

W/C Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022

# Walthamstow Montessori School

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## Newsletter

### Harvest Festival



Tomorrow, **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October**, we will celebrate Harvest Festival. The children have been very busy creating

wonderful displays, practicing songs, and learning all about the values of Harvest Festival in preparation. The children will join at Penrhyn in the morning for their Harvest assembly. Please can any donations that weren't brought in today be brought in tomorrow for the assembly.

**If your child is in the Children's House, please drop them off at 9.30am at the Penrhyn building. When the assembly has finished, they will be walked back to Brookcroft for usual dismissal from the Children's House.**

**Please note this assembly is for children who attend on a Tuesday only and parents will not attend.**

### Flower Monitor

Thank you, Kian, for bringing in some beautiful flowers for our Children's House!



### ASC Invoices

The first set of invoices for extended sessions (i.e. Early Risers, Lunch Club and Tea Timers) will be issued from today.

Please ensure these invoices are settled by Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October to avoid incurring a £10.00 late payment penalty fee.

### Spare Clothes

Please ensure your child always has spare clothes in their WMS rucksack. Even if your child is out of nappies and you do not expect them to have accidents, they may get dirty or wet in the garden, especially as the weather changes!

We have very limited spare clothes at school and would hugely appreciate donations if anybody has old clothes to spare.



### Artist of the Term

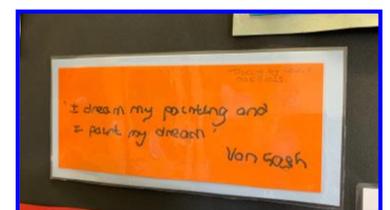
Our focus artist this Autumn term at WMS is Vincent van Gogh.

Already the children have created some beautiful artwork, imitating the swirling technique van Gogh used to create his famous painting, *The Starry Night*.

We would like to share with you our beautiful van Gogh display which features the children's work.



*"I dream my painting and I paint my dream."*  
- Vincent van Gogh



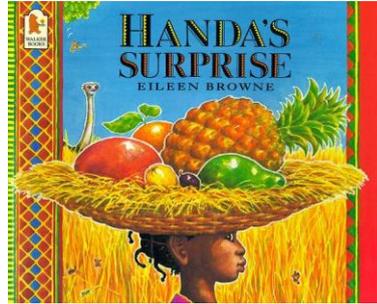
### Composer of the Week

Pyotr Tchaikovsky (1840-1893). Tchaikovsky was the most well-known Russian composer of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. His ballet compositions are some of the most popular ever written and include Swan Lake, Sleeping Beauty and The Nutcracker. The children have enjoyed listening to his music throughout the school this week.

## Class Information

### Book of the week:

Handa's  
Surprise  
by  
Eileen Browne



## Children's House

Last week our learning was centred around the Sun and the Harvest Festival.

We began our week by discussing and describing the sun. Words that jumped out of the children's minds were star, fireball, burning hot, light, round. The children were introduced to more facts about the sun. We spoke about the temperature of the sun, the core of the sun being the hottest, what the spots on the sun were and the gasses that the sun was made up of. The children also imagined how life on earth would be if the sun did not exist. We watched a short documentary about the sun to gain more insight. Using that knowledge, the children created an individual collage of the sun and labelled it with some of the facts they had learned.



We also talked about our universe and the galaxies within the universe. The children were introduced to the Milky Way - the largest galaxy in our

universe. We looked at its characteristics and discussed its shape, what it is made of, how it looks in the night sky and how the solar system is placed within it. We positioned the Sun and Earth within the Milky Way.

During garden time, we explored shadow tracing. Miss Alex talked about shadows and showed the children how shadows are created when an object blocks light. The children experimented by putting dinosaurs in different positions and observed how the shadows would become longer or shorter. Miss Alex also demonstrated how to trace around the shadow before

some of the children got busy creating their own dinosaur shadows.

Our book of the week, 'Goodbye Summer, Hello Autumn' sparked a conversation in relation to the change in seasons and how different types of animals prepare and go into hibernation. Esme mentioned that the birds fly all the way to Australia because it is warmer!

Preparations for the Harvest Festival were also underway. The children have been learning about the harvest festival and what it means and have collectively composed an acrostic Harvest poem.

For our Out and About session, Miss Alex showed the children how to create a Harvest wreath using Willow tree branches. Each child took turns to secure the branches by wrapping string around it. After each child had a go, the ends were connected to make a circle. 3D fruits have also been made by the children which will be hung onto the wreath.



The children have also learnt about the Harvest Moon, which is a very special orange full moon that appears in September. We discussed why the moon was orange and how this moon was of benefit to the farmers. The children will be reciting a poem about the Harvest moon during the Assembly. They also created a display of the Harvest moon using the techniques they learnt when creating van Gogh's Starry Night

For show and tell the children brought in various object beginning with 's'. Roman brought in some homegrown tomatoes for the children to try. Some of the children who don't particularly like tomatoes even commented that they were very tasty. Thank you



Roman for the lovely treats!





Our week ended with creating a “sun” using our Colour Box 3. The children took turns and worked together grading each colour from darkest to lightest before placing it on the colour wheel.



The children also enjoyed uncovering moon rocks and reading the words that were hidden in our sensorial planet tray.

On Tuesday, the children will be coming together with the lower school to celebrate Harvest Festival where they will be showcasing all the work that they have prepared. Our topic this week will be on the planet - Saturn.

form part of the galaxy. The class took turns in recognising the three types of stars and then we re-created our own dwarf and supergiant stars by glueing the appropriate coloured paper to the stars. This week we have our Harvest Festival. We have been busy creating our harvest jars and learning songs for our school assembly. We will talk about what harvest means and what we are all thankful for. To continue our space topic we will be looking at Saturn where we will be describing and identifying the planet.

