

W/C Monday 13th June 2022

Walthamstow Montessori School

Newsletter

Inside the Montessori Classroom...

Here is a lovely photograph of a child carefully working with the Montessori number cards and counters last week. This activity helps to bring together knowledge already gained from experience with quantities and written symbols 1-10.



Initially, a child will have been introduced to the names of the quantities 1-10 with the Montessori number rods, which provide a fixed quantity. Then, the numerals are introduced with the sandpaper numerals which give a tactile impression of the numeral in association with the name and helps to reinforce the way it's written.

In the next activities both quantities and symbols are brought together. Firstly, with fixed quantities and loose (i.e. unsequenced) symbols, and then with loose quantities which a child creates themselves but with the symbols sequenced for the child.

In this exercise however, both the quantities and symbols are loose. It provides a greater challenge as a child is required to build up and order the numerals as well as the correct quantity. It also introduces the concepts of odd and even through the positioning of the counters.

The control of error in this exercise is that there are only 55 counters to complete the exercise correctly. Hence, if a child makes a mistake, they will see that they have too many or too few counters to complete it.



Excellent concentration and focus!

Diary Dates

- **Art Week w/c 20th June**
- **Sports Day – Friday 8th July**

Art Week

We are very excited for our Art Focus Week, which will take place during the week commencing 20th June 2022. There is lots to look forward to during this week, beginning with an exciting Art Workshop led by a parent. We will be looking largely at art using natural materials and in the world around us, as well as homing in on some famous artists such as William Morris where children will be creating their own continuation prints.

We need... twigs, leaves, feathers, etc. As many as you can collect and bring to school would be greatly appreciated!



Art & D.T.

This week, one of our Art activities was to create an apple, complementing our topic this week of an apple's life cycle! The children cut out the small red squares

independently and amalgamated them on to the paper plate to create the red apple. The children identified each part of the apple as they created them, and even included a cheeky caterpillar who wanted a bite, too.





Sun Hats and Lotion

We are looking forward to these warmer months where the children will be taking their learning outside whenever possible. Please ensure your child has a named sun hat and that sun lotion is applied before school. We will make sure that the children are drinking plenty of water to keep them hydrated and their school smocks will protect them.

Parents Corner

Do you think the crossing at the Lloyd Park exit onto Brettenham Road could be a lot safer? Tell the Council by signing this petition set up by parent, Angela.

<https://chnng.it/XgbWZQ2CVb>



Chingford Fire Station Open Day

<https://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/events/chingford-fire-station-open-day?fbclid=IwAR2rBLCG68vQqvlaTeJ-z0Wv3DW-50bCamjXfYXBoknAmcMftsII5X7KRlI&fs=e&s=cI>

Henry Buddies

Henry's 'Buddies' programme provides parents with somebody to talk to if you need a listening ear. If this would be of help to you, you can self-refer using the link below.

[Registration Form \(google.com\)](#)

All About My Child

Below is a link to a document that will be useful for those children who are transitioning to Primary School in September. This has been provided by the borough for parents to complete and give directly to the new school, to support the settling process.

[All About My Child.docx \(live.com\)](#)

ASC Invoices

Invoices for after-school club sessions attended during the 4-week period commencing 9th May 2022 have been issued.

Please make payment by **3pm this Friday 17th June** to avoid incurring a £10 late payment fee.

Autumn Term Invoices

Invoices for the Autumn 2022 term will be issued from Friday 1st July.

The first 50% instalment will be due on Friday 8th July and the second on Friday 2nd September.

Sign of the week at WMS!

'Spider'



Create a claw with your hand, wriggle your fingers and draw hand downwards.

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

Sports Day

Our annual Sports Day will take place this year on **Friday 8th July**. School will be offsite on this day as we will all be at the Waltham Forest Feel Good centre, using their track facilities. We look forward to seeing you all there with your children. The day will finish with our lovely Teddy Bear's Picnic.

Grandparents and relatives welcome too!

Chicken Pox

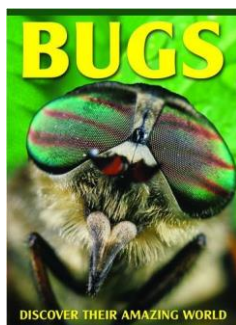
We have been notified of several confirmed cases of Chicken Pox at our Penrhyn site. Chickenpox is common and mostly affects children. It starts with red spots, that can appear anywhere on the body. Chicken pox is contagious until all the sores have crusted over which normally takes between 7-10 days, at which point your child can return to school.



Class Information

Book of the week:

Bugs
by
Miles Kelly



Children's House

It was a lovely week in the Children's House last week, and the children enjoyed learning about the life cycle of an apple tree. The children successfully identified various parts of an apple, such as the seeds, the skin, and the core. We discussed how from the seeds an apple tree grows, and so the cycle continues.

In our 'Out and About' session we took our learning outdoors and had an apple tasting session. The children participated in a discussion surrounding the differences in size, colour, texture and taste (i.e. sweet or sour), and tried to guess from where each type of apple came from. Each child then chose their favourite type of apple, and for most of us this was the Pink Lady! We also talked about different ways to eat or cook apples, and children gave examples such as apple juice or apple pie. The children enjoyed extending their learning with a maths activity whereby they were required to match the quantity of apples to the correct numeral card. In art, we used apples as an art tool whereby we used them to create stamps, and we also made our own apple with a very hungry caterpillar.

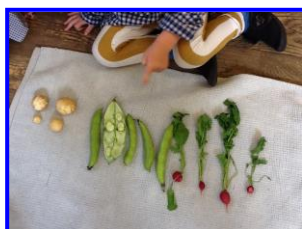
This week we will be learning about the life cycle of a spider. Our letter of the week will be 's'.

