

W/C Monday 1st November 2021

Walthamstow Montessori School

Newsletter

Halloween Party

The children and staff at WMS had so much fun celebrating Halloween on our last day of term. The children participated in lots of fun activities, such as making Halloween pizzas and doing lots of spooky spider arts and crafts! They also enjoyed some Halloween stories and snacks and had lots of fun at the disco in the afternoon. We loved seeing all the children's scary costumes!



Oak Class Trip to Lloyd Park

Wednesday 3rd November

Please ensure you have returned your permission slip and remember to dress your child appropriately for the weather! Wellies and raincoats are recommended.



Christmas Diary Dates



- **Christmas Party – Thursday 16th December – all children are invited on this morning!**
- **Decorate the Christmas Tree – Tuesday 7th December – a lovely WMS tradition!**
- **Christmas Jumper Day – Thursday 9th December**

We break up for the Christmas Holidays on Thursday 16th December at 12.30pm and school resumes on Wednesday 5th January 2021

Black History Month



To celebrate Black History Month, Roman told us all about his grandma, Gee Gee, who is from Jamaica. He shared with Oak Class that his Gee Gee was among the first black teachers, and one of the first black female Deputy Head Teachers in England. Roman also shared with us that she raised one son and four daughters and was very talented at sewing all her daughters' clothes! We really enjoyed celebrating her wonderful achievements with Roman.



We will be leaving promptly so please arrive to school on time!

Policy of the Month

Our 'Safeguarding Policy' has been updated. All parents should have received a copy by email. Policies can be referred to at any time on the school's website.



Parent-Teacher Meetings

Parent meetings will be held on 23rd November for Elm and Nursery classes, and 24th November for Oak Class and Children's House. Timeslot sheets will be going up soon for you to book your preferred space. We will let you know when these will be available.

Montessori Parent Sessions

On Thursday 18th November, Miss Lorna will host the first training session for parents, on 'Montessori for life: how the practical life activities develop key skills for a child'. This will be a wonderful opportunity to find out more about Montessori methodology and what happens inside a Montessori classroom. A wealth of activities will be demonstrated along with ideas for you to do at home to develop your child's skills.

There are still a few spaces available to attend this session at a cost of £10 per person. Please email office@walthamstowmontessori.com if you would like to attend. Please note that we are unable to accommodate any children or babies at this session.



School Fire Exits

Please adhere to the fire exit keep clear signage around the school premises. Please ensure

strollers/buggies are not left parked up over these routes.

Inside the Montessori Classroom...

Part of the Montessori curriculum is to awaken a life-long interest in nature. Having fresh flowers in the classrooms each week provides a perfect opportunity for the children to discuss the flowers, identify them,

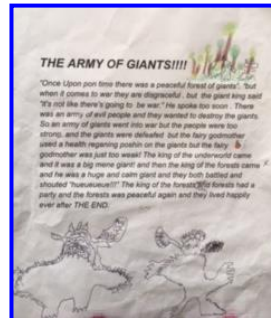
see the process of life and to practice practical skills such as cutting, pouring, and arranging.



Each week, a different child will be the flower monitor for each class. They will bring in some flowers for their class and spend time cutting and arranging them for display in their classroom. This is a lovely practical life activity for the children to engage with as well as a special and proud event for the flower monitor each week.

Another fundamental skill is orientation, which involves gaining an understanding of the cardinal points, North, East, South and West.

In Oak class we have been learning that the sun rises in the east and sets in the west.



Robert's Story

We are so happy to have been sent a wonderful story written by one of the children who used to attend WMS, Robert. Robert was very proud of his work, and his teachers were very

impressed with his ideas! This excellent work demonstrates so well the ways in which his Montessori journey with us has prepared him for independent and engaged learning at a later stage.

Children's House

Before half term, children in the Children's House were learning about birds' migration. They were very interested to know what kind of birds migrate and why as well as the dangers they may face on their long journeys. We started the week by making bird feeders out of orange halves which we filled in



with various seeds. Children chose the spot for our feeders which were hanging from the branches of two trees. Children also enjoyed turning into migrating birds when in the garden and practiced what a bird would do if they found themselves in danger. Children showed a good understanding that they need to stay close to the flock to avoid being attacked by a larger bird.



