

W/C Monday 20th February 2023

Walthamstow Montessori School

Newsletter

Welcome Back to the second half of the spring term. We are delighted to have some new families joining us and I am sure you will all make them very welcome. We are looking forward to lots of lovely things planned for the remainder of the term.

Pancake Day

On Tuesday 21st February we will be celebrating Pancake Day at WMS! The children will enjoy a special pancake snack and will be taking part by preparing their toppings by squeezing oranges and lemons and slicing bananas.



Beech Class Trip

Beech class enjoyed their trip to Lloyd Park before the half term, to take part in a bird watching workshop. The children thoroughly enjoyed identifying each of the birds they had been learning about and making their own nests!



Elm class will also be taking a trip to Lloyd Park on Tuesday 28th February. They will be taking part in a 'Surviving Winter' workshop to complement their learning surrounding hibernation this week. You will have received a letter regarding this trip. Please

ensure permission slips are returned by this Friday 24th February for your child to attend.

Summer Term Invoices

Summer Term 2023 invoices will be issued from 13th March 2023. The first instalment will be due on or before Friday 17th March and the second instalment due 17th April 2023.

Easter Holiday Club

Thank you to those who returned booking forms for the Easter Holiday Club 2023. Confirmation and invoices will be issued this week. We are pleased to say we have been able to accommodate all requests. If you returned a booking form and do not receive a confirmation letter and invoice by the end of this week please contact the office.



Going Cashless

From 1st April 2023 WMS will be going cashless. All invoices must be settled via bank transfer from this date. If this will be a problem, please contact the office. Please ensure you check the invoice for the correct bank details when making the payment – referencing your child's name at all times.

World Book Day

To celebrate World Book Day on Thursday 2nd March the children will be invited to dress up as their favourite book character. There will be lots of fun and educational activities running throughout the week for the children to take part in to encourage a love of books and reading. Children will also receive book tokens to use in local bookshops.



We break up for the Easter break on Thursday 30th March at 12.30pm. Please note there is no tea timers on this day.

Important Diary Dates

- Elm Class Trip – Tuesday 28th February 2023
- World Book Day – Thursday 2nd March 2023
- Penrhyn School Photos - Thursday 18th May 2023
- Brookscroft School Photos – Wednesday 24th May 2023
- Sports Day – Friday 7th July 2023

Book of the Week

Winter Sleep
By
Sean Taylor and
Alex Morss



Class Information: Children's House

Welcome back to the second part of the term. We hope everyone had a relaxing break.

Before the break, we explored how rain is formed and linked this to the Water Cycle. Our book of the week "Once Upon a Raindrop" made the perfect introduction to our discussion about the Water Cycle. The book explained where water comes from and how it moves around our planet through evaporation, condensation and precipitation. As the children have a very sensorial relationship with their world in the early years, we had the children create their own "Water Cycle in a Bag". The children loved this activity and were able to make links and explain how the water cycle works.



We also explored which type of material would make the best umbrella. After a group discussion we decided that the best material would need to be waterproof and strong and plastic would make a great

material for an umbrella. We tested out 3 different types of material – fabric, tissue and foil and put them over a jar. The children made their predictions and observed that the foil in this case would make the most suitable material out of the 3.

The children always look forward to Show and Tell Sessions. They enjoyed talking about their special objects. Nirvana shared a beautiful art project that she made with her "Mausi" (aunt) whilst she was in India using the shells and flowers that they had collected. Roman brought in a telescope and showed the children how it worked. Mila brought in an interactive German book that her grandma bought her. She showed everybody how the pen provides information about each page in the book. The favourite show and tell was Vivienne's Pop up Pirate Game. The children waited patiently to take turns to slide their sword into the barrel. Everyone had a great time playing the game.



The children enjoyed baking Valentine Cookies. It was a great way for putting their numeracy skills into practise. They were introduced to the weighing scale. We looked at the numbers on the scales and identified the quantities required for each ingredient. The children took turns to add and measure spoonfuls of flour, sugar and butter. We counted how many tablespoons were required of each ingredient and the children kept checking and monitoring the needle on the scales to make sure we had the exact quantity.

In Art, Miss Alex showed the children how to make a colourful paper chain rainbow, hanging underneath a white fluffy cotton ball cloud. Aside from creating a beautiful wall hanging, this was a great activity where the children practised their motor skills, hand-eye coordination, scissor skills and their pincer grip.



For P.E we played a parachute game. This activity promotes various skills such as teamwork, hand-eye coordination, following instructions, sensory development, gross motor skills as well as enjoying the simplicity of the game. The children absolutely enjoyed being under the parachute.

This week we will be learning more about hibernation and how animals prepare for and survive the cold weather. We will also be creating a habitat for these animals to protect them from the weather. Our sound of the week is 'h'. Please think of words beginning with this sound. It would be great if children could bring in something that is related to our phonetic sound 'h' or hibernation for Show and Tell.

Kindergarten - Elm Class

Welcome back to this half term and hope you all had a lovely break. We had a busy week for the last week of term. We were learning about the water cycle. Children were really engaged in how the cycle works. We used vocabulary including evaporation and condensation and learned how rain is formed and recycled. We carried out an experiment to determine which materials are best to use as an umbrella. Four jars were used with the rim covered with foil, cling film, tissue and material. Children soon discovered that tissues would not keep us dry! The class held a tissue above their own heads and a pipette of water was dropped like rain. Children laughed at the fact that they were getting wet. We predicted what we thought would happen with the foil, material and cling film and used pom poms inside the jar to see if they were wet.

