

W/C Monday 14th November 2022

Walthamstow Montessori School

Newsletter

Remembrance Day

Last week at WMS, we were learning about how the red poppy symbolises remembrance, hope for a peaceful future and commemorates the



soldiers who fought and died in war. Poppies were chosen as a symbol because they often grew in the battlefields after the soldiers stopped fighting. On Friday we observed a 2-minute silence. We were very proud of all our children who showed their respect at 11am to remember and honour those who have made sacrifices for the country. A gentle way of introducing younger children to the concept of remembrance.



Beautiful display by our Children's House children

The importance of literacy - The Word Gap!

At 5 years old:



A child never read to has 4,622 words in their vocabulary.



A child who is read to 1-2 times per week has 63,570 words in their vocabulary.



A child who is read to 3-5 books per week has 169,520 words in their vocabulary.



A child read to daily has 296,600 in their vocabulary.

! A child reads 5 books a day has an astonishing 1,483,300 words in their vocabulary.

These figures speak volumes of the impact of books!

At WMS, every classroom environment has a designated 'reading corner'. These spaces are made warm and inviting to encourage the children towards a love of reading.

Children in Need

Our fundraising day for this important charity will take place this **Friday 18th November 2022.**



Please send your child in with a £1 donation to wear colourful, spotty clothes to mark this day.

Well Done Roman!

Please join us in congratulating Roman, who came first in a Gymnastics competition last week! What a fantastic achievement after lots of hard work.



At WMS we love sharing in celebrating your child's achievements. Please do let us know of any exciting achievements your child has made outside of school.



Esme's Mars Project

Extending upon the learning of Space we have been doing this term, Esme took a trip to the Science Museum to learn even more! Having taken a photograph of Mars at the Museum, Esme went home and made a slider using card, to create a rocket travelling to Mars! Thank you for sharing this lovely piece of work, Esme.



School Assembly

The children are very excited to share with you what they have been learning about this term, in our Autumn term topic assembly this **Thursday 17th November**. They have been practicing lots!

Please ensure you have returned your slip to the office (email will suffice), so we have an accurate idea of numbers for the day.

Important Diary Dates

School Assembly – Thursday 17th November

Children in Need – Friday 18th November

Thanksgiving – Thursday 24th November

Decorate the Tree – Tuesday 6th December

Parent Festive Art Day – Thursday 8th December

Christmas Jumper Day – Thursday 15th December

Christmas Concert – Friday 16th December

Hand, Foot and Mouth

We have a confirmed case of hand, foot and mouth disease at Penrhyn. Please can you look out for any signs of this in your child.

This could display as small red spots around the three areas and your child may feel unwell.

Please see signs on the front doors at Penrhyn for more information.

Tea Towels Fundraiser

Thank you for all your orders so far – remember we only receive a limited amount and are unable to order any more so please pre-order to ensure you don't miss out!

They make lovely keepsakes or Christmas gifts. An example from last year will be placed in the noticeboard.

The cost is £6.50 each or 4 for £22.00

We break up for the Christmas Holidays on Friday 16th December at 12.30pm and school resumes on Wednesday 4th January 2023

Parent-Teacher Meetings

These will take place on-site again this year. An email communication will be sent shortly on how to book your appointment.

ASC Invoices

After-school club invoices for the period commencing 3rd October 2022 were issued last week with payment due on or before Friday 11th November. Please ensure this has been settled to avoid a £10.00 late payment fees as invoices will be issued for the penalty this week.

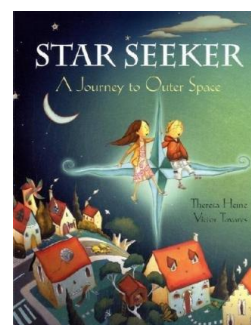
Spring Term Invoices

Spring term 2023 term fee invoices will be issued on or before 25th November 2022. The first instalment will be due **6th December** and the second due **3rd January**.

