

Walthamstow Montessori School

Newsletter

St David's Day

The children learnt more about St David the Welsh bishop who is the patron saint of Wales.

The children made some lovely daffodil flowers to celebrate this day and enjoyed some traditional Welsh cakes brought in by Raf.



Upper School Trip

William Morris Museum on Wednesday 4th March. **Please ensure that you return your child's permission slip, otherwise your child will be unable to attend the trip. Thank you**

Diary Dates

Lower School Assembly – Thursday 19th March
Upper School Assembly – Tuesday 31st March
Please note that these are not as previously mentioned on the Diary Dates.
Sport Relief – Friday 13th March

More details to follow

Frogspawn

The children were very excited this morning to see that the frogspawn have now turned into tadpoles. The next stage of the cycle is for the tadpoles to grow 2 then 4 legs before turning into froglets.

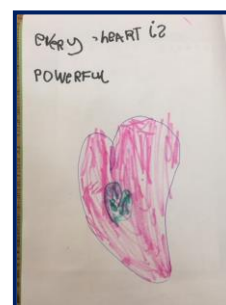


Montessori Session

Thanks to those that attended our 'Reading in the Montessori classroom' session led by Miss Lorna. We hope that you found this session useful and gave you an insight into how reading is implemented within the Montessori environment. We will be are looking to hold a further session for 'Maths in the Montessori classroom', more details to follow.

Pancake Day

The whole school celebrated Pancake Day last Tuesday. The children learnt that this day signifies the beginning of Lent for Christians and that pancakes were eaten on Shrove Tuesday as a feast before the fasting of Lent commences on Ash Wednesday. The children enjoyed flipping the pancakes and preparing the toppings of fresh fruit. The children enjoyed squeezing their oranges and lemons and slicing the bananas to eat with their pancakes.



A beautiful message from Rita in Beech class.

'Every heart is powerful.'

Inside the Montessori Classroom...

The knobbed cylinders are a very effective piece of Montessori equipment. The aims are: to develop an understanding of fine differences in dimension, to introduce grading,

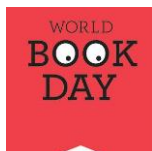


preparation for the decimal system (as all of the cylinders are in sets of 10) To develop fine motor skills, eye-hand coordination and pincer grip for writing.

There are 4 cylinder blocks in the set and each one contains 10 cylinders cut from the solid block. They are introduced to children from 2 years upwards. They continue to be very useful in teaching mathematical concepts up to the age of 6. The block is placed in front of the child and the cylinders are then removed one by one placing them at random in front of the block. Once they are all removed the directress looks carefully at the block and at the empty socket and then looks for the matching cylinder to fit it. This is showing the children how to make a decision about what fits. Eventually the 4 cylinder blocks (which increase in difficulty) can be worked with together to present even greater challenge. As a parent you can support this work by looking for cylinders in the world around you and discussing their properties i.e., rolling, circular faces etc.

World Book Day

World Book Day is **Thursday 5th March**.



Thank you to all the parents that have offered to come in and read with the children.

The children are encouraged to dress as their favourite book character for the day.

After School Club Invoices

If your child attended any of our After School Clubs during February (i.e. Early Risers, Lunch Club or Tea Timers), you will be receiving your invoice today.

Please note these invoices will need to be paid by Friday 6th March to avoid a penalty charge. All invoices are now emailed to you. If you require a paper copy, please let the office know.

Summer Term School Fees

Please be advised that your child's Summer term school fee invoice will be issued on **Monday 16th March** with payment due (50%) on or before **Monday 23rd March**. If you would like to pay in two instalments, then the second instalment would be due on or before **Monday 20th April**.

Easter Holiday Club

Our Easter Holiday Club will run from Monday 6th April until Thursday 9th April. Spaces are filling up fast.



If you would like your child to attend, please complete a booking form. These are available at the school front doors. Places are limited and the deadline for receiving completed booking forms is today.

Tennis



Will be resuming for our Upper School children on Wednesday afternoons from 22nd April, with Hilary our tennis coach at Lloyd Park tennis courts.

We will hold our annual tennis open morning at the end of the Summer term, date to be confirmed.

Parents Corner

One of our parents is looking for a child minder. If you have one that you can recommend, can you please pass on their details to the school office. Thank you.

Elementary

The children have been learning about 'IL CARNEVALE' in Italian. In Italy the celebration lasts for several days, with costumes and masked parades. The children made their own animal masks in class.



We have been discovering the nature in Epping Forest and The Walthamstow Marshes. We were surprised to learn that the Marshes are home to two of Britain's rarest plants, the Creeping Marshwort and Brookweed; also, the Essex Skipper, a butterfly with a range that is restricted within the London area. The children were amazed that cattle are still grazing on both the Marshes and the Forest.

In Geography, the children have been reviewing the countries that make up the United Kingdom and the bodies of water surrounding it. This has led us to take a closer look at Wales, for the celebration of St. David's Day.

We are looking forward to our visit to The William Morris Gallery this week, where we are sure to learn more about him and how his work was inspired by nature. We will also be focusing upon books throughout the week with a variety of book-related activities.

Reception

The teaching and hands-on learning strategies work to get students using their skills including solving problems, models, representing, reasoning, calculating and communicating.



Knowing the sign for 'add' and for 'subtract', finding the product and the difference are all steps along the path to a way of thinking that seems obvious to adults but is quite advanced for the children. Reception children have been immersed in many maths activities that require the mastering of their reasoning skills.

