

W/C Monday 9th January 2023

Walthamstow Montessori School

Newsletter

A very Happy New Year to all our WMS families and friends. We hope you have all enjoyed a happy and restful Christmas break. We are delighted to welcome all our children and families back for our Spring term, which is already promising to be both a very busy and exciting one.

We have had several new children joining us throughout the school and I am sure you will all join us in making those children and their families welcome. For those parents whose children have moved on to new classes, we hope they find the change both exciting and challenging. If you are unsure about which class your child is in this term, please do not hesitate to ask.

Christmas Concert

We hope you all enjoyed our annual Christmas Concerts at the end of last term. The children worked incredibly hard to put on these performances for you and thoroughly enjoyed practicing the songs and dances in the weeks leading up to the concert. There were some wonderful costumes so thank you very much for your efforts, too!



Welcome Back Letters

You will have received a 'Welcome Back!' letter on Friday, detailing the exciting term ahead. Please take time to read through this for important information. If you did not receive your class Welcome Back letter, please contact the office.

Term and Diary Dates have been updated on our website

Tea Towels

We have 10 tea towels left from our annual fundraiser. If you would like more please inform the office and the last ones will be sold on a first-come-first-serve basis.

RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch

The children at WMS will be enjoying our annual participation in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch. Throughout the week commencing **23rd January**, the children will be 'bird spotting' as part of this annual Birdwatch – keep an eye out for more information on how they will be getting involved! Following this at the weekend, you could continue your bird spotting at home or in Lloyd Park, and share your photos or findings with us!



Notice Period

Please be reminded of your child's notice period as per your Terms and Conditions.

If your child is not returning for the Summer 2023 Term, (i.e., April 2023) then notice was required in writing or email by January 6th 2023. If you have any queries regarding notice periods, please email the office to discuss.

Chicken Pox

We have been notified about a case of chicken pox at Penrhyn. 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.

We break up for the half-term on Friday 10th February 2023 (Tea Timers as usual). School resumes on Monday 20th February 2023.

Christmas Holiday Club

A lovely and festive time was had by all during our Christmas Holiday Club. Alongside lots of songs and festive arts and craft, the children enjoyed participating in baking gingerbread men. We hope you all had a lovely Christmas break.



No Nuts

As I'm sure you are all aware we are a strict no nut school; so please ensure that you do not send your child in with nuts or nut based products in their packed lunch such as small sweets (e.g. snickers) or nut based spreads (e.g. Nutella, peanut butter). We have children in both schools with severe nut allergies. These items will need to be removed from your child's lunch.

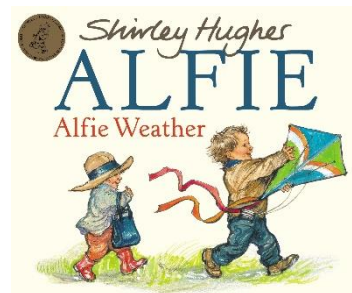


'Bumped Head' Text

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.

Book of the Week

Alfie Weather
by
Shirley Hughes



Composer of the Week



The composer of the week this week is Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741). Vivaldi was born in Venice and become one of the most famous composers of the Italian Baroque. Vivaldi composed over 500 concertos, the most famous is *The Four Seasons*, a set of four violin concertos published in 1725.

Children's House

Welcome back for our Spring Term. It has been an exciting first week back for all of us!

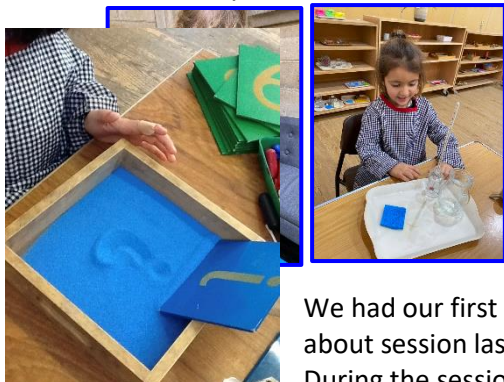
We welcomed all the children who have just joined Children's House and our first morning was spent getting to know each other and revisiting and familiarising ourselves with classroom routines and boundaries. The children were also very excited to share stories of their Christmas Holiday with everyone.

