Dear Parents,

**Cold weather and rain** are now upon us, but at Monique’s, we believe that “there is no such thing as bad weather, only unsuitable clothing.” Each day, there is dedicated time outside regardless of weather so please dress your child appropriately and do remember to bring in extra clothing. An outdoor environment is a place for ‘Big Body Play’, where we value natural opportunities for children to challenge themselves physically. Children will find compelling reasons to hone large motor skills through joyful interactions with blocks, pebbles, wheelbarrows and other outdoor play equipment. In the outdoor classroom, an open-ended and collaborative play is valued, documented, and encouraged. As Maria Montessori said, “Not all classrooms have four walls.”

***Halloween*** - We have planned a week of Halloween activities so if your child would like to wear fancy dress to the nursery, we would love to see their costume. To name a few activities, we will be doing pumpkin carving, apple bobbing, and children will have lots of fun rummaging through gooey slime to find prizes such as a spooky spider or a googly eye!

***Annual Photograph -*** On Friday, 26th October we had a professional photographer, Tina to take photos of our children. She was very impressed with our children’s self-confidence and socializing skills as they happily explored the new situation with support from familiar adults. Hopefully, we should soon receive the first printouts of the photographs for parents to choose from by 9th November.

***New Member on-board*** - It’s our pleasure to welcome Mandy to our team. She will be working full days on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. She is a Montessori trained teacher and will be mostly working with the downstairs children.  She is very amiable and would be happy to talk to you.

***Christmas Nativity plays*** - Our Christmas Play will be on Saturday, 8th December at Bessel Green Baptist Church. You are all welcome and feel free to invite your extended family members. All the children are involved on the 8th December and we hope that every child can come to the church to be involved in our Christmas performance. Rehearsals are in full swing every Tuesday morning and we would like to say a huge “thank you” to the parents who are bringing in their children specifically for rehearsals… it will definitely be worth it!

**Montessori at home**

* ***Understanding the world:*** How about feeding spiders? Try finding a woodlouse under a rotten log and place it on a spider’s web. Observe how the spider wraps the louse in its silky thread. Make sure to explain that woodlice are also important to your garden so that your child does not feed all the woodlice in your garden to the spider!
* Collect different coloured leaves while you go for walks and observe how the green leaves are slowly changing into vibrant colours. You may also want to explain that flowers are now changing into seeds.

That’s all for now.