In relation to the topic, Walthamstow, reception class has been discovering the different species of animals, plants and trees that can be found in Walthamstow's forests and parks. Reception children have also been encouraged to write and draw the different facts that we have learnt on their books.



To conclude the week, reception class did some research about St. David's Day, the reason why the Welsh celebrated it on the 1st of March and what the capital of Wales is. At the end of the lesson, we all drew one of the most emblematic symbols of Wales: the daffodil.

Kindergarten:

Beech Class

We enjoyed looking at the frogspawn on the nature table! Our frogspawn are now tadpoles! We have made a little book to show the changes.

Last week we learnt about St David's Day and made daffodils. Each day we have been enjoying sharing our half term diaries. Thank you for making these so enjoyable for everyone. We loved having pancakes at school and we learnt about Shrove Tuesday and similar traditions in other countries. Lots of us tried to write independently.

We were excited to see a bit of snow on Thursday and we cut out paper snowflakes. We have some new activities in our classroom to help us learn about tessellations and patterns.

This week we are looking at different types of books and the job of the author and illustrator.

We will be creating a little library in our class on World Book Day!

Finley worked hard to sequence the large number cards from 1-9000. Children can see the relative difference in sizes in the powers of ten cards. The colour coding helps the child to recognise each category.

Thousands are in green like units as they are 'units of thousands' (in the same way tens of thousands would be blue and hundreds of thousands would be red etc)



Children are introduced to these cards after learning the physical quantity using the golden bead material.

We are all missing Ela who was very brave having her tonsils removed and we hope she gets better very soon. The children made some lovely 'Get Well Soon' cards for Ela.

Sycamore Class

Last week in sycamore class, we learnt about transport. As a class we enjoyed learning about the importance of road safety and how to cross a road. We all participated in an educational activity which entailed lots of role play. Our teacher simulated different road markings in the class where we learnt how to stop, look and listen. We were privileged to have a zebra crossing that we all took turns to cross following various signals from our teacher.

Our fun filled week continued with learning all about pancake day. We learnt that the biggest pancake in the world measured 15metres. To end our discussion, we were all treated to pancakes with lemon, orange and bananas.

To mark St David's day, we discussed key details about the Saint and the festival finishing with a lovely arts and crafts activity making daffodils.

In the Montessori classroom we revisited the geometric solids. The children matched the geometric solids to corresponding images including the sphere, cube, cylinder and triangular prism. The learning experience ended with a three period lesson of three of the shapes which the children did magnificently well!!



A big thank you to Miss Celestina who brought some frog spawn into school for us to see. We all used the

magnifying glass to observe the spawn. Hopefully we can welcome some tadpoles soon.

This week we will be continuing our studies with British Transport. We must not forget World Book Day and some lovely activities are planned to mark this annual event.

Oak Class

Last week, we learnt about British Transport - Keeping safe on British roads. We started by focusing on how to be safe on the road by learning the actions: Stop, Look and Listen. We acted out the road safety game as we use different coloured



chalks to mark out some paths and roads on the floor. We pretended to be on the road which was fun, however we remembered that it is not safe to cross the road alone as we need to hold onto our parent's (or a grown-ups) hand. We also used toy vehicles to practice when to stop and cross the road. We nicely took turns amongst ourselves which was great.

In addition, we celebrated Pancake Day and learnt why it is also called Shrove Tuesday. We had the imagination activity where we pretended to make pancakes using all ingredients we could think of and at the end we toss some pancakes from the pan into the air!!! We absolutely enjoyed this. Afterwards, we sat down to have a delicious pancake snack topped with some lemon juice and bananas.



We ended our week by celebrating St David's Day. We learnt the history behind the celebration and the significance of the leek and daffodil. At the end we made our own unique daffodil whilst exploring with various materials.



This week, we hope to learn about London new and old buses as well as the London Black cab. We will also celebrate World Book Day and we are all looking forward to dressing up in our favourite book character on Thursday.

Nursery:

Last week the nursery children were learning about London and it's landmarks. We were looking at pictures of London landmarks, identifying them and learning their names. The children enjoyed creating the river Thames, Big Ben and the Tower bridge paper craft as part of our display board. We read "The Queen's Hat" a picture book about London landmarks and sang action songs about London. We enjoyed pancakes for snack, acknowledging that Pancake Day is on a Tuesday.



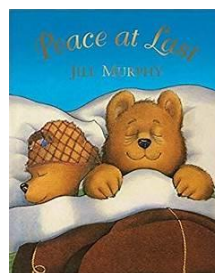
At the end of the week we celebrated St. David's Day with an art activity, creating leeks which is as a popular Welsh symbol.



Throughout the whole of this week we are going to be celebrating books as part of our World Book Day celebrations. We are going to read our

favourite stories and have some parents as guest readers. We are going to create bookmarks and recreate some of our best loved stories using props as role play and puppet shows. On Thursday we are going to have a dress up party as our favourite book characters and the children will have an opportunity to describe their character.

Book of the week:



**'Peace at Last'
by Jill Murphy**

Home Links

Please help your children by finding fun ways together to identify the letter and topic of the week at home, to support their work in school.

Best wishes, WMS Admin

Important Numbers

To contact the school office dial:

020 8523 2968

email: e17montessori@aol.com

Please also 'like' our face book pages. Select the one that says Walthamstow Montessori and Elementary and 'like' us!

These pages are updated with new features every day on events, school news, Montessori information, parenting news and local news and events.

So please don't miss out on what we are doing and 'Like' our page.