

W/C Monday 12th September 2022

Walthamstow Montessori School

Newsletter



We are all feeling such great sadness at the passing of Her Majesty the Queen.

An inspiring and incredible monarch, whose dedication and unstinting loyalty to our country was without comparison for over 70 years.

Welcome Back



We hope you all had a lovely summer break and were able to spend time with your families and friends. A very special welcome to our new families; I am sure you will join us in making them all feel very welcome.

The children have had a wonderful first week back at WMS and are enjoying making lots of new friends.

Our weekly newsletter is released each Monday and contains lots of important information to keep you up to date!

Ofsted Report

We were delighted to share with you all our Ofsted report from their visit in July, on the hottest day of the year!

'Children benefit from a rich, varied and well-sequenced curriculum that fosters their curiosity and love of learning. Staff are ambitious for children's learning, and it is evident that children are flourishing and making good progress'

- Ofsted, July 2022.

The full report can be found on our website.



Jeans for Genes Day

Each year at WMS we fundraise for genetic conditions through **Jeans for Genes Day**. This will take place this year on **Friday 23rd September 2022**.

Please send your child in jeans on this day with a suggested donation of £1 minimum for this wonderful charity. If you have any old or unwanted denim you can send in these would be great for Jeans for Genes related art activities!

WMS Alumni

We were delighted to receive several emails and photographs of children who left WMS in July 2022 to begin Primary School this September.

Nova wrote a lovely message to WMS:



"I miss you all very much. I am now at my big school and I like it a lot. I have made some new friends and I made sure I cleared away my activities when I finished this week. I was excited to ask my new teacher what we were having for dessert each day!"

We love hearing from previous students at WMS to see how they are getting on and are so proud of their growth since beginning their educational journey with us.

Important Diary Dates



Whilst all important dates and reminders are featured in our newsletter each week, a full list of dates to note for this term can be found on our website under 'Diary Dates'.

[Diary Dates – Walthamstow Montessori School](#)

This was also sent out with the autumn term's 'Welcome Back' letters. If you did not receive this email, please contact the office.

Notice Period

Please be reminded that if your child is not returning in January 2023 then written notice to the school office should be received no later than this **Friday 16th September**.

If you have already provided notice an acknowledgement letter will be sent to you in due course.

Notices received after this time, as per your terms and conditions, will mean that Spring term school fees would be due in full, and you will automatically be invoiced accordingly.



Spring Term Changes

Please let us know in writing if you wish to make any changes to the days that your child currently attends WMS for the Spring

Term which starts in January 2023 or indeed increase.

If we do not hear from you by **Friday 16th September**, we will assume that your child's current days will stay the same for the new Spring term and school fee invoices will be produced in accordance.

If your child is moving to Kindergarten from nursery in January, then the minimum is 3 full school days (for those having turned 3 prior to December 31st).

School Uniform

All children must wear their WMS smocks each day and have plimsolls at school to wear in the classroom. If your child does not have a WMS school bag and smock, please contact the office to purchase.

As the weather becomes more cold and wet, children will need wellington boots at school for garden-time. Please do not send your child in to school wearing wellies. Rather, they should be sent in wearing appropriate outdoor footwear with wellies and plimsolls to change in to at school.

Meet the Teachers

We would like to give a warm welcome to our new staff members Miss Anna and Miss Lisbeth, who have joined the WMS teaching team this year. They have both enjoyed meeting and getting to know all the children. Miss Anna will be a teaching assistant in Sycamore Class and Miss Lisbeth in Oak.

Miss Anna



Miss Lisbeth

Bumped Head Texts

'Bumped Head' Text If your child bumps any part of their head during a school day, we will always send a standard text to you. These texts are sent as an extra precaution to ensure you are aware. If you receive a text, it is because all is well with your child, and we will be keeping an extra eye on them.

Invoices

Invoices for Early Risers, Lunch Clubs and Tea Timers are issued at the end of each 4-week period. The first set of invoices will be issued on Monday 3rd October 2022 for the period commencing 5th September.



Parking

Please be reminded that parents are not permitted to pull-up or park on the driveway in front of the garages or in front of the school gates. This is a health and safety risk as well as staff needing access to this area.

Parents' Corner

HENRY Waltham Forest

are offering **free parent**

workshops to promote oral

health in early years. Please see poster for more details and dates online or face-to-face.

[Healthy Teeth Workshop - Sep-Dec 2022.pdf](#)



Art & D.T.

In our first art lesson this term we created a moon display for our classroom, to fit our topic of 'Space'.

Before we began creating our display, we shared facts about the moon. We looked at images of the moon's surface, explored the shadow the earth makes, and discovered that the moon is always round even though it can appear sometimes as a crescent.



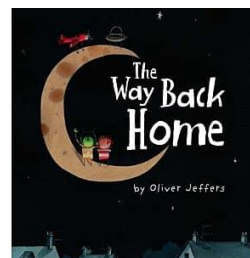
By using the holey, textured side of a crumplet, we achieved the 'cheese-like' surface. To place the moon in its night sky surrounding, we created some stars to stick on, too.



Class Information

Book of the week:

The Way Back Home
By
Oliver Jeffers



Children's House

An exciting first week back for all of us at the Children's House!

Our first morning was spent getting to know each other, familiarising ourselves with the different areas in the classroom and understanding the classroom routines and boundaries. The children were very eager to share stories of their holidays with everyone.

The children have been exploring a variety of activities from the shelves and have enjoyed spending time looking through books and even narrating stories to one and another.



Our topic for this term is 'Space'. The children have shown great enthusiasm in the topic and enjoy learning about our Solar System. They have been participating well in circle time and are

always eager to raise their hand to share their ideas and thoughts about the various planets.

