

W/C Monday 7th December 2020

Walthamstow Montessori School

Newsletter

Tree Decorating!

Tomorrow, Tuesday 8th December we will be having our special tree decorating day! This is one such tradition at WMS that is very special. We will be getting every child to hang a silver ball on our tree. If your child does not attend on a Tuesday, then they are welcome to hang their special silver ball on another day.



We have a lovely selection of silver balls for the children to choose from.

Christmas Jumper Day

Don't forget it's Christmas Jumper Day at WMS on Thursday 10th December. Get your jumpers ready!!!!



We would love to see yours too parents!

Montessori Activity

A 2 year old works with the knobbed cylinders.

This piece of equipment has many direct as well as indirect aims.

Here a child is being introduced to cylinders, the decimal system (there are 10 cylinders) grading and seriation, problem solving, one-to-one correspondence as well as preparing the pincer grip for writing.

It develops their concentration and sense of order as well as their self-confidence.

The cylinders decrease in height and diameter in this first block. Subsequent blocks provide more



challenges for a child.

A teacher encourages exploration and extension activities once a child has mastered this.

We break up for the Christmas Holidays on Thursday 17th December at 12.30pm and school resumes on Wednesday 6th January 2021

In a Montessori Classroom

Sycamore class have been working with Miss Lorna on adjectives and also the formation of the plural.

Grammar is introduced early in a Montessori classroom by using activities so that a child learns about a part of speech through an activity rather than a rule.

Here you will see the 'S' box being introduced

The child is helped to read the short phonetic word in the singular pile ie, hat. The child is shown to place the card under the singular heading card and finds 'a hat' from the little objects in the box.



The teacher then helps the child to read 'hats'.

Notice Period

Please be reminded of your child's notice period as per your Terms and Conditions.

If your child is not returning for the Summer 2021 term (ie. April 2021) then notice is required in writing (email would suffice) on or before January 7th 2021.

Spring Term Fees

As you will be aware from the reminders we have sent (apologies if you are receiving and have paid), school fees for the spring term are due to the school's bank account today. After this time a penalty fee of £50 per week that fees remain outstanding will be applied. If your child attends this school then you should have received an invoice.



Christmas Party Week

Don't forget it's our children's festive party week, next week. Nursery children will be celebrating all week long on their school days. And Oak and the Upper School on 17th (last day of term). Please refer to your letter sent home that has all the details relevant to your own child's class.

Goodbye and Good Luck

Miss Lisa will unfortunately be leaving us at the end of this term.

Miss Lisa has decided to study for a teaching degree and we all would like to wish her all the best for the future.



Parents Corner

A parent has shared a link to a live production of The Gruffalo.

The Gruffalo will be live streamed from 11-13 December 2020.

<https://www.tallstories.org.uk/the-gruffalo>

Class Information

Prep Class

Last week Prep class children were very busy making their own Christmas decorations, which they are enjoying seeing displayed very much. This chance of spending some time together has given me the opportunity to observe how nicely the children have been interacting with one another, helping one another, and sharing different thoughts and different ways of celebrating Christmas. I am very glad to see how well they all get along and how they are learning from each other. The children will take all their Christmas decorations

home at the end of the term, so you all will get to see them all very soon in your own homes!

For literacy, we have practiced different blendings and digraphs, and at the end of the week, Prep class have been reading in front of their classmates so as to practice intonation. The children enjoyed very much their friends' reading and felt very proud of their own reading.

We also had our 'show and tell' session on Thursday and Prep class children wrote about their own 'show and tell' in their literacy books.

Lastly, some of the children as we already mentioned previously had been introduced to the different parts of a sentence such as nouns, adjectives and verbs. That is why this past week they have been working with the Montessori Grammar Symbols box, which contains different symbols for each part of the sentence: black triangle for nouns, blue triangle for adjectives and red circles for verbs. As you can see in the picture, some children identified very well the different parts of the sentences in an enjoyable and different way.

