

MEAB Newsletter

Montessori Evaluation and Accreditation Board

Issue 4 February 2011

published three times a year for accredited schools



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Dear MEAB accredited schools and nurseries

Once again it is time to share with you the MEAB news. You may notice the new format of the newsletter, which we hope will make it easier to read and more accessible. We also hope you will be able to print it off and share it with your colleagues in the nursery and within your MSA region.

As you have seen from the recent edition of Montessori International magazine we have celebrated the achievements of 24 Montessori schools that have gained accreditation during 2010. The snowy weather prevented several schools from attending. None the less, it was a very happy occasion. In the future we hope to celebrate the achievements of the MEAB accredited schools not only during the MCI graduation celebrations but also during the MSA annual conference which will, in the future, take place in the summer term. The date for this years' conference is 18 June, to be held at Church House, next to Westminster Abbey where William and Kate will be married in late April. Please put it in your diary.

The appointment of Michele Dows-Miller as my deputy has meant that we have been able to increase our contact with Montessori nurseries wishing to take part in accreditations and we have also offered the support of regular "surgeries" which will enable nurseries and schools to work on their self-assessment forms under the guidance of Michele and myself.

I hope you have received the postcards promoting the MEAB scheme which you are able to share with your prospective parents. We have also emailed you a PDF version of this document so that you can print it off should you wish to share it with your parents once you run out of the printed cards.

Mandy Gilchrist and Michele have worked very hard to promote the MEAB scheme not only through the postcards you have received, but also through a variety of publications which have promoted Montessori and the MEAB scheme and also through Netmums. The key focus is to make parents aware of the scheme so that they are assured of a standard of quality when they are researching the Montessori nursery or school for their children.

Once again we will promote Montessori in general and the MEAB scheme in particular through our publicity day at the Museum of Childhood on Saturday 12 March 2011. If you are in London or near London do come to see us.

We are very happy to announce that during the Spring 2011 we will celebrate the accreditation of the 100th school - please see our website www.montessori.org.uk and the press for announcements.

Our assessors have continued with their training to become accredited through the Chartered Institute of Education Assessors. This will give them a nationally recognised assessor qualification. The process has also meant that we are reviewing our accreditation scheme and nurseries which have applied for accreditation in the past two months will have two visits, one which will highlight areas for development and one which will access the progress made since the first visit.

We have been delighted to hear from many MEAB accredited schools that their MEAB accreditation, the SEF as supported by the information on the MSA website and the "Guide to the EYFS in Montessori Settings" have contributed significantly to their achievement of outstanding outcomes during their Ofsted inspection. Our congratulations to you all, we are delighted that MEAB as well as the MSA and the Montessori St. Nicholas Charity have contributed to your success.

As you will see from this newsletter, the MEAB administrators and assessors are working hard to meet the expectations of the Montessori St. Nicholas Trust (who are funding the scheme) to offer the best Montessori accreditation scheme in the UK. Do promote our efforts to engage more Montessori schools in the accreditation process.

Best wishes for the rest of the Spring term.

Barbara Isaacs
Senior Accreditation Officer, MEAB

Montessori Practice

Montessori Qualifications

Following earlier communications with the Children Workforce Development Council, representatives of UK Steiner Waldorf movement and Montessori awarding bodies and training providers met at the Department for Education with civil servants and CWDC members on 31 January 2011. The purpose was to explore possibilities of continued recognition of the Steiner and Montessori qualifications as valid and relevant pedagogies which greatly contribute to the diversity of early years provision in England. The Steiner and Montessori trainers present put forward a strong case for the need to continue training in these unique pedagogies, not only because these span far beyond the realm of England and are recognised as international qualifications, but also because they meet the criteria of the national occupational standards and the Early Years Foundation Stage. Neither Steiner nor Montessori nurseries would be able to function in the future without fully trained Steiner and Montessori teachers

able to effectively support children's learning. The lack of recognition of the dedicated teacher training would inevitably result in this unique and diverse early years provision vanishing from the English early years landscape. This would undermine the government's commitment to providing early years care and education for all three and four year olds in the country, it would also contribute to the country's unemployment levels, not to mention the annual turnover which Montessori and Steiner nurseries generate each year.

