

W/C Monday 31st January 2022

# Walthamstow Montessori School

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## Newsletter

### Chinese New Year

The children had so much fun on Wednesday doing cookery with Mr Oscar. They enjoyed preparing the ingredients used to make vegetable noodles in celebration of Chinese New Year. The children love participating in practical life activities such as this, especially when it is part of a bigger annual celebration.



The Big Garden Birdwatch also sparked lots of conversation and the children were asked various questions to expand their knowledge on birds, for example, what they eat and where they live!



We will also be celebrating Chinese New Year as it falls on **Tuesday 1st February**. Children will be invited to school wearing red and will be taking part in lots of fun activities to celebrate the year of the Tiger!

***We break up for the February half term on Friday 11th February 2022 and school will resume on Monday 21st February 2022.***

### Art & D.T.

The children in the Children's House have been working together to create a display board of the human body. Some children coloured in the background, some chose to colour in the organs, and some the letters. The children helped to laminate the different parts of the body and label them, to create an interactive body for the children to work with. Children can physically take the labels and organs off the board and practice positioning them in the correct place on the body.



### RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch

Last week, children across the school enjoyed preparing for the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch. The children threaded pieces of circle-shaped cereal on to pipe-cleaners to create bird feeders. With some help from the teachers, they used pieces of string to hang the bird feeders on the trees in our garden. The children had lots of fun watching the birds that these feeders attracted to the garden, using a check list to identify the different types of bird that they could see.



### ASC Invoices

Payments for the latest extended sessions (i.e., Early Risers, Lunch Club and Tea Timers) were due last Friday 28th January. Please ensure these have been paid to avoid incurring a late payment fee.

## Cooper's Visit to WMS

Cooper loved meeting all the children on Wednesday. They were ever so good at giving Cooper some commands and rewarding him with treats. He was very well behaved, and the children loved helping Miss Lorna to take care of him throughout the day!



## Inside a Montessori Classroom...

The children in our Children's House work to develop their independence in their classroom environment.

Here you can see two children working hard to respect and care for their classroom whilst also learning important skills and refining the gross motor skills and developing their independence and coordination.



After children have their snack, they wash up anything that they have used to leave the area clean and ready for the next person.



If any spills are made in a classroom, a child is shown how to simply draw a chalk circle around the area and then sweep any bits into the dustpan.

Most importantly, the children love and enjoy such tasks.

## Children's House Hot Chocolate

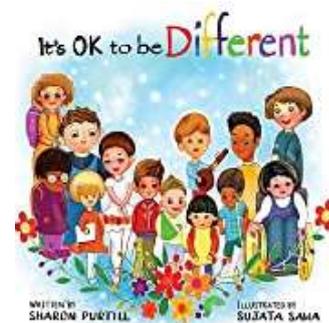


At the Children's House, we will be beginning each of our 'Out and About' sessions with hot chocolate. Each child will bring in their own mug that they have chosen, to enjoy a cup of warm hot chocolate in the garden. This will accompany a circle time and be a lovely group activity for the children to look forward to each week. Don't forget to return your permission slips and bring your mug to school!

## Class Information

Book of the week:

*It's OK to be Different*  
by  
Sharon Purtill



## Reading Corners

A reading corner is a really important place within a classroom. It provides a place for a child to sit and take enjoyment in reading books as well as a place of calmness and well-being.

Each reading corner is prepared individually by the class teachers. These areas are attractive, inviting, and help encourage a child to want to sit and read for a while. Of course, crucially it should also help to promote a lifelong love of books and reading. In just over a month, it will be World Book Day and we will be doing many activities to do with reading!

Books in our reading corners are chosen carefully so that they are informative, exciting, reflective of our community and age appropriate. They should also have beautiful, memorable, meaningful text.

Our reading corners contain appropriate wall displays and written prompts to reinforce the development of reading skills. They also have plants, attractive furnishings, and plenty of natural light. In short, everything you would want if you were to choose somewhere to sit and read.



Our children at WMS love their reading corners!