Class Information

Book of the week:

Star Seeker
By
Theresa Heine and
Victor Tavares



Children's House

Last week was another busy and exciting week in our Children's House.

We had our first rehearsal for the Christmas Concert at Penrhyn on Thursday. The children were introduced to the story and their lines which I am sure they will practice at home.

We continued our learning of the planets. This time we looked at Venus. We learnt about the atmosphere in

Venus and discussed how Venus is different from the other planets. The children learnt that Venus' atmosphere is thick with lots of clouds making the sun very dimly visible. Kian shared that Venus has no moons and it is the same size as Earth. We also discussed the temperature on the planet. They could all recall that it is the hottest planet in the Solar System. Roman referred to it as "hot and deadly with lots of volcanoes" and Joshua said it's so hot that a car could melt!

Our learning extended to volcanoes. We talked about different types of volcanoes and used terms such as dormant and active. The children also learnt some interesting facts about volcanoes. They learnt that the word volcano comes from the word 'vulcan', which was the name of the Roman God of Fire. We discussed what happens when a volcano erupts. Joshua said, "Lava made dinosaurs extinct!" The children were introduced to the term - magma. They learnt that magma is a very hot liquid rock that is inside the volcano and when pressure builds up, the volcano erupts, and the magma will come out of the top of the volcano. They now know that it is called lava only when the magma leaves the volcano. We also discussed what happens when lava cools down. Miss Alex brought in a piece of lava rock for the children to see and feel.



For our 'out and about' session, we carried out a Volcano experiment. The children got a chance to see how different chemicals react together to create an "eruption".



In Maths, the children have been exploring a variety of activities. These range from addition with the Short Bead Stairs and The Stamp Game, Subtraction with counters, Introduction to odd and even numbers using Cards and Counters and working with the concept of Place Values using The Golden Beads.



Our sound for the week was 'v' and 'or'. During circle time, we thought of words that had these sounds and

collectively made a list. The children have been exploring the phonetic matching card activity and the Large Movable Alphabet to further reinforce their knowledge. They have also been working with word building activities to reinforce their knowledge of phonetic and digraph sounds.

Towards the end of the week, the children learnt more about Remembrance Day. Esme explained to everyone "it is a day when we remember all the soldiers who fought and died in the war, but I also remember people who have passed away on that day!" She also described a war as being a battle. The children learnt when it is held and how the day is observed. They also looked at pictures of poppy wreaths being laid on monuments and statues.

In Art, Miss Alex showed the children how to create paper poppies, which they then placed on a backdrop of a field that had been painted creating their version of "Flanders Field".

Our week ended with observing a two-minute silence for Remembrance Day.

This week we will be learning about Jupiter. Our phonetic sound for the week is 'j'. We will also be working with digraph 'oo' throughout the week.

Kindergarten – Oak Class

This week we have been learning facts about the planet Venus. Venus is special because it rotates in the opposite direction to the Earth. Venus is also the hottest planet in our solar system and has volcanoes. The class enjoyed an activity where we created our own Venus. The children were able to follow instructions to colour the planet using brown, red, orange, and yellow crayon. This activity was challenging as the planet was made up of 4 shapes that were then cut and glued to make the circular planet.



For 'out and about' this week, we created a beautiful pattern from natural objects that we found in the garden and within our autumn bags. Patterns are a good introduction to predictions for the children as they can guess what

will come next. Patterns can be found everywhere in our daily lives – see if you can



spot some day-to-day with your child.

We have also talked about remembrance this week and why it is important to remember our soldiers. We all made a poppy to take home as well as a picture for our wall in class to mark remembrance of our fallen. We ended the week by observing a 2-minute silence in commemoration.

We have started to practise our Christmas play. All the class will have a line to say which will be sent home for you to practise with your child.

This week we will be looking at planet Jupiter. We will be able to identify Jupiter from the other planets. The class are really enjoying being able to sequence the order of the planets from the sun. We are really looking forward to the assembly on Thursday where we can share our learning with you. Our phonetic sound of the week will be j. On Friday it is Children in Need Day. Please bring a donation of £1 to wear non-uniform and dress in colourful spots to fundraise for this important charity.

