

W/C Monday 15th March 2021

Walthamstow Montessori School

Newsletter



We hope you all had a lovely day celebrating Mothering Sunday.



Italiano Al Fresco

Seedling children enjoyed their Italian lesson last week outside in the beautiful Spring sunshine.

Signor Stefano acted out the book, 'A Caccia dell'Orso', 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'. Signor Stefano always ensures his lessons captivate the children's attention and imagination.



Reminder that our last day of Spring Term is Thursday 1st April. School will finish at 12.30pm so no pack lunch is needed. Breakfast club will be running on the Thursday 1st but please note there will be no lunch time or tea timer's club on that day.

Red Nose Day

We will be celebrating Red Nose Day this **Friday 19th March**. We are busy planning lots of exciting fund-raising activities to help support this wonderful charity. All children and staff are invited to dress in a colourful / carnival theme on Friday for a small donation.



Reading at WMS

At WMS we regularly undertake reading age tests with our oldest children.

We are pleased to advise that in the most recent tests every child scored above their actual age. The biggest difference between actual age and reading age is a difference of 3 years and 10 months.

The mean average for these scores is that each reading child has a reading age of 20 months above their actual age. This is a mean average so varies from a 3 year 10 month difference to a 4 month difference.

With the average reading age of UK adults being 11 years of age and 1.7 million adults with levels below this, it is vital that children are given the very best start to their reading skills.

By the time students reach their GCSE year, they may have a reading age of around three years younger, while even those in their first year of senior school are around a year behind recent studies suggest.

We use the Montessori phonic method and 5 different reading book schemes which work well within this. Children are introduced to both phonetic and then non phonetic grammar as early as 4 years of age.

We have always been sharply focussed on developing all aspects of literacy (reading, writing, speaking and listening). 3 former WMS pupils are currently reading English at Cambridge!

Last week, staff had a breakfast training session on developing emergent writing skills with young children to keep their own skills and practitioner knowledge strong.

We are proud of the achievements of such young children.

Fire Drill

Upper school had a fire drill last Tuesday. All the children listened to their teachers and exited the building in a calm and orderly way, resulting in safe and effective fire drill throughout.



Safe Parking

Please park carefully and respectfully around the school buildings, particularly at Penrhyn. Please do not park in front of the garages as this is allocated for staff parking and is constant use. Please **DO NOT** endanger children's lives by pulling up at speed over the school gates. This is not a designated parking bay. Thank you.



Summer Term School Fees

Please be advised that your child's Summer term school fee invoice will have been emailed to you last week, if you have not received it please contact the school office. Payment due (50%) on or before **Monday 22nd March**. If your invoice indicates and you would like to pay in two instalments, then the second instalment would be due on or before **Tuesday 20th April**.

Class Information

Prep Class

Last week Prep class learnt about Australia and the Sydney Opera House. They have discovered that it is an iconic building located on the shores of Sydney Harbour which shape is like the sails of a boat and sits on a peninsula out in the water. It took over ten years to build, finally opening on the 20th October, 1973 by Queen Elizabeth II. She has visited it four times, most recently in 2006. The children were amazed when they were told that a British man called James Cook was the person who discovered Australia .

On Thursday, children presented their projects to their friends and everyone learnt different facts about the landmark itself.

The children have been spending some time with Fred, our frog, which helps us learn and review some sounds that are required for this age. It is always so much fun to spend some time with Fred.

Lastly, we have been talking about who is special to us and the reasons why those people are

important in our lives. They have had the opportunity to express themselves and share their thoughts and feelings, which was one of the most special moments of the week.



Sycamore Class

Let's talk about our week. We were great and professional police officers that we even had a police station in the class! We had lots of fun



pretending to be police officers. To support our role play, we made some police badges and talked about police officers' duties. Also, we practiced how to cross a road crossing, being aware of the traffic, always holding hands with an adult. We had our zebra crossing in the hall to pretend we were crossing the road.