We have added lots of new activities that complement our topic for the children to explore. The children have been extremely busy exploring a variety of activities. We have been encouraging the children to explore some of our practical life activities as these activities help them not only to refine their fine motor skills but it also helps in developing their sense of order, independence and concentration.



Our topic for this term is Weather. Last week the children were introduced to the different weather symbols and the terminology. The children listened to a

weather story and took turns to sequence the weather symbols. As a class, we have begun a Weather Diary where the children will take turns daily to record the weather for the day.



We had our first out and about session last week.

During the session we discussed the weather and observed how the weather changed from the morning to the afternoon. We felt the cold breeze and the children took turns to describe how the weather felt and how it made them feel. They also observed the effects the weather had while they were creating their weather mobiles. Unanimously we decided to continue our work indoors as "our work was getting all tangled up. It is too windy!" – Aaron.

Last week the children were also introduced to phonetic sound 'w' and digraph 'sh'. During circle time, we thought of words that began with these sounds and collectively made a list. The children have also been practising their letter formation in the sand tray or in their books.



The children enjoyed their art session with Miss Alex. They worked together in small groups and created a weather collage for our display board which we will be putting up this week.

We ended our week with some weather Yoga. The children were introduced to the following poses – sunny, rainy, cloudy, windy, thunder and rainbow poses.



This week we will continue our topic. Our focus will be on Seasons and Seasonal Changes. The children will be introduced to phonetic sound 's' and digraph 'ee'. It would be great if the children could bring in an object

related to seasons for our 'show and tell' session. Our book of the week is Alfie Weather by Shirley Hughes.

Kindergarten - Elm Class

A warm welcome back to Elm class. We have had a lovely first few days where the children have been excited to tell me their Christmas news. The class have settled very quickly back into routine where they have been exploring their new classroom environment. To begin our weather topic, we have been looking at weather symbols and what they represent. We each made a weather mobile which are displayed in our class to remind us of the words sun, rain, thunder and rainbow. The children enjoyed sponge painting their sky and using cotton wool to create the clouds. For our 'out and about' session, we listened and followed simple instructions, for example, for the sun we clapped our hands. We turned in a circular motion for the wind, made a loud clap for thunder and used our fingers to represent the rain falling. We also observed the weather using our senses, to hear the wind rustling the leaves and the birds singing. Please take a moment each day to observe the weather with your child, perhaps on your way to school. Ask them questions such as 'can you hear the wind?' 'Can you see your shadow?' 'Is it hot or cold?'

The children have enjoyed a new activity within the class this week of juicing an orange. Grasping and hand-squeezing an orange allows them to strengthen the muscles in their fingers and palms, as well as refine their wrist movements.



This week we will be learning the names of the seasons and what characteristics makes the seasons different. We will be using descriptive language in describing a tree through the four seasons. We will look at the Montessori Colour Box 3. The third Colour Box is designed to develop a child's visual discrimination of colour and colour knowledge. The box contains 63 colour tablets in seven graded shades. We will be identifying the seasonal colours and grading the shades from dark to light. Encourage your child to look around their own environment for seasonal colours whether indoors or outdoors.

Our phonetic sound of the week is 'w'. Please encourage your child to think of words beginning with this sound. To develop your child's formation of the letter we will be using different mark making materials. Last week we used the sand tray and a cotton bud dipped in water to mark make and practice letter formation on a chalkboard. See if you can try this with your child at home.

Kindergarten – Beech Class

We've had a beautiful week back and the children have settled in well. They have been introduced to the areas of the classroom as well as the rules and boundaries. They have demonstrated good listening skills as they continued to learn more about the activities and their new classroom.

