



W/C Monday 25th April 2022

# Walthamstow Montessori School

## Newsletter



**Welcome back** to our summer term 2022. Please join us in giving a very warm welcome to our new families at WMS; we hope you are all settling in wonderfully. We have a very busy term ahead with lots of exciting things to look forward to.

Class 'welcome back' letters have been sent so do let the office know if you haven't received one. These are full of details of plans for the term so do take the time to read them.

**Please be reminded of new collection times:**

### Lower School

Seedlings: 9.30am – 2.50pm (nursery door)

Acorn: 9.30am – 2.50pm

Sycamore: 9.25am – 3pm

Elm: 9.20am – 3.05pm

Oak: 9.15am – 3pm (nursery door)

### Children's House

9.30am – 3pm

**Please note we break for half term on Friday 27th May and term resumes on Monday 6th June 2022.**

## Key Dates

### School Photographs

**Lower School: 4th May**

**Upper School: 5th May**

Your child must be wearing their school uniform and so if you do not have a smock, please contact the office to purchase a new one. A letter with full information was sent last week so please contact the office if you did not receive this.



## Happy 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday WMS!

Please join us in wishing WMS the happiest of

birthdays! Miss Lorna founded the school 21 years ago on Saturday, and how very lucky are we all to be part of such a wonderful school today.



The children have all enjoyed getting creative with ways to say, 'Happy Birthday' and these will make lasting treasured memories on the walls at WMS!

We'd like to thank Miss Lorna for all her love and hard work over all these years and for the many ways she has made a difference to the lives of so many families and little ones. Happy 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday WMS!

## Baby News!

Congratulations to Miss Libera and her family who welcomed a lovely baby boy during the Easter holidays. Baby Alexander arrived weighing 7.6lbs. All are doing well, and we hope to be able to share some photos with you soon.



## Earth Day – Art and D.T.

On Friday the children celebrated Earth Day. This special day provides a

wonderful opportunity for bringing focus to our environment and how to care for it. "Invest in Our Planet" is this year's theme for Earth Day. We began this project by discussing recycling. Why is it good for our Earth to recycle? What can be recycled? What

happens to recycled materials? Children in our Children's House identified and named the different continents on Earth. The children quickly noticed that the Earth is mostly covered in blue, and they learned that this is water.



We made our own Earth using soil for the land to create each continent on Earth. Each child added a handprint around the Earth to emphasise the necessity of caring for our planet. This sensorial artwork was a lovely ending to our week.

## Watch your speed



This is a polite reminder that if you are driving to school and dropping off your children, to drive slowly and carefully and legally when parking near the school.

Cars should be parked in designated bays and not dangerously in front of the school gates or in front of the school garages.

It has been observed (even when there are available and safer parking bays available) that cars have pulled up very sharply in front of the school gates where children are entering and leaving. Please share this with family members or carers of your child.

## Gardening and Sensory Garden

At both our lower and upper schools, we are creating sensory gardens for the children to explore as we spend more time outdoors



in the sunshine. These comprise various herbs and plants such as rosemary, strawberries, and parsley, for the children to nurture, smell, touch and even taste over the coming months. This will provide a lovely sensory experience for the children as well as a wonderful opportunity for learning practical

life skills. The children will, with guidance, plant the herbs and be taking care of them throughout the term. We look forward to enjoying these areas very soon!

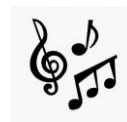
If you have any spare herbs, then please let us know if you are able to donate to us.

## Parent Corner

The LBWF Early Help Team are running a free drop-in service starting on 1st April 2022. They offer a wide range of services including parenting support, SEND services and more. Please see online or the poster in the noticeboard for further details.



## Composer of the Week

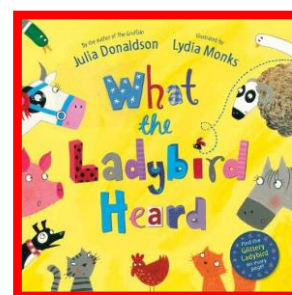


Listening to classical music has many benefits from helping boost your confidence to improving your memory! Our composer of the week at WMS is Claude Debussy, who was a French composer who lived from 1862-1918. Debussy was one of the most influential composers of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Debussy was born into a poor family in France in 1862, his obvious gift at the piano sent him to Paris Conservatory at the age of 11.

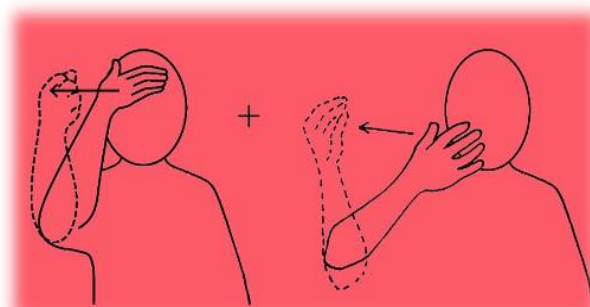
## Class Information

Book of the week:

*What the Ladybird Heard*  
by  
Julia Donaldson



*Makaton Sign of the week at WMS!*  
*'Summer'*





**Draw your hand across your forehead and then your mouth (hot season)**

**Visit [makaton.org](http://makaton.org) for further background and information on this great skill**

## Birthday Walk Celebrations

We would like to wish Maisie a very happy birthday! The children had lots of fun celebrating Maisie's birthday with one of our WMS Birthday Walks.



