

W/C Monday 18th October 2021

# Walthamstow Montessori School

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## Newsletter

### Reading Corner

Miss Karen has upcycled a donated piece of furniture to create a wonderful new addition to the Reading Corner in Oak Class. The Reading Corner provides a lovely and comfortable place for the children to enjoy our vast array of books, which Miss Lorna has added to this week.

Some of the other classes have also received new rugs, cushions, and chairs to make these spaces even more inviting for the children.

Last week's Book of the Week was 'The Roll-Away Pumpkin', which the children enjoyed very much.



### Hand, Foot and Mouth

We have a confirmed case of hand, foot and mouth disease at Penrhyn. Please can you look out for any signs of this in your child.

This could display as small red spots around the three areas and your child may feel unwell. Please see signs on the front doors at Penrhyn for more information.

### Upcoming Trips

Oak Class – **Wednesday 3rd November**



### Autumn Bags

Before the half-term, your child will be sent home with one of our 'Autumn Bags'. This is a lovely activity for you and your child to complete over the break and is to be brought back into school when the term begins again in November. Please see the email from Miss Jessica for more details.

### Halloween

On Thursday 21st October, the children and staff will dress up in their Halloween costumes.



There will be lots of spooky Halloween activities going on at school throughout the day, finishing with a Halloween disco in the afternoon.

Nursery will enjoy their Halloween disco in the morning when all the children are there.

**Please note our Autumn Half Term dates, school finishes on Thursday 21st October and resumes on Monday 1st November**

### Mill Grove

We have received a lovely card from Mill Grove expressing their thanks for all our Harvest donations. These will be greatly appreciated by lots of families, for whom Mill Grove provide a lot of support.

## Covid Testing

We are recommending that all children test before returning to WMS after the half-term. Please can parents be reminded to wear face coverings on the school premises, in the courtyard and when approaching the school doors.

## Parents Corner

We have 3 second-hand smocks available. They are in very good condition bar a paint stain and are perfect for a spare. Please let the office know if you would like to purchase one. The cost would be £5 per smock and this money will go towards fundraising.



## Iolo's Birthday Walk

Last week the children celebrated Iolo's birthday with a Birthday Walk. Iolo showed his friends pictures of himself as a baby, at 1, 2 and at his 3rd birthday party blowing candles out on his unicorn cake that his parents had made him.



The children and his teacher sang the Birthday Walk Song while Iolo walked around the sun while holding the globe.



## Art & DT

In Art, the children learned about the French artist Henri Matisse. The Artist lived at the same time as Pablo Picasso and together with him was regarded to have changed the visual arts.

He is mainly known for his colourful paintings.

The children in Children's House used colourful paper to



cut shapes and reuse them for their artwork. The older children took on Matisse approach and used the 'leftover cut-out' for a second artwork.

Oak class have also created a wonderful display of work inspired by Matisse. They created their artwork using the cut-out technique with lots of bright and bold colours.



In D.T. we picked up on the topic 'hibernation'. We chose the hedgehog as our animal. The children had to cut little rectangular strips, fold them and glue them on the hedgehog as spikes. The children also collected leaves and twigs to create the surrounding for their hedgehog; some have crawled inside already, whilst others are still walking over the autumn leaves!



## Class Information

Book of the week;

Little Goose's  
Autumn  
By  
Elli Woollard and  
Briony May Smith



## Children's House

Last week, we spoke about hibernation. Through pictures, discussion and songs, children learned the meaning of hibernation, which animals hibernate and why. We read the story "Don't Hog the Hedge" which spoke about this topic as well as kindness and friendship. The children made hedgehog crafts and learned some interesting facts about this animal. We sang a song and created a hedgehog hotel using a cardboard box as well as lots of leaves, twigs, and grass so that it was very nice and cosy for the hibernating hedgehog.



The children have also continued to enjoy their tennis lessons with Miss Hilary, developing their skills and technique in this sport.



This week, we will talk about birds' migration. Children will find out why certain birds migrate and how they use the sun to navigate to warmer places. We will discuss the dangers that migrating birds face on their long journey.

We will also look at a compass as a human way of navigating and speak about the cardinal directions, focusing on letters 'n', 'w', 's' and 'e' and their meaning. Children will have fun playing a navigating game using their newly learned navigating knowledge.

We will finish the week with spooky Halloween celebrations. Children can dress up in their favourite Halloween costumes and many related activities will take place.

## Kindergarten - Oak Class

Last week the class were introduced to the word 'hibernation'.

We talked about animals that hibernate and what they do to get ready to sleep for the Winter. We enjoyed making the nest for our hedgehog using straw, grass, twigs, and leaves. We named our class hedgehog Henry Rosie and every day the children have been ensuring Henry Rosie is doing OK. We have been doing lots of work around initial sounds in words to encourage the children to hear and then say that letter phonetically. This has been centred around animals that hibernate, so 't' for toad, 'h' for hedgehog, 'b' for bear etc. We also made our own hibernation books to take home with our own colouring of the animals. To extend this activity, we also talked about the front cover of a book, the title, and the author.



Our lovely reading corner was revamped to make the area inviting and interesting for the children. Many children were also involved in making our environment look lovely by flower arranging. This practical life Montessori activity helps children exercise motor skills such as pouring the water in the vase with a funnel, using scissors for cutting the stems of the flowers and inserting the stems into the vase.



For this last week of the half term, we will be looking at the use of a compass and use the directional words North, South, East, and West, talking about how the sun rises in the East and sets in the West. We will finish our day on Thursday with our Halloween disco and children are invited to dress very spooky (and teachers of course). But, of course, anything goes on this non-uniform day!

## Kindergarten - Elm Class

Last week the children in Elm Class were learning about hibernation and animals that hibernate. They built a cave for the animals they knew in the story "Don't Hog the Hedge." The hedgehog, the toad, the bee, the bat, and the dormice will be sleeping all winter in their warm and comfortable shelter, in our classroom.



In addition, children have discovered the art of Henri Matisse and how he created works of art with coloured paper cut-outs. Elm Class practiced their skills with scissors and imitated the snails that Matisse made with squares of paper.



Last week, the children were also introduced to another phonetic sound: 'h'. This time, as well as tracing the letter on sandpaper and in sand using their fingers, the children wrote the letter 'h' on a blackboard with a marker. They also continued to practice the phonetic 'm' sound.

Before the half-term break, the children will learn about migration and how to navigate with a compass. They will also be introduced to the phonetic sound 'c'

## Nursery

Our Nurseries had a busy week last week. We started the week celebrating Mental Health Day. All children enjoyed engaging in a discussion about different emotions and how we feel in certain situations. We discussed what makes us happy, sad, or frustrated. This was followed with art activity and yoga exercise where children practiced breathing exercises and simple yoga postures.

On Tuesday, we focused on Black History Month. We learned about Gareth Morgan who was the inventor of the traffic light. The children enjoyed following instructions in the garden where we played a traffic light movement activity. We also learned about



Elijah McCoy, Dr. Mae Jemison and Lewis Latimer in celebration of Black History Month.

This week we are discussing artist Henri Matisse and children will enjoy creating snail art. We will be discussing Halloween for the rest of the week. Our Halloween party will be on Thursday. All children and staff are looking forward for fun day, wearing our Halloween costumes.

## Best wishes, WMS Admin

Important Numbers



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Walthamstow Montessori and  
Elementary and 'like' us!**