As you all know, the topic for this term is Weather. Last week, we focused on what 'weather' is and looked at other stunning effects in the sky such as rainbow and lightning.



We made our classroom weather diary where the children all contributed what they would like to see on the front page such as thunderstorm, raindrops, cloudy, snowy, sunny etc. The children will take turns daily to draw how they think the weather is like outside into the weather diary. They have done brilliantly well identifying the weather from rainy to cloudy and sunny. "The weather is grey, it's cloudy today" said Dexter during our group discussion.



We've also used our senses during 'Out and About' session to learn more about the weather using a wet finger as we try to feel the direction of the wind. The children found this fascinating and demonstrated great concentration as they felt the gentle wind. Manon contributed by saying she felt

the wind on her face and Ronnie said he could feel it on the side of his wet finger. In addition, we extended our learning by linking this to the temperatures of the weather such as hot or cold e.g. Ella said when it snows its very cold but when the sun is out its hot and we have to go to the beach". We ended the session by having a lovely "weather yoga". The children focused

and demonstrated various yoga poses. Going through a variety of yoga poses helps children learn about their bodies and the movements they're capable of doing. We all thoroughly enjoyed the relaxation session.



During our phonics lesson, the children were shown how to trace the letter 'w' using the sandpaper letter. We then link the sound to 'weather'. The children were encouraged to put on their thinking hats on to think of other words beginning with the sound 'w'; 'w' in 'windy' said Fatimah.

Our topic for this week is "seasons and seasonal changes". The children will be introduced to the 4 seasons using picture cards and supported in other area of learning. The phonic sound of the week is 's' in seasons. You can help support the children's learning by sending in a safe object beginning with the phonic sound 's' so we can link our classroom learning to objects from home. This can be brought in any day throughout the week.

Sycamore Class

Happy New Year to all the WMS families. A really warm welcome to our new families joining us this term.

Our first week in Sycamore classroom started really



well. All children were happy to see their friends and teachers. We shared our Christmas holiday memories and enjoyed talking about our Christmas presents and time spent with family.

Children are already becoming familiar with the classroom activities and expectations. We start each day with a 'welcome' song and a discussion about how we feel. This helps children to understand and be able to articulate different emotions and feelings. After our morning welcome, children are enjoying the Montessori walking on the line exercise where they are invited to walk steadily on the line. Walking on the



line helps them to control their movements and refine their balance. After this exercise we begin our work with activities available in the classroom.

Our topic for this term is weather. We are singing songs, reading books and poems to help us describe the weather. Each week we will be learning new Makaton signs, because we strongly believe and witness how Makaton signs stimulate speech development.

Our letter of the for last week was 'w' for weather. Children were introduced to a sand tray where they practice writing the letters using their finger.



This week we will be talking about seasons. Our letter off the week is 's' and we will be learning about characteristics of four seasons through games, books, songs, discussions, and art.

Nursery – Acorn and Seedlings

The nursery children were very happy to be back in their classroom environment following the Christmas holidays. They were excited to greet their friends and give a warm welcome to their new friends who are joining us this term.

We began each of our days last week with grace and courtesy lessons, to remind ourselves of the principals of the environment and practice our social language. Grace and courtesy lessons help to develop a child's personal social behaviour and grows the sense of community within the classroom.



We are also looking at our calendar each morning, learning the days of the week and the months of the year through songs. Our topic this term is 'Weather' and we use every opportunity to talk about the weather, updating our weather diary with a drawing of what the weather is like each day. The children are learning new

language relating to each weather type. We introduced the weather symbols, and we are learning to identify and name them.

This week we are going to continue our discussions about the weather, and we will be introducing the four seasons through lots of stories, songs and art activities.

Best wishes, WMS Admin

Important Numbers



To contact the school office dial:

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Email:

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