

W/C Monday 7th November 2022

Walthamstow Montessori School

Newsletter



Parent Festive Art Day

Each class will be holding a 'Festive Art Session' on
Thursday 8th December 2022

We are excited to reintroduce this as we haven't been able to host this event in recent years. We will shortly be emailing you with more details. We will be able to accommodate a couple of parents from each class to help and join in with making some exciting arts and crafts for Christmas.

No art experience necessary, just the willingness to get messy! For your diary, we anticipate the sessions will run as follows:

Seedlings and Acorn classes: 10.15am - 11.15am

Sycamore, Elm and Oak: 1.45pm - 2.45pm

Children's House: 1.45pm - 2.45pm



Thanksgiving

We will be celebrating Thanksgiving on
Thursday 24th November.

Would any of our US parents like to help with this event, if so please contact the office if you would like to do this and we will give you some more info!

Children in Need

Our fundraising day for this important charity will be on Friday
18th November 2022.



More information about the theme and events will be available shortly.

Important Diary Dates

School Assembly: Thursday 17th November

Children in Need: Friday 18th November

Decorate the Tree: Tuesday 6th December

Festive Art Day: Thursday 8th December

Children's Xmas Party: Friday 9th December

Christmas Jumper Day: Thursday 15th December

Christmas Concert: Friday 16th December

Flower Monitor

Thank you to each of our flower monitors last week. They certainly made beautiful additions to our Montessori environment.



Having fresh flowers in the classroom each week provides a perfect opportunity for the children to discuss the flowers, identify them, see the process of life and to practice practical skills such as cutting, pouring, and arranging.



Tea Towels Fundraiser

Information on how to pre-order your tea towels has been sent via email.

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.

Nursery (Acorn/Seedlings): Tuesday 22nd Nov
Sycamore and Elm: Tuesday 22nd Nov
Oak and Children's House: Wednesday 23rd Nov

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**.

ASC Invoices

After-school club invoices for the period commencing 3rd October 2022 were issued today. If you were supposed to receive an invoice but didn't, please email the office.

Invoices must be settled by **Friday 11th November** to avoid a £10.00 late payment fee.

Class Information

Book of the week:

Hello, Star
by
Stephanie Lucianovic



Children's House



Our week began with a hands-on pumpkin science activity where the children used their mathematical and inference skills to predict whether pumpkins would sink or float. We made comparisons based on size, weight and width/circumference. The children measured the pumpkins

using a digital weighing scale and a tape measure before making their predictions. The children were shocked to find out that both the pumpkins floated despite their size and weight. We then dissected the pumpkin to find out more about the properties that helps it to float. The children noticed that the pumpkin is hollow inside which enables it to float. The children were able to name all the parts of the pumpkin. They were introduced to some new vocabulary such as fibrous strands and pulp. The children got a chance to use their olfactory sense to smell the pumpkin. They touched the fibrous strands and used words such as slimy and sticky to describe it. The children also made a class Jack-O-Lantern. They took turns to draw, scoop and carve the pumpkin!



We continued learning more about the Solar System, in particular Planet Mars. The children already know that it is referred to as The Red Planet and it is Earth's neighbour. We also

discussed why it's called the Red Planet and learned that the iron in the soil gives it its colour. We looked at pictures of Mars – the children used words such as rocky, dusty, dry and bumpy to describe it. We discussed how similar Mars is to Earth and discussed whether living things could exist on the planet. Since it is desert-like we also thought about whether cacti could grow on Mars.

In Maths, the children continue to use the Short Bead Stair to do additions. Some children were introduced to the concept of subtraction.

Our phonetic sounds for the week were 'p' and 'ar'. 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. The children were also introduced to a poem called Five Little Astronauts, which they have enjoyed reciting throughout the

week.

For our 'out and about' session we looked at the children's autumn bags. Each child shared what they had collected. Lotte brought in



some interesting leaves like fig leaves which we compared to other leaves. We noticed that it had a long stem. Nirvana brought in a mushroom, and we talked about the different parts of the mushroom. They were introduced to vocabulary such as cap, spores and ring. Using the leaves, they created a lion's face.

We ended our week with another science experiment. We created some fireworks in a jar after sharing a story about Guy Fawkes and his Gunpowder Plot. The children observed what happened to oil when it is mixed with water and what happens to the food colouring. They observed how the food colouring leaves a beautiful trail as it dissolves in the water.

This week we will be learning about Venus. Our phonetic sound for the week is 'v'. We will also be working with the digraph 'or' throughout the week.

Kindergarten – Oak Class



A great first week back after the half term. A few children celebrated their 4th birthdays in October. Happy birthday to Francis, Adam, Isabella, Sasha and Eloise. Thank you to Eloise for being our flower monitor this week, our classroom looked beautiful. Thank you for all your lovely autumn

bags. The children really enjoyed showing each other their finds and where they had been to collect them. Ava-Lily shared with the class that she had been to Kew Gardens where she had collected some of her natural objects. To collate them we made a beautiful collage of an Autumn tree.



At the beginning of the week, we learned about the parts of a pumpkin. The class could recall new vocabulary such as stem, pulp, skin, and seed. We used the whole pumpkin in an experiment. Miss Andrea asked the children if they thought the pumpkin would float or sink. What do you think? Ask your child to tell you what happened! The pumpkin was then dissected so the children could identify and examine each of the parts.