The Halloween party took place on Thursday. Children had fun doing all sorts of spooky activities that included Halloween yoga, making a potion while listening to

"Funeral March of a Marionette" by Charles Gounod, eating spooky snacks, making a dancing skeleton using a magnet, dancing to various Halloween songs, exploring the Halloween table and talking about their

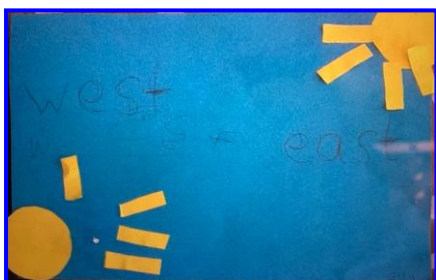


costumes.

This week, we will acknowledge Diwali and Bonfire Night. Children will learn about Diwali: what it is and how it is celebrated. We will have a culture table with items to represent this festival. Children will make Diyas using salt dough and they will decorate them with craft material of their choice. A science experiment using turmeric and lemon juice will also take place and children will have an opportunity to explore the colour changing properties of the turmeric indicator. We will finish the week by talking about Guy Fawkes and Bonfire Night. Children will move their body to make different types of fireworks using the display pictures. They will also use a drip style to create a fireworks painting, which is very popular amongst the children.

Kindergarten - Oak Class

It was lovely to welcome the children back to class today after the half term break. For the last week of term, Oak class did lots of work around cardinal points of a compass.



We explored a compass and how it works and then went on to make our own! We also learnt a song to help us remember the points and I'm sure the children were singing it at home 'North, South, East or West which direction do you like the best'. We completed an activity where a teddy bear makes his way home and the children were able to practice using directional language. The end of the half term finished with some Halloween music which the class very much enjoyed joining in with.

This week, we will continue to talk about how we are feeling each day and are learning our days of the week. We are also doing lots of work around initial sounds in words. This is important for developing readers and writers. When children understand that words are made up of sounds, they are then able to transfer this knowledge to their reading and writing.

For this half term, our topic turns to festivals. This week sees us learning all about Diwali, where we will be making a clay Diya lamp. We will also be learning about Guy Fawkes and his failed attempt to blow up the Houses of Parliament.

Kindergarten - Elm Class

The week before half term was a fun week for children in Elm class. They learned how to use a compass and the four cardinal points: North, South, East, and West. They also made their own compass using paper plates.

We also talked about the parts of the flower, we had a look into real flowers and drawings to better understand why each part is important and necessary. After children made flowers with the stamp of their hands and a stick.

For literacy we reviewed the past phonetic sounds we learned: a, s, m, h, t, and we introduced the phonetic sound 'c'. In Numeracy children traced numbers from 0 to 3 in sand with their fingers and we counted until 10.



On the last day, the children celebrated Halloween by making spooky arts and crafts, such as pumpkins, ghosts, and spiders using different materials such as paint, chalk, or cotton, and with different



techniques such as painting, gluing, and stamping.

This week children will carve pumpkins and will learn about different festivals like Diwali. This week we will also continue with the phonetic sound 'c'.

Nursery

Before half-term, Nursery focused on different emotions and how we feel in certain situations. All the children enjoyed discussing how they feel, and tried different facial expressions, such as scared, happy, surprised, and excited.

Nursery also enjoyed learning all about Halloween and learning about traditions and symbols of this spooky celebration. We also spoke about skeletons, which provided us with a great opportunity to learn the names of various bones in our bodies through song. We ended the week by making spider pizzas. All children were very excited while preparing pizza dough and decorating it with tomatoes, cheese, peppers, and olives to make the pizzas look like spiders!

We ended our fun week by having party where we listened to our favourite songs and played musical chairs wearing our spooky Halloween costumes.

This week, we will be carving our pumpkins and learning more about Diwali and how it is celebrated along with Guy Fawkes. This will provide us with many art and craft ideas!

Best wishes, WMS Admin

Important Numbers



To contact the school office dial:

020 8523 2968

Email:

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