Also, for Maths, we talked about capacity and size of different containers. We measured them using a small cup, predicting how many cups of water we needed to fill the containers. After, we all had a go to experience it ourselves, guessing how many cups we would need to fill the pots.



To finish I hope you had a great and lovely Sunday! Happy Day! For that we made cards for our mummies and loved ones. We hope you liked them!



Beech Class

Last week was all about plants. Children in Beech class enjoyed the new activities where they took care of the indoor plants. They cleaned the leaves of plants, watered them and arranged the new flowers so every vase in school had a fresh daffodil.



Children enjoyed learning about the life cycle of a bean plant and they had an opportunity to watch the stages through a bean experiment. "Do plants drink water?" An experiment took place where children helped to place a white flower in a vase with coloured water. It is an ongoing experiment and we will hopefully see the results this week.



We finished the week by acknowledging Mother's Day where each child made a handprint card of a potted plant and a heart salt dough ornament. The week was filled with songs, books and outdoor games.

This week, we will discuss the first signs of spring. We will look at the life cycle of a lady bird and a frog and make a rainbow craft. Children will take part in learning about St. Patrick. We will finish the week by acknowledging Red Nose Day which will be packed with fun activities.

Wednesday will be our Show and Tell day where each child can bring an object from home and tell us all about it in a group.

Polishing Practical Life activity



Improves concentration and develops co-ordination of movement. Indirectly prepares the child for writing.

Oak Class

Last week, we learned all about planting and how to take care of our indoor plants. We focused on the lifecycle of a plant. Also, we carried out two experiments, planting a bean using cotton wool, and watering white flowers with water and food colouring.



It was nice to see how much interest have Oak class children have about plants & flowers. They enjoyed planting sunflower seeds and taking care of their bean plant in the classroom. They also demonstrated good knowledge of how

much water plants need during the week. One of the most popular activities was cleaning leaves using water and cotton wool. They wanted to check if the plants had dust daily.



We talked about Mother's Day and how important are our family to us. In circle time, we shared what is the most we do like to do with our mothers or that someone special and how important they were to us. We read "The family" book too. For Mother's Day activities we went to the art cabin and

we made a lovely card and a flower with dough. Oak class children were so excited to make these crafts. They wanted to say to their someone special 'thank you for always being there and how much they loved them'.

Literacy: letter of the week "p"

Numeracy: identify numbers 1 to 10 and counting 1 to 20.

Nursery

The Nursery children enjoyed a week filled with lots of fun activities.

We continued talking about the people who help us. We learned about the post officers, creating a post office role play. We also learned how to send a letter by creating envelopes and sticking some stamps on them. The children also had an opportunity to learn what bakers do. This was supported by the classified cards of pastries and us having a go at decorating biscuits using icing and sprinkles. The children enjoyed this activity a lot.

We continued our exploration with learning about the farmers and what they grow on their farms. We made our own fruit skewers for snack.

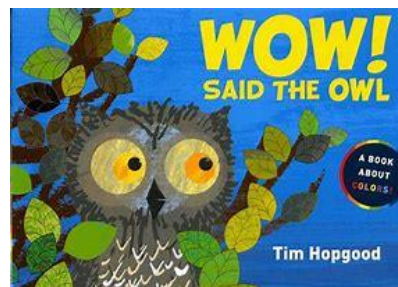
Mother's Day was also celebrated with songs of appreciation to our mothers and creating cards for them. We finished our week with junk modelling when



we also talked about the waste collectors and recycling. We have also planted some water cress seeds so we can see the process of plants growing.

This week, we will be welcoming spring and observing the changes in nature. We are going to talk about what the animals are doing during spring, learn the names of the baby animals. We are also going to look at classified cards of the spring flowers and create a Spring flower collage.

Acorn Nursery Mother's Day Cards



Book of the week

**WOW!
Said the Owl**

**By
Tim Hopgood**

Best wishes, WMS Admin

Important Numbers



To contact the school office dial:

020 8523 2968

Email:

office@walthamstowmontessori.com

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