We have also been learning about the planet Mars. We discussed that it is 'dry and red with volcanoes.' It is the



our volcano erupting with lava.

fourth planet from the sun and is made of rocks. Like Earth, it has seasons, polar ice caps, volcanoes, canyons, and weather. To show the effect of a volcano we carried out our own volcano experiment. Using bicarbonate of soda mixed with red paint and vinegar, the children saw

This week we will be looking at the planet Venus. We will be making this planet using Paper Mache and finding out what makes it special. We will also be making poppies in readiness for 'Remembrance Sunday' and discussing why it is so important to remember the soldiers who have fought for our country. Our phonetic sound of the week will be 'v'.

Kindergarten - Elm Class

We began last week by discussing how we each spent our half-term. Some of the children were very excited to share their Halloween experiences with us during circle time. We decorated a pumpkin using various materials as a class. Fran noted that we needed orange for the pumpkin but realised there wasn't one. Hadley suggested we mixed the paints together. "We need to mix yellow and red together" he said. The two then worked together to create this colour to accurately paint the pumpkin!



We also discussed the Autumn items collected by the children over half term. The children shared their items with their friends and discussed where they had collected each item from. It was a lovely interactive session as the children felt and explored each other's items and learned some new autumnal terminology.



We've also continued our space topic with the planet Mars. We compared this planet to others and discussed its uniqueness. The children were able to recall that Mars is also known as the Red Planet. With the use of visual support, it was explained that Mars is red because of the rusty iron in the ground. We compared Mars to Earth and looked at the seasons, volcanoes, canyons, and weather. We found out that even though Earth has these things, they are far bigger in Mars! We practised our fine



motor skills by cutting some red sugar paper to create Mars.



During "Show and Tell", Otis confidently demonstrated how his bullet train works to everyone. He was patient and kind enough to let the children have a turn. "My daddy bought me this train from Japan, Japan is very far away...and this train is very fast!" he said. The children found it very fascinating

and watched how the train moved along and a little touch at the edge of the train makes it manoeuvre to another direction. We also learned that this train is called the 'Shinkansen' in Japan.

Our flower monitor of the week was Fran. Thank you very much Fran for making our classroom look even more beautiful.

We also practiced our phonic sounds 'm' and 't'. Thank you to all the children who brought in interesting items and pictures to show us. We enjoyed relating these home items to our classroom learning.

To end our busy week, we experimented with our pumpkin to see if it would sink or float. Due to its size we all predicted that it would sink... but to our surprise it floated! The children were very surprised. Furthermore, we discussed the texture of the pumpkin skin, its stem and leaf, and then explored the inner parts of the pumpkin as we looked at the seeds and pulp. We extended our learning by looking further at the phonetic sound, 'p'.



This week we will continue to learn more about space and our focus will be on the second planet from the sun, Venus. Our phonetic sound for this week will therefore be 'v'. We would like to encourage your child to bring an object beginning with the sound 'v' to share with the class.

Sycamore Class

It was exciting to welcome all the children back to Sycamore class after the break. We enjoyed welcoming new friends who joined us. Welcome to Aila, Maisie, Alma, Rita-Blue, Matilda and Ella. We also celebrated lots of birthdays with our WMS Birthday Walks!



Our week began by discussing Halloween and some of the children shared their plans for the evening. We decorated a pumpkin using paint and made some Halloween crafts.

As our Solar system topic continues throughout the term, we were looking at the planets Uranus and Mars. The children absolutely loved discussions and activities about these two planets. We learned that Uranus is a cold and small planet. We also learned that Mars has many volcanoes and is made of rocks. A very popular activity last week was our volcano experiment, where we learned about what happens when volcano erupts. We used bicarbonate of soda mixed with red paint and vinegar to see the eruption take place on our model. The children were all very excited to watch this experiment unfold and joined the discussion group that followed.



Last week, some of the children were introduced to the concept of 'zero' using the Montessori spindle box. Once children have been presented a material, they have access to it at all times in our classroom and are often observed completing it multiple times. We played a game to reinforce the learning, where children were asked to follow instructions like: "Jump three times, or clap your hands "zero" times.

This week we will be learning about the planet Venus. Our phonetic sound of the week is letter "v".

Nursery - Acorn and Seedlings

It was lovely to welcome all the children back from the half-term break. The children gave a warm welcome to their new friends who have joined us so far in November.

The learning focus for this half-term continues to be Space and the children have been enjoying focusing on each of the 8 planets in our Solar system. Last week we took a closer look at Mars, the fourth planet from the sun, examining photographs and discussing its properties.

We found out that Mars has lots of volcanoes on its surface and explored this further through a volcano experiment. Bicarbonate of soda was mixed with vinegar and red paint to create 'lava' and



the children were fascinated to watch our volcano model 'erupt'. We also discussed the colour and shape of planet Mars and painted paper templates of the planet to put on display. Our phonetic sound of the week was "m" for Mars and we discussed what other words begin with this sound to extend the children's knowledge.

This week we will be learning about planet Venus. Our phonetic sound of the week will be 'v'. Please practice this sound with your child and see what other words you can think of that begin with 'v'!

Best wishes, WMS Admin

Important Numbers



To contact the school office dial:

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Email:

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Facebook and Instagram pages!**