Those present put forward a strong case in requesting that the Department for Education recognise the value and contribution made by both movements and requested exemption from the current policy of promoting only one level 3 qualification, the relevance of which is currently being challenged.

Those present agreed on a follow-up meeting in early May when the results of the Tickell and Wolf review will be published.

OTHER NEWS

Successful MSA Conference 2010

The 2010 Annual National Conference held at the Institute of Education was attended by more than two-thirds of the previous year's delegates. Read more about the conference in our Montessori blog <http://blog.montessori.org.uk/msa-article> report by Michele Dows-Miller. The 2011 conference will be held in the summer at the Church House Westminster on the 18th June. Save the date.

Welcome Region 12

We have a new region: Hampshire, Berkshire and Surrey now form Region 12 under Shaunagh de Boinville's chairmanship. To find out more about Shaunagh, visit her region page http://www.montessori.org.uk/msa/msa/msa_regions/r12. Watch out for the first regional event.

Museum of Childhood Parents workshop

A workshop on *Montessori for Families: A Parents' Taster Session* will be held at the Museum of Childhood on Saturday 12th March, 11.00 to 16.00. This is in partnership with Montessori and everyone is invited to enjoy this fun event. For further details, you can contact Amanda Gilchrist on 020 7518 9788.

Stebbing Primary School on MEAB blog

The first fully accredited Montessori state primary school from Reception to year 6, Stebbing Primary school offers Montessori teaching and methodology. Click on <http://blog.montessori.org.uk/38768407> to find out more about their accreditation.

Healthy Eating Publication

To assist parents and teachers in creating a healthy eating programme for children, we are currently producing a Healthy Eating Guide. This will be accessible online to promote healthy eating at school and at home.

You can contribute your healthy eating programmes, recipes or photos of children preparing their food in your setting.

Send your setting's featured healthy eating to kristine@montessori.org.uk to be published in this guide.

95 MEAB Accredited Schools

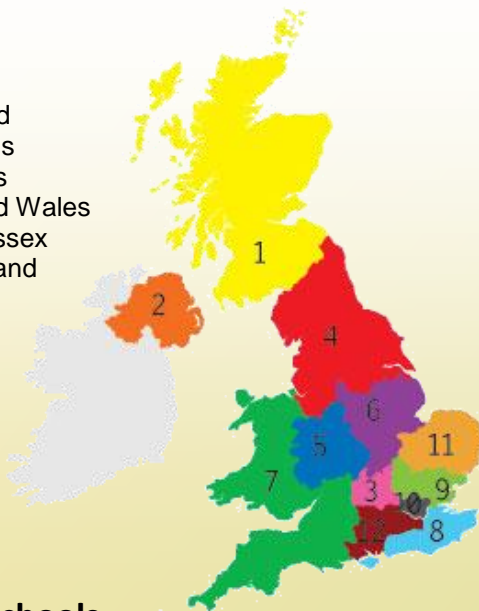
Congratulations to our newly Accredited Schools:

Discoveries Montessori Nursery School, Brenchley, Kent
Grasshoppers Montessori, Henlow, Bedfordshire
Haydon Hall Montessori Nursery, Pinner, Middlesex
Headstart Montessorians Nursery, Ilford, Essex
Little Tree Montessori Nursery, Crouch End, London
The Maria Montessori School, Exeter, Devon
New World Montessori Nursery School, Ealing, London
The Rainbow Montessori Nursery School, Winscombe, North Somerset
Stebbing Primary School, Stebbing, Essex
Weyhill Montessori School, Haslemere, Surrey
The Children's Room, Swansea, South Wales

Our interest in international accreditation is growing; watch this space for more news.

