
- ☆ Silicone muffin cases are fun for turning a lunch box into compartments for chopped fruit and vegetables
- ☆ A frozen yoghurt pouch keeps things cold in the summer
- ☆ Rolled wraps can be fun with swirls of colour



- ☆ Training chopsticks are great for sushi bites and help develop fine motor skills



Please remember also we are a "no nuts" school, and we ask to cut any food that may represent a choking risk (cherry tomatoes, grapes, etc).

### Reminders for the new term!

#### Labelling:

Please label everything!

#### Punctuality:

As part of the Montessori pedagogy, children begin their learning by settling into a "work cycle" with their teachers and friends, defined by complete absorption in activities. As such, we would greatly appreciate arriving on time so everyone settles into their work cycle from the start.

### The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Curriculum has changed!

The new national curriculum maintains the 3 Prime and 4 Specific Areas of Learning, but now increases its focus on language development, it adds a focus on oral health, and aims to reduce the paperwork burden on teachers to increase the direct time spent with children.

You can read more on the government website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-the-early-years-foundation-stage-eyfs-framework/changes-to-the-early-years-foundation-stage-eyfs-framework>

### A special note of thanks...

On behalf of the team, we would like to say a huge thank you for all our lovely end of year gifts. We are so grateful to you all.

### Special dates this term:

- 8<sup>th</sup> September: International Literacy Day
- 13<sup>th</sup> September: Roald Dahl Day
- 16<sup>th</sup> September: Ozone Layer Protection Day
- 5<sup>th</sup> November: Bonfire night
- 14<sup>th</sup> November: Remembrance Sunday
- 25<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Day
- 26<sup>th</sup> December: Boxing Day

### School term dates:

Our term dates are on our website here:

<http://www.rockslanemontessori.co.uk/termdates.aspx>

Here are the dates for this term:

- ☆ Half term: 25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> Oct
- ☆ Last day of term: Wed 15<sup>th</sup> December (full day)
- ☆ Spring term starts: Wed 5<sup>th</sup> January

### We're so excited about the curriculum for this new term:

Week	Project	Number of the week	Letter of the week	Shape of the week	Book of the week	Person of the week
7 <sup>th</sup> September	Grace and Courtesy	1	a	Circle	The Gruffalo's Child by Julia Donaldson	Maria Montessori
13 <sup>th</sup> September	Grace and Courtesy	2	s	Exploring circles	We're Going On A Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen	Claude Monet
20 <sup>th</sup> September	Solar System	3	b	Square	Greta and the Giants by Zoe Tucker	Greta Thunberg
27 <sup>th</sup> September	The Planets	4	h	Exploring squares	What's Up: A Book About Sky and Space by Mick Manning	Frida Kahlo
4 <sup>th</sup> October	Planet Earth	5	c	Triangle	Giraffes Can't Dance by Giles Andreae	Tchaikovsky
11 <sup>th</sup> October	Land, Water and Air	6	g	Exploring triangles	Guess How Much I Love You by Anita Jeram	Vincent van Gogh
18 <sup>th</sup> October	Gravity, Rockets and Astronauts	7	r	Star	How To Catch a Star by Oliver Jeffers	Neil Armstrong
Half-term: 25 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup> October 2021						

Week	Project	Number of the week	Letter of the week	Shape of the week	Book of the week	Person of the week
1 <sup>st</sup> November	Continents of the world	8	o	Cube	Possum Magic by Mem Fox	Edmund Hillary & Tenzing Norgay
8 <sup>th</sup> November	North America	9	m	Exploring cubes	Gruffalo by Julia Donaldson	Junko Tabei
15 <sup>th</sup> November	South America	10	l	Diamond	Share and Take Turns by Cheri Meiners	Francisco de Orellana
22 <sup>nd</sup> November	Europe	11	t	Exploring diamonds	Cat in the Hat by Dr. Seuss	Archelous – Greek God of Rivers
29 <sup>th</sup> November	Asia	12	d	Pentagon	Crab & Whale (Mindful Storytime) by Mark Pallis and Christiane Kerr	Charles Francis Richter
6 <sup>th</sup> December	Africa	13	k	Exploring pentagons	The Night Before Christmas by Clement Clarke Moore	Christopher Columbus
13 <sup>th</sup> December	Australasia and Antarctica	14	v	Trapeziums	Snowman by Raymond Briggs	Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Christmas Break: 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2021 until our first day of Spring term: 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2022						

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