Sycamore Class

What a great week we had. We practised how to write our names by tracing the letters. We are getting very good at it. In addition, we have looked at how Christmas is celebrated around the world. We were really surprised that in other countries Christmas is celebrated during summer time and not in winter! On Wednesday we had a pattern walk. We went outside to the garden and placed the paper on the trees/wood to discover how the pattern will look like on the paper. Children were all very engaged. On Thursday, Miss Lorna delivered a great lesson for us. Miss Lorna taught us how to describe an object by adding different adjectives! We loved it!



And in music we had so much fun! Also, before I forget, we have made a beautiful star with Miss Karen using the Origami technique which the children enjoyed!

We would really appreciate if your child could arrive to school already wearing their school smock. It will save us lots of time. Thank you for your collaboration! And don't forget to bring your Christmas decorations for our tree on Tuesday and Christmas Jumper on Thursday!

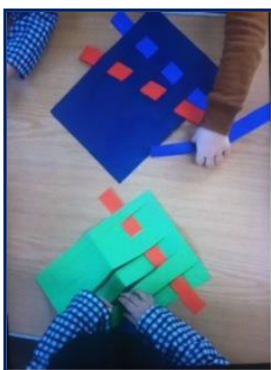
Oak Class

Last week, Oak class children had fun making lots of very festive Christmas decorations; they made Christmas trees, a snowman, a Christmas Stocking, stars, Snowglobe and Santa Claus. Oak class children are great at working as a team and helping each other.



Last week, the children learned how people celebrated Christmas in different countries focusing on Spain. I explained to them how Spanish people celebrated Christmas Eve, who are the Three Kings and the tradition of the twelve grapes for New Year. Also, we sang some Christmas Carols in Spanish.

In circle time, we were happy to talk about what they most liked about Christmas and we practised the songs for our Christmas play. Children had a lovely conversation about Santa Claus and Christmas trees. Most of the children shared with others what their Christmas tree looks like and what baubles & tinsels they had hung up on the tree. It was very nice to see how their confidence to talk in a group grew up and how excited they are talking about Christmas.



We also enjoyed celebrating St. Andrews Day. We had a lot of fun while we read a book about the story of St. Andrew; we practised how to weave paper to make a kilt and we



listened and danced to some Celtic music.

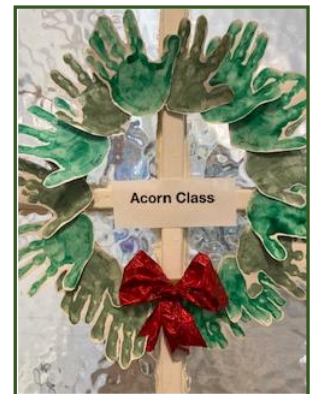
For our 'Out and About' activity, we dressed up in our winter clothes to go to the garden while we sang Christmas songs.

Oak class children used their creativity using leaves to make Christmas decorations putting them on the windows and doors.



Nursery

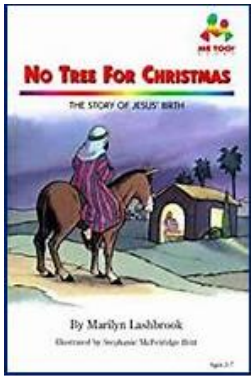
Last week, nursery children were in great Christmas spirits. We created angel crafts, candy canes using a threading method, wreath handprints and started making Christmas cards. The week was filled with Christmas songs and many books and poems about Christmas were read. For our 'out and about' session we carried out an experiment of freezing natural materials found in the garden and discovering what happens to the ice when left in the classroom. Children were fascinated to observe the frozen sticks, leaves and berries.



This week, we will continue with our Christmas preparations. Children will create robin bird crafts, reindeer out of clay and natural materials as well as continue to make Christmas cards. We will acknowledge and celebrate Hanukkah by explaining what this Jewish festival is about and its traditions. Children will have an opportunity to play a dreidel game and learn about menorah by creating menorah handprints.



The children helped to decorate the Christmas tree.



**Book of the week
No Tree for
Christmas
by Marilyn Lashbrook.**

Best wishes, WMS Admin

Important Numbers



To contact the school office dial:

020 8523 2968

Email:

office@walthamstowmontessori.com

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