

W/C Monday 7th February 2022

Walthamstow Montessori School

Newsletter

Chinese New Year

The children had a wonderful time celebrating Chinese New Year last Tuesday and throughout the week. We were delighted that some children brought in some items to share with their friends in celebration of Chinese New Year. We'd like to say a huge thank you to Eloise who brought in some 'lai see' packets for her friends in Elm Class, and to Emmy who brought in lots of beautiful items including decorations and traditional clothing to show to her friends in Seedlings Class. The children were able to learn so much about Chinese New Year and this also compliments our 'All About Me' topic as children had the opportunity to discuss their family background.



We wish you all a very happy and restful half-term break. Please check for any lost property before we break up for the half-term!

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

Makaton Friendly!

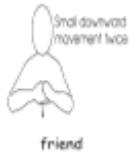
Makaton is a language programme (incorporating a lot of British Sign Language signs) and is used widely throughout the world. It was designed to provide functional communication and encourage and develop language and literacy skills through the combined use of signs and symbols with speech. It enables children with learning and or communication difficulties to interact with others.



WMS will be gradually incorporating its use further in the classroom. The benefits of its use will

support basic communication, help understanding, develop language skills, facilitate social interaction, help build relationships, increase equal opportunities, and develops pre-reading and pre-writing skills towards literacy for all at this young age.

Signs help in learning words.



Indeed, it is something our teachers are doing quite naturally in their classrooms, and I am sure you are doing at home too, especially through songs and rhyme - perhaps with Mr Tumble on CBeebies!!

There is a neurological link between areas of the brain where gesture and speech develop so our practice will further support and develop communication and language between us all here at WMS.

Gestures develop much earlier than speech! Thus reducing frustration and supporting early communication.

Miss Wendy has been busy this term, developing further her understanding of Makaton by attending weekly training sessions and will be disseminating Makaton training to all staff to increase further their vocabulary and in turn with the children. Each week the newsletter will have a 'sign of the week' so you can grow your Makaton too!

Sign of the week at WMS!



Tap twice your 3 middle fingers on your left palm twice!

Mummy/Mother

Visit makaton.org for further background and information on this great skill

Meet the Teacher



We are very happy to have recently welcomed Miss Francoise to the WMS teaching Team. Francoise is a qualified Montessori teacher and has been getting

to know all the children as she settles, and she looks forward to meeting you all too soon.

We are expanding the WMS team and will be communication with you in due course any changes in the classroom.

Many of you will know that Miss Libera (Seedling class teacher) is expecting her first child. As you will notice from her 'bump' it won't be long before she starts her maternity leave. We will confirm that with you too as I am sure many of you will want to wish her lots of love and happiness.



Art & D.T.

This week, we continued our work on our Artist of the term, Vincent van Gogh. Firstly, we looked at a variety of his paintings and talked again about the techniques he uses in his paintings. Instead of working with paint and a paintbrush, we reproduced his famous *Sunflowers* painting using coloured tissue paper. The idea was to try and use little pieces of paper to replicate van Gogh's style of painting.



Easter Holiday Club



Booking forms were sent this morning for our Easter Holiday Club 2022. We propose that the club will run from the 4th – 8th April 2022, depending on interest. Please email the office if you did not receive a booking form. Hard copies are also available at the school doors.

Please return your booking form by 3pm this Wednesday 9th February 2022.

Pancake Day



We will be celebrating Pancake Day on Tuesday 22nd February by eating pancakes! The children will be taking part by preparing their topping by squeezing oranges and lemons and slicing bananas.

The children will be able to practice their 'pancake tossing' skills too! There will be dairy and gluten free pancakes for those with allergies.

Composer of the Week

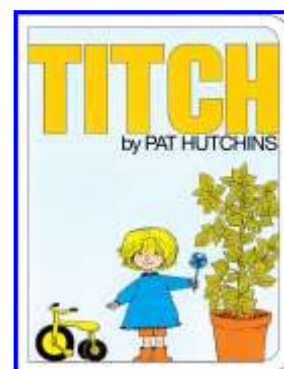


Our composer of the week is Franz Schubert (1797-1828). By the time he died at the age of 31, Schubert had written over 600 songs, 9 symphonies and over 100 piano pieces. Classical music helps to boost the children's concentration and improve their listening skills.