At Walthamstow Montessori School, we like to celebrate birthdays in a very special way which allows the children to have a greater understanding of the passage of time.

If your child is celebrating a birthday, please let your child's teacher know so that we can arrange one of our birthday walk celebrations. Please see our website for full details.

## Children's House

Last week, children in the Children's House began our 'life cycles' topic by learning about the life cycle of a bean. The children took part in an experiment to learn about the growth of plants. In our 'Out and About' session each child planted a little bean and will take care of it over the coming weeks. Children will be observing and recording how their plants are growing, and discussing the different parts of the plants, what they need to grow up, etc.



In art children also made a big Earth display with soil and paint!

We also talked about Earth Day and the importance of taking care of our environment. Children discussed what it means to recycle and why it is so important. The children took part in various activities about recycling such as sorting some items and place them inside the correct

Later in the week, the children read stories about St George and the dragon in celebration of St George's Day on Saturday. They had fun designing their own dragons and naming them.

We enjoyed celebrating Maisie's 4th birthday, where all the children enjoyed singing the birthday walk song.

This week, the children will continue to observe their plants and the children will be introduced to photosynthesis. We will also learn about the life cycle of a ladybird.

## Kindergarten - Oak Class

The children were excited to be back at school and enjoyed sharing their Easter holiday activities. Our topic for the term is 'life cycles'. Last week we were looking at the life cycle of a broad bean. The children were presented with a sequencing activity showing the life cycle. Being able to observe, recall and sequence events is an important life skill. In sequencing, we learn about patterns in relationships, and we learn to understand the order of things.



Our 'out and about' session saw us planting beans which we will keep in class and observe the changes over time. We talked about how plants are living things and what they need to survive.

We extended our learning by incorporating the care of indoor plants. The cleaning of leaves is a practical life activity within the Montessori work cycle. In this activity, the child carefully pours a small amount of water into a small bowl and then uses cotton wool to wipe the dust lightly and gently from the house plant leaves.

We also carried out an experiment around how plants drink water. White carnation flowers were placed in 3 coloured



waters. The fourth flower was left in a vase with clear water as our control point. As the flower



takes in water the edges of the petals start to change colour.

On Friday, we talked about Earth Day and the importance of taking care of our environment. We made our own earth using paper plates and green and blue tissue paper to represent the land and the water. This week we will be looking at the life cycle of a ladybird with some lovely craft activities planned.

## Kindergarten - Elm Class

Welcome back to lovely children of Elm class. I hope you had a wonderful holiday and a lovely Easter with your family and friends.

We began our summer term with calmness and eagerness to work with our Montessori materials. The children worked extremely well with materials from the Practical Life area that help develop concentration and coordination of movement, as well as the Sensorial area with materials to help refine sensory perception. We've examined the globe, our world and looked at different continents on the continents globe and puzzle maps.



The first lesson of the week was about the life cycle of a bean plant, and we've continued to observe the bean plants that we planted two months ago. We remembered how we

saw the growth of the roots, the first leaves and now flowers and even a tiny bean stalk that keeps growing! We've learned about the importance of soil, water and light that support the life of a plant and observed what happens when a plant doesn't receive water.

On Wednesday, we talked about hedgehogs and each of the children made one with potatoes, sticks and pipe cleaners. We even collected some leaves from the garden to create a comfortable bed.



We finished the week learning how to check when the plants need watering and how to water them, ensuring we use the correct amount of water.

This week we will talk about the life cycle of a ladybird and our book of the week is 'What the Ladybird Heard'.

## Nursery

The nursery children were happy and excited to be back after the Easter break. They were eager to get back to their favourite materials during the Montessori work cycle and interact with their peers.



Last week, we started to explore our summer term topic "Lifecycles of plants, insects and animals".

We talked about seeds and plants, learning what they need to grow and

how we can take care of them, such as by watering them and cleaning their leaves. Such activities are lovely ways of expanding the children's practical life skills as well as nurturing a desire to care for and take pride in a beautiful environment.

We are going to follow the lifecycle of a bean through a science experiment, where we will place a bean seed in a container that has wet cotton laid at the bottom. We read the topical books of "Jack and the Beanstalk" and "The Tiny Seed", which the children very much enjoyed.



This week, we are going to continue our topic through learning about the life cycle of a lady bird, supported with lots of lovely art activities.

**Best wishes, WMS Admin**

Important Numbers



To contact the school office dial:  
**020 8523 2968**

**Email:**

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**Please also like and follow our  
Facebook and Instagram pages!**