Thank you to Wilf for being our flower monitor this week. Our sound of the week will be p.

Please encourage your child to think of words beginning with this sound and challenge them to find objects around the house beginning with this too.



## Kindergarten - Oak Class



Another busy week in Oak class. At the beginning of the week we continued learning about the first man on the moon, Neil Armstrong. The class were then invited to

make their own astronaut where we learnt that the suit protects astronauts from getting too hot or too cold. For the rest of the week our focus was surrounding the sun. We utilised vocabulary such as big, round, centre, golden, yellow, hot, glowing, energy, star, heat, sphere and light.

On Wednesday, the class enjoyed a colour mixing experiment. We mixed red and yellow to represent and orange glow of the sun. Colour mixing can help practise critical thinking skills such as cause and effect through observation of how colours blend together, as well as engaging in problem solving by testing different ways to achieve a certain colour.



We learnt that the sun is a star (yellow dwarf) and extended our knowledge that the larger percentage of the galaxy’s stars are called red dwarfs. Supergiant stars also

## Kindergarten - Elm Class

What a busy and interesting week we had last week as we continued to learn about Space and focusing on The Sun. The children learnt that sun is also a star and looked at the three different types – Red Dwarf, Yellow Dwarf and the Blue Supergiant. We learned why the twinkling stars we see at night differ from the sun which is also a star. To aid our understanding, we looked at various pictures that the sun is the closest star to us and it gives us light. It is also the centre of our solar system. Later in the week, we used our solar system mat to see how the planets travel around the sun. The children also continued to practice the position of each planet in our solar system using the mini planet replicas. Furthermore, we used our numeric sun cards to count and identify numbers.



Throughout the week, we have continued to focus on the letter sound of the week ‘s’. The children looked in their classroom environment to look for objects beginning with the phonetic sound ‘s’. We also practised tracing the letter using our Montessori Sand Tray.

Thank you to Jasper, Fran and Rhea for bringing in items for us all to explore. It was an interactive session and the children enjoyed exploring each item.

During Ananya’s Show and Tell, we all enjoyed looking at the informative planet book she brought as well as

the telescope. The children took turns looking into the telescope and pretending to be astronauts looking into space!



We extended last week's learning by making a sun out of paper plates and painting and decorating it, giving it eyes, a nose and a mouth. We practiced our cutting skills cutting through the zig-zag lines as we made a very happy sun! The children have continued to enjoy cutting safely using child sized



scissors using various cutting activities. Learning to cut using scissors develops the child's fine motor skills and co-ordination. This skill is quite complex and it takes time and practice to develop and master. Cutting activity contributes to increased hand and finger dexterity, promotes functional grasp, increases focus and attention to a task and



promotes eye-hand coordination.

Thank you to Johan for bringing in some lovely flowers this week to beautify our classroom. The children took turns to care for the flowers and they were displayed nicely on our shelves and tables. The children take lots of pride in taking care of their beautiful Montessori classroom.

This week we will continue to learn more about space and our focus will be on Saturn. We will also have our Harvest Festival on Tuesday.

We will continue to look at the phonetic sounds, 's' and 't' this week. We would like to encourage your child to bring an object beginning with the sound 's' or 't'. This can be brought in any day throughout the week as we continue to learn the phonetic sound throughout the week.

## Sycamore Class

We had another exciting week where we were discussing our solar system in Sycamore Class. Last week, we looked closely at the sun. We described the sun using words like big, round, centre, golden, sphere and light. We learned that our sun is a star.

During our 'out and about' session we discussed how the Earth revolves around the sun and found out the importance of the sun in our survival. We also talked about shooting stars and each child made a wish on the star. This was a lovely activity for children to express their ideas as well as demonstrate respect for others when taking turns in conversation.



Our favourite activity was exploring light and dark using torches. We looked at our shadows and discussed how it is created.

We continue using Montessori activities and enjoyed using colour box 2. Here we explored colours, trained our memories and learned to wait for our turn. Children worked in groups and with a little help they were able to organise this material and share their ideas.



This week we will be looking at planet Saturn. We continue to have "s" as our focus phonetic sound. We will be thinking about different objects beginning with the sound "s". If your child wants to share anything from home that begins with this phonetic then they can bring this to our show and tell on Wednesday.

## Nursery – Acorn and Seedlings

Last week, the children of Seedlings and Acorn had a busy week continuing our learning of our solar system.



The children were very enthusiastic about learning more about our Sun. They learned that the Sun is a big star, similar to a big ball of fire, and that it is the closest star to our planet Earth. Some of the children were able to comment that we cannot go to the sun as it is scorching hot. They also learned that without the sun, our earth would be very cold, and there would be no light and therefore no life.

During Art, the children made a representation of the Sun using paper plates, paper and pipe cleaners. The nursery children also learned about Vincent van Gogh, our focus artist this term, and created their own representation of "The Starry Night" for our school display board.

This Tuesday, as well as continuing our space topic focusing on Saturn, we will have our harvest assembly. We have been practising our song "Dingle Dangle Scarecrow" and the nursery children had fun making scarecrows in preparation!

Please send in your donations by Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October.

**Best wishes, WMS Admin**

**Important Numbers**



To contact the school office dial:

**020 8523 2968**

**Email:**

**[office@walthamstowmontessori.com](mailto:office@walthamstowmontessori.com)**

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