Kindergarten - Elm Class



Elm class had a lovely week learning about space and working with our materials. We have continued to practice

identifying numbers and phonetic sounds using our space objects. Last week, we identified the number 8 and attempted writing the number whilst practising our pincer grip. We also ordered the planets from first to eighth from the sun using our knowledge.

It was Orla's 'Show and Tell' last Wednesday. Orla brought in her drawing pad to show her friends how it works. The children watched as Orla drew on the pad and then clicked a button to rub off the marks. "Wow, the drawing is all gone," said Felix. Orla also showed her friends the stethoscope and the children took turns to press a button which makes the heartbeat sound.



We spoke about the significance of Remembrance Day. We discussed the meaning of the poppy and remembering our fallen soldiers. The children later on made a poppy each

for themselves; "I'll stick this on my fridge at home," said Fran. We all observed a 2-minute silence which is a time for reflection and to show respect and gratitude to the armed forces who have fought bravely for our country.



Thank you very much to Hadley for being our flower monitor of the week. Our classroom looked very pretty with the flowers and the children enjoyed caring for them.

The children have all continued to work with various Montessori materials to enhance their learning. I would like to share this lovely quote from Maria Montessori:



"At some given moment it happens that the child becomes deeply interested in a piece of work; we see it in the expression on his face, his intense concentration, the devotion to the exercise."—The Discovery of the Child. It is lovely to observe this in the children's concentration when working with their chosen materials each day.

This week, we will continue to learn about Space. Our focus will be on Planet Jupiter, the largest planet. Our phonetic sound of the week is 'j' in Jupiter. Please continue to send safe items in with your children that begins with the sound 'j'. We will also continue to practise learning our lines in preparation for the Space Assembly on Thursday the 17th. This Friday 18th November is Children in Need; please wear spotty clothes and bring a £1 donation for this charity.

Sycamore Class

We had busy week in Sycamore Class last week, learning about planets Uranus and Venus and identifying similarities and differences between these and other planets. Here are the interesting facts we have been talking about:



Venus is the hottest planet and Uranus is the coldest planet in our Solar system. Uranus spins in the opposite direction to Earth and most other planets. Uranus also has 27 moons and is surrounded by a set of 13 rings.

Learning these interesting facts has given the children opportunity to practice their recognition of letters and numbers.

We also enjoyed our yoga lesson which was based around the theme "going to the moon". The children enjoyed practicing different yoga postures and the correct breathing during the lesson.



We remembered our fallen soldiers by making finger-painting poppies. On Friday, we observed a 2-minute silence to reflect on those who fought in the war. The children were very respectful during this reflective time.



This week we will be learning about Jupiter. We will be doing lots of art activities and having discussions to learn about this fascinating planet. Our phonetic sound of the week is 'j'.

We will be also learning about the significance of 'Children in Need' and the children will be learning who this charity supports. There will be lots of activities planned where children will be doing related art activities and having discussions.

We are also looking forward to seeing you at our assembly on Thursday! The children are excited to show you what they have been learning about this term.

Nursery – Acorn and Seedlings

The Nursery children enjoyed another fun week in our Montessori environment. We discussed the planet Venus and introduced the Montessori sandpaper letter "v" to practice this phonetic sound. The children learned that Venus is the hottest planet and the second planet in distance from the Sun.



We have been practicing our songs for our assembly this Thursday, 17th November. To decorate the school on the day, we have been making Papier

Mache planets and several collages related to the songs we will sing.

On Friday, we acknowledged Remembrance Day and the children were very respectful during our 2-minute silence. We created poppy flower cotton bud prints.

This was a lovely activity to practice the children's fine motor skills and concentration to paint their poppies. This week, we will be learning about planet Jupiter and will introduce the letter "j". Please practice this phonetic sound with your child and see if you can find objects beginning with "j".



Best wishes, WMS Admin

Important Numbers



To contact the school office dial:

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