We have introduced several activities on the shelves to enable children to remember the names of the planets and their order from the Sun. They have enjoyed looking through books, classified cards and working with planet sensory activities.

The children enjoyed their art session with Miss Alex. She shared some facts about the moon before having

the children create a 'giant' moon using crumpet prints for our display board.

For our out and about session, the children worked in pairs to create a Solar System Mobile, which we have now proudly displayed in our environment.



We ended our week with a circle time where we remembered Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. We looked through pictures and talked about her early years, her wedding to Prince

Philip, the Coronation Ceremony, her family, and her dedication to our country.

This week we will continue our Autumn term topic of Space. Our focus will be on our home, planet Earth. The children will be working with a variety of activities to gain more insight about their planet, what it is made up of, how our planet is being destroyed and what we can do to help protect it.

Kindergarten - Oak Class

A big welcome back to Oak class. A lovely first week back where the children were really excited to share their holiday stories. As we settle back into routine the class were presented with some new activities, especially around our topic of space. It was amazing to see the children's knowledge around the subject already.



We created our own space mobile with the planets placed in order from the sun. Over the coming weeks the class will be learning about the 8 planets as we look more closely at each one. Last week we focused on the number 8 by partaking in lots of counting and practising



the formation of the number.

Our out and about session saw us following instructions around movement relating to space. We demonstrated that we could use big footsteps to walk like a spaceman or that we stretched our arms and legs to be the rays of the sun. We finished our week by using shapes to create our own space rockets.



The life and role of Her Majesty the Queen also became a focus after her sad passing last week. As a class we discussed the Queen, and how we now have a new King.

This week we will be looking at our earth extending this to who lives on our planet and what it is made up of. The letter of the week will be 'e'. I would also like to introduce our show and tell lesson this week. This will be on a Wednesday so please encourage your child to bring something in to show the class.

Kindergarten - Elm Class

It has been an exciting week coming back to nursery as we've been learning about space! Last week, Elm class has been busy learning about the introductory part of space. We have focused on the eight planets and learning about their names, facts, through pictures and song as well as their order in the solar system.

The children were also introduced to our phonetic sound of the week, 's'. We thought of words beginning with 's' and related it to our topic with the words space, sun, solar system and Saturn to name a few. We used our Sand Tray and white board to practice tracing the letter s.

We also took our learning outside last week as we explored the solar system more. We explored each planet and arranged them in the correct order from the sun. The children were encouraged to work together to create a Space Mobile. The children were excellent at taking turns and carefully threading yarn through the punched holes in each planet. This activity helps the children to have a visual 3D understanding of our solar system. In addition, the children



demonstrated good hand-eye coordination and concentration by making rockets using different 2D shapes and paper plate planets.

On Friday, we looked and discussed different pictures of Queen Elizabeth II from her childhood through to her adulthood. Collectively, we made a heart collage picture to commemorate the Queen.



This week, we will continue to learn more about Space and our focus will be on our planet, Earth. Our phonetic sound of the week is 'e'. We would like to encourage your child to bring an object beginning with the sound 'e' on Wednesday. This will help us relate our class learning to the wider environment.

Sycamore Class

It has been a wonderful start to the new school year in Sycamore class, and we have enjoyed welcoming our new friends.

The children enjoyed being back at WMS and have begun exploring and learning how to use each of the available activities in our classroom. We started each day welcoming the children, discussing our summer holiday, and talking about how we felt each morning. Discussing and describing our emotions is a very important part of understanding how to deal with different feelings and understanding that it is OK to feel different sometimes. We will continue and encourage these discussions throughout the term.

This term we are learning about space. The children learned a new song about the 8 planets to help us learn all the names. We started introducing 'Space' by discussing what we see in the sky at night-time, such as stars. The children participated in discussions and shared lots of exciting stories about looking up in the sky and seeing the stars and moon or staying up late on some days to experience the view of the night sky! We mixed paints to create the grey colour of the moon and used a dotting technique to create a 'moon and stars' painting.



We looked at the letter 's' for 'space' and found lots of objects in our classroom beginning with this phonetic sound.

The children enjoyed identifying the 3D planet shapes and we all described how it felt to hold the sphere-shaped planet models in our hands. Some described it feeling like a ball, some described it as a smooth or soft object. We learned that the planets are all spherical but different sizes and explored the sphere shape further by creating them using playdough.



All the children remembered well that there are eight planets in our solar system. We looked at the number '8' and counted to eight using our fingers, or as we pointed to each planet. This gave us an opportunity to discuss the colour, size and positions of each planet. We also created space rockets using colourful shapes for our classroom display board.

Nursery – Acorn and Seedlings



The nursery children were excited to be back at school after the summer break. They were very happy to see their friends and talk about their holidays and were very eager to get back to work with their favourite materials from the shelves. We gave a very warm welcome to our new friends who have joined,

and they are all settling in nicely in our nursery environment.

We started our week with lots of songs and 'Grace and Courtesy lessons' where we model the understanding the principals of our Montessori environment.

Our "Space" topic was received with enthusiasm and the children already love singing the song 'Eight Planets in our Solar System'. We have been looking at and reading books about space and explored the dedicated 'Space' area with various materials related to the topic. Our letter of the week is "s" for 'Space' and we also introduced the number "8" by counting the planets in our solar system.



Following the sad news of Her Majesty's passing at the end of the week, we also read the book 'The Queen's Hat' which the children so enjoyed when we celebrated her Jubilee earlier this year. To commemorate the Queen, we created heart collages for the children to take home.

We are going to continue our topic of 'Space' this week, focusing on planet Earth. We will use the Sandpaper Globe to discuss our planet, how it is made up of land and water, and how we can take good care of it.

Best wishes, WMS Admin

Important Numbers



To contact the school office dial:

020 8523 2968

Email:

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Facebook and Instagram pages!**