Summary

- 3 Region 1 - Scotland
- 5 Region 3 - Middlesex
- 5 Region 4 - North England
- 5 Region 5 - West Midlands
- 1 Region 6 - East Midlands
- 8 Region 7 - Southwest and Wales
- 9 Region 8 - Kent and Sussex
- 18 Region 9 - Eastern England
- 24 Region 10 - London
- 5 Region 11 - East Anglia
- 9 Region 12 - Hampshire, Berkshire, Surrey
- 3 International



95 MEAB Accredited Schools

OTHER NEWS

2011 MSA Conference in June

Our MSA Annual Conference 2011 is now moved from the autumn to the summer to give our Montessori colleagues the opportunity to learn from the speakers and enjoy a bright lovely day in Westminster.

A boat trip sponsored by the Montessori St Nicholas charity will follow in the afternoon immediately after the conference to provide a venue to socialize and unwind.

Please save **Saturday, 18th of June 2011** at the Church House Conference Centre in Westminster in your diaries.

Watch out for more details on our website <http://www.montessori.org.uk/>

Montessorian of the Year 2011

Nominations are now open for 2011 Montessorian of the Year. To see previous winners click on http://www.montessori.org.uk/msa/msa/montessorian_of_the_year/previous_winners

Nominate your Montessori colleagues who are worthy of this award, details on nomination can be found on http://www.montessori.org.uk/msa/msa/montessorian_of_the_year

USEFUL LINKS

MEAB Accredited Schools

See a list of MEAB Accredited Schools, visit the link to see their accreditation reports http://www.montessori.org.uk/msa/accreditation/accreditation_reports

Training

To find out more about Workshops and seminars on offer in 2011, visit http://www.montessori.org.uk/mci_training MCI also offers full time distance learning and Foundation degree courses.

Montessori Books

Check out the latest Montessori publications in our webshop and take advantage of our promotions and discounts. Visit <http://shop.montessori.org.uk/>

NES 

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*Offers valid until 31/12/2011 and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Can only be used on full-priced items in the 2011 catalogue or on www.nesarnold.co.uk



Upcoming Events

17 Feb	R10 - Suki Smith on Communication Skills
5 Mar	R1- Emotional Intelligence & Infant Brain Development
5 Mar	R9 – Autism with Ros Blackburn
12 Mar	R5/6- Suki Smith on Communication with Parents
12 Mar	R8 – Positive Language with Sarah Rowledge
19 Mar	R7 – Positive Language and Behaviour Management with Sarah Rowledge
26 Mar	R4 – Yoga Training, Richmond, North Yorkshire
26 Mar	R11 – Kodaly Music with Sarah Rowledge
26 Mar	R12 - TBC
9 April	R3 – Forest School, Ruislip, Middlesex
23 Apr	R1 - Site Visit to Forest School, Perthshire
21 May	R9 – Understanding Dyslexia and Dyspraxia
26 May	R10 - Emma Hutchinson a Music Workshop
18 June	MSA Annual National Conference 2011, Church House, Westminster

For more information on Regional Events and for contact details of your MSA Regional Chair, visit

http://www.montessori.org.uk/msa/msa/msa_regions

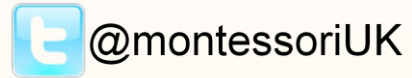
Preferred partners

For more information on our preferred partners, click on the logos:



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Join us and keep in regular contact.



A quick and convenient way to keep up-to-date on the latest Montessori news, events and training.

Network with colleagues and friends from around the world.

Have your say! **Share your skills, ideas and tips** for Montessori best practice.

We'd love to hear your news, see your photos and watch your films.

If you have any questions or would like some help with marketing to your local press, please email Amanda on a.gilchrist@montessori.org.uk

USEFUL LINKS

Recruiting Staff

To place a job advert on MCI notice boards, Montessori UK website, and Montessori International magazine, contact Stephanie on 020 7493 8300. You can browse current vacancies on <http://www.montessori.org.uk/magazine-and-jobs/jobs>

MEAB

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Montessori Schools Association
18 Balderton Street
London, Greater London W1K 6TG

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