Class Information

Book of the week:

Titch
by Pat Hutchins



Parents Corner

Lunar New Year and Bird Watching at Lloyd Park on Tuesday 15th Feb 12pm-3pm. This is a free event for families, book via Eventbrite.



Children's House

It has been another exciting week in the Children's House. We have continued our work with the 5 senses: sight, smell, hearing, touch, and taste. The children played lots of games and activities to test our senses which provoked lots of discussion. We did a treasure hunt to sharpen our sight in our Out and About session, and we played the "Who's knocking at my door?" game to recognise our friends' voices using our sense of hearing! The children also played "What's in my bag?" to describe and guess objects with different textures to talk about the sense of 'touch'.

We also experienced with our smell and taste smelling different food items like vinegar, coffee or orange and tasting others such as salt, sugar or orange juice. Children talked about how good or bad the smell or taste was, their favourite smell or flavour, etc.



The children celebrated Chinese New Year and discussed the Chinese calendar as well as the customs and culture in China. We expanded our learning by learning to locate Asia and China on the Earth Globe.

This week, we are going to talk about our feelings and about Saint Valentine's Day. In Science, children will learn about the respiratory system.

Kindergarten - Oak Class



It has been a fascinating week of exploring our senses in Oak class. We used our class circle time to talk each day about each of our senses and what they are used for. The children really enjoyed learning a song about the senses.

We celebrated Chinese New Year by making tiger masks and I know the children enjoyed scaring you all with them! We read our book of the week 'It's good to be different' many times and the children could all recognise how we are all different.



Thank you to Erin for bringing some beautiful daffodils in last week - they certainly brightened up our classroom.

For our Out and About session, we enjoyed a senses scavenger hunt. The children were asked to collect something smooth or something that was small. We looked at the clouds to see if we could see any shapes and how the shapes changed when the wind blew. We finished the week with a presentation of the threading activity which develops hand eye-coordination together with fine motor skills in preparation for writing.

For our last week of the half term, we will be looking at our emotions and reading the book *The Monster of Colours*. We will touch on the Queen's celebration of her Platinum Jubilee, but we will cover this in more detail next term. Our letter of the week will be 'q' for Queen! Your child will also be coming home with a booklet that they have made titled 'all about me' that we have been working on this term. I hope you enjoy reading it! Wishing you all a restful break.

Kindergarten - Elm Class

Last week the children of Elm class were learning about the importance of our senses and to which parts of the body they are connected to. On Tuesday, we



celebrated Chinese New Year by making beautiful lanterns, creating a tiger mask and a dragon. We also listened to stories about the animals in the Chinese calendar and we enjoyed listening to the story about the 'lai see' packets (Chinese red packets). We loved the ones we received from our friend, Eloise! We would like to thank her and wish everybody at WMS a very happy Chinese New Year.



On Wednesday in our 'Out and About' session we had great fun playing games that involved our senses. We played 'Who is knocking at the door?' and 'I spy' games and the children had a great time trying to identify each of their friends' voices!

At the end of the week, we discussed our sense of smell and taste, and the children were very attentive and curious to taste salty, sour and sweet items of food and to smell different spices. The children were able to use their stereognostic sense by feeling various objects in a bag without being able to see them.

This week we will be discussing our emotions and feelings, and we will celebrate St. Valentine's Day.

Nursery

We really enjoyed celebrating Chinese New Year last week. We started the week looking at the continent globe and remembering all the continents of the world. We looked at where China is on the map and discussed this exciting festival and its traditions.



The children enriched their vocabulary by learning new words and listening skills when following instructions. We enjoyed making Chinese lanterns, where children looked at Chinese letters and decorated them with paint and glitter. We also learned that this year we are celebrating "Year of Tiger", making tigers, dragon collages and learning the meaning of red envelopes.

This week, we will be focusing on feelings. We will be creating a feelings book and discussing different emotions. This will help children to understand how to deal with how they feel in different situations. Our

letter of the week is "F" for 'feelings', and we will be looking at the book 'The Coloured Monster.'

Best wishes, WMS Admin

Important Numbers



**To contact the school office dial:
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Facebook and Instagram pages!**