## Children's House

The Children's House was very busy with activities last week. The children enjoyed learning and reading stories about Chinese New Year. They also had lots of fun

cooking noodles with Chef Oscar, and even more joy eating them!

We also read stories and the children discussed their feelings. The children talked about what makes them feel happy, sad, scared, and which facial and body expressions they have. For example, smiling when they are happy or lowering their head when they are embarrassed.

The children applied the work they have been doing in maths on measurements to their 'Out and About' session. For example, they measured distance in the garden using their feet and hands!



In Science, we discovered how the heart organ works and why it is necessary in our body. To understand better how the heart pumps the blood in and out we made an experiment with a pot, one balloon, coloured water, and straws. Children experienced how the "blood" comes out when the heart pumps.

This week, the children will be continuing their discussion of emotions and we will also be celebrating Chinese New Year.

## Kindergarten - Oak Class

Another busy and fun week in Oak class. We started the week by talking about symmetry. Symmetry is a fundamental part of geometry, nature, and shapes. It helps the children create patterns that help them organise their world conceptually. We see symmetry every day without often realising it!



On Tuesday, we talked about Burns night and Robert Burns, the writer of Auld Lang Syne. We practiced our weaving skills to represent the tartan of Scotland and extended our learning by locating Scotland on the puzzle map.

Chef Oscar visited us on Wednesday where we sampled some rice noodles and vegetables which were prepared by the children in the



class. Cooper, Miss Lorna's dog, also visited and the children were very happy to see him.

For our 'out and about' session this week we linked it to the RSPB Birdwatch and made bird feeders for our garden. The children enjoyed trying out binoculars and we used our senses to see if we could hear if any birds were near.



Thank you to those that have sent in family photos. We will be looking at them over the next two weeks so that the children can talk to the class individually about their family. It is not too late to send in family photos!

This week we will be exploring our senses. We will also celebrate Chinese New Year on Tuesday so please remember to wear red! Our letter of the week will be 'y.' The children are doing really well with beginning sounds of words so please continue to practise this at home.

## Kindergarten - Elm Class

Another week has passed with more lovely activities for the Elm Class. January will end soon, and we would like to thank our flower monitors Eloise and Sasha for bringing flowers for our class this month. The flowers provide a wonderful opportunity to show children how to cut the stems to fit vases of different sizes, pour water for the flowers and where to place them to make our environment look beautiful. We have also shown how to take care of plants in the classroom and clean their leaves of dust using cotton wool balls and water.



Our week started with the observation of what happens with objects if they are placed in front of a mirror. We have seen a square, a triangle and a circle folded in two along a line, with a mirror placed upon the line. The children were able to observe the reflection in the mirror creating symmetry.

On Tuesday we celebrated Burns Night, listened to Scottish bagpipes, and watched a beautiful Scottish dance. We also looked at traditional Scottish knots and the children enjoyed painting this pattern. Patterns were a focus last week, and we continued the week making more patterns on paper using Lego!

On Wednesday, the children had great fun helping Mr. Oscar to prepare and cook noodles, trying their best using the chopsticks. The children also very much enjoyed a visit from Cooper, Miss Lorna's dog!

This week, we will talk about our 5 senses, and we will celebrate Chinese New Year.

## Nursery

The nursery children had a great week of exploration and learning. We talked about our appearances and what makes everybody different. We were using descriptive language to explain what we look like and what we wear. We tried to draw ourselves by description. We talked about the colour of our skin, and we read the book in rhymes "The skin I live in" which the children enjoyed a lot. We continued our topic "All About Me" with discussion of our near and far families. The children enjoyed talking about and sharing pictures of their family members and we created a family tree collage.



Throughout this week we are going to celebrate Chinese New Year. The children will be able to explore our cultural table with items and souvenirs from China. We are going to look at classified cards and books about the Chinese zodiac, as well as trying to eat noodles with chopsticks! We will also extend our learning through art, as we are going to create lanterns and paper plate tigers.



## Best wishes, WMS Admin

Important Numbers



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