Kindergarten - Oak Class

Last week in Oak Class we learned about the life cycle of an apple tree. We have incorporated learning around which fruit and vegetables are grown underground and which overground.



Thank you very much to Kasimir, who supported this learning by bringing in his homegrown



vegetables of potatoes, radishes, and broad beans. The class enjoyed the sensorial aspect of each vegetable where we had discussions around how they feel, sizing and colour.

The class are all experts at identifying that plants, trees, and flowers all need water soil and sun to grow. Each child had the opportunity to show their understanding of the life cycle of an apple tree by sequencing the stages from seed to sapling to tree and then apple tree. The most enjoyable activity this week was our apple tasting where the class were able to understand that different varieties of apple all look very different in colour. We extended our learning by locating on the puzzle map where the apples were grown (South Africa and New Zealand). The children, with guidance, were then able to cut their own slices ready for snack.



For our 'out and about' session we did leaf rubbing and learnt the words 'vein' and 'stalk'. The week finished off by us using our mathematical skill with hole punched paper apples to count the number of holes the caterpillar had munched its way through. We used pipe cleaners as caterpillars and using our

fine motor skill were able to thread and count the number of holes.

This week we will be the life cycle of a spider. The letter of the week will be 's'

Kindergarten - Elm Class

Last week, the children of Elm class were introduced to the life cycle of an apple tree. We remembered that the life cycle begins



with a falling seed that lands on the soil and in order for the plant to grow into a tiny plant it needs water and light. Then, as time passes, the plant grows and grows into a tree. It takes several years for the apple to grow. Blossoms appear in spring, will be pollinated by insects and birds it then drops off and an apple will begin to grow in its place. Once ripe, the apple can be picked and eaten; we identified that this usually happens in the autumn season. We have also looked at how the trees change over the period of one year, that is from blossoms in spring, to green leaves in summer and how their colour changes in autumn and the loss of leaves in winter for certain categories of trees.



For our 'out and about' session, we gathered different types of leaves and we explored different patterns by placing leaves under a sheet of paper and using a colorful crayon to rub over the paper. The children observed the pattern that this created

with great interest.

We finished the week with the tasting of different types of apples. Elm class enjoyed this experience, particularly the fact that they had the chance to cut their own apple slices with some support from adults. Some of us preferred sweeter apples others simply loved the sour apples! The final activity we enjoyed was the making of our own "munching apples" with the help of pipe cleaners which we have placed them through the holes made by a worm through the apples. This was a great activity for refining fine motor skills as the children successfully threaded the pipe cleaner through the holes to show where the caterpillar had munched!

This week we will have a look at the life cycle of a spider. Our letter of the week will be 's'.

Sycamore Class

Sycamore Class were busy learning about the lifecycle of an apple tree throughout the last week. To aid the children's understanding of each stage in the cycle, we used physicality. For example, we pretended to be a seed in the ground that started to grow with the help of the rain and sun. Over a long period of time, it finally became a tree! We related this to our apple tree in the garden and explored the roots, trunk, branches, leaves and stem. This was supported by an apple song called

"Once a little apple seed". We also looked at what happened to an apple tree during each season and how the leaves changes during autumn, winter, spring, and summer. We could spot a few apples on our tree although still quite small and certainly not ready to be eaten. However, we had a class picnic and explored the different types of apples such as Gala apple, Braeburn and Golden delicious apples to name a few. We talked about where they come from and used the globe to identify what part of the world that is. We practiced our fine and gross motor skills by cutting them carefully with the support of our teachers. We identified differences between the apples such as taste (i.e. sweet or sour) as well as colour. The children enjoyed tasting all the apples and even requested for more, as they told us they were really "yummy"!



In addition, we participated in a leaf rubbing activity. The leaf was placed underneath a white paper, and we used the side of our wax crayons to rub over the top, observing the lovely pattern it created. The children demonstrated excellent concentration skills and were very engrossed in this activity. We observed the veins of each leaf on our paper and compared this with others as some were different in colour, shape, and pattern.



Furthermore, we created "apple munching" cards. We pretended the pipe cleaners were our caterpillars and they munched through the apples creating holes using whole puncher. This activity further helps our concentration skills, fine and gross motor skills as well as hand-eye coordination.

This week, we will continue to work with the Montessori materials alongside learning about the lifecycle of a spider. We will learn the body parts of a spider, creating a spider web and few other activities around spiders. Our phonic sound for this week will be "s" in spider.

Nursery – Acorn and Seedlings

Our nursery classes enjoyed a week filled with fun activities last week. The children were very interested in learning of the life cycle of an apple tree and loved singing a couple of new songs: "Apple tree" and "I'm a little seed" and learning the actions to them. Using these songs and actions supported their learning by making the stages of the life cycle more memorable for the children.

The children were able to learn and then identify for themselves the various parts of an apple tree by matching puzzle pieces to classified cards. We used a wax-rubbing technique with crayons to discover the patterns created by various apple leaves.

Children also enjoyed the sensory experience of apple-tasting. We tried 5 different types of apple and discussed which were our favourites and why. The children were able to identify and discuss differences between the apples such as their colour, texture and taste.



We also supported our learning with a threading activity. With the support of our teachers, the children were required to use a hole punch to create holes in an apple template, and then thread a pipe cleaner through

as if it were a caterpillar. This was really great for practising hand-eye coordination and motor skills. We also extended our learning into numeracy, whereby the children were counting the number of holes in each apple and matching this to the correct Montessori sandpaper numeral.



This week we are going to learn about the life cycle of a spider through a variety of songs and fun themed activities.

Best wishes, WMS Admin

Important Numbers



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