We also celebrated Valentines and baked some biscuits which I hope you all enjoyed (or maybe the children enjoyed). Heart wreaths were also made using a range of materials.

During our Italian lesson with Miss Benedetta, the children learned about 'carnivale' and all made a mask to take home.

Happy 4th birthdays to Hadley and Penny who have celebrated in the last couple of weeks. Ananya and Rhea also turned 4 in the holidays. Thank you to Jasper and Fran for sharing your show and tells. Jasper was excited to show his moon to the class that when lit had a photograph of him as a baby. Fran dressed as Elsa and performed a dance to 'let it go'.

For this half term we will continue to learn about the weather. This week we will be talking about hibernation. Children will learn about how some animals hibernate to survive the winter. They curl up

and sleep in a safe place. We will talk about their bodies and how their bodies work by slow breathing and their body temperature drops. How do the children think the animals feel? We will also make a nest for our class toy hedgehog to hibernate and we will check on him every week to make sure he is ok. To complement our learning, we will be going on a trip to Lloyd Park next week. The children will be taking part in 'how animals survive the winter' organised by the park's Conservation Team. Please keep an eye out for a letter to return to school to confirm your child's attendance. Our phonetic sound of the week will be 'h' for hibernation.

Kindergarten - Beech Class

Before the half term break, we learnt about rain and linked this to different areas of learning. We explored how rain is formed with the aid of an experiment where the children observed and demonstrated good understanding of evaporation and condensation to the water cycle experiment. A plate was placed on top of a jar of warm water and one at a time ice was being placed on the plate. Waiting patiently, the children watched the droplets of water formed and bumped into another one before dropping in as a rainfall. The children understood with the help of some pictures that the water droplets become too heavy to continue floating around in the cloud which then falls to the ground which we see as rain. We discussed the importance of rain to survive on our planet Earth.

Furthermore, we looked at materials that make the best umbrella in another experiment where the children were able to feel the various materials used such as cotton, foil, plastic, and paper. Using their prediction skills, the children chose the ones they thought would hold water best. This activity encourages the children's concentration skills as well as logical thinking among others. They demonstrated great attention skills, interacted brilliantly well amongst themselves, and waited patiently for their turns.



Playing the 'I spy' game, we focused on the phonetic sound 'r' in rain and related this to other objects in our environment such as red, rod, rubber, rolling pin etc. We also extended this by looking at other verbs that we can do that begins with 'r', Ronnie contributed and said 'run', Fatimah said 'ride'. The

children did brilliantly well identifying the letter sound 'r' when invited.



During Alba's Show and Tell, she brought in pictures of her trip to Zambia and visited her cousins. She also went to the zoo where she saw lots of animals. Alba showed the children pictures of her lovely trip and we all discussed the animals and the noises they make.

The children also enjoyed making some valentine cards and crafts for their families. We spoke about ways to show family and those around us that we care about them.



This week we will be learning about hibernation and the children's learning will be supported by various educational materials such as books about different animals that hibernate, why and where they hibernate. In addition to this, we will continue to focus on our

Montessori activities within and outside the classroom. Our phonetic sound of the week is 'h' for hibernation. You can help support the children's learning by sending in a safe object beginning with the phonetic sound 'h' so we can link our classroom learning to objects from home which can be brought in any day throughout the week.

Sycamore Class

It was a week full of fun, art and learning in our final week of the first half-term. We continued our discussing about rain and the water cycle.

We discussed that too much rain can be dangerous and can cause flooding. Children answered questions like what do we do if there is flooding? Some answers were: "We call firefighters, to help. They are very strong and they can help with flooding." "We need to stay home, because there is water everywhere."



We learned a new song about an umbrella and then explored different materials that can be used as an umbrella. Three jars were used and each was covered

with different materials. We used cotton, tissue paper and foil to see if any of these materials would stop the water going into the cups. This experiment also led us to have discussion about how puddles are formed and how much we love jumping in the puddles. Our phonetic sound of the week was letter "r". We looked at several objects beginning with sound "r" and practiced the letter formation using the sand tray and sandpaper letters.



The children enjoyed creating a story using weather pictures, animals and two characters (John and Suzie). It was very nice interactive activity where we looked at one picture at a time. Each time we added a picture the children took turns to share a sentence about what was happening in the story. This was a nice exercise for working in a group, sharing thoughts, extending vocabulary and speaking using whole sentences.

We also learned a new song and we hope you heard it from the children on Valentine's Day! (Skinny Marinky Dinky Dink). The children enjoyed singing this action song throughout the week while making Valentine's cards and having discussions about why we celebrate Valentine's Day.

A particular favourite activity of the week was the sensory weather tray with coloured rice and different weather symbols, spoons, bowls and many more.



Children practiced their skills of pouring, spooning and extended their vocabulary and imagination.

This week we will be learning about hibernation. Our phonetic sound of the week is "h".

We will also be celebrating pancake day on Tuesday.

Nursery - Acorn and Seedlings

During the last week of half term, the children learned about rain and the water cycle. The nursery children were enthusiastic about discovering how rain is formed and how clouds are made of water droplets. The children also discussed the types of clothing such as a raincoat and wellington boots that we wear when it rains.

We also explored the little animals that like to come out when it's raining, for example, the children learned that snails, worms and frogs like the rain. The nursery children also had the opportunity to learn about the water cycle.



During that week, the children also made some cards for Valentine's Day to give to their parents. The children enjoyed singing and doing the actions for the song 'Skinny Marinky Dinky Dink I Love You'. I am sure you heard this at home too!



Please also like and follow our Facebook and Instagram pages!

We all had a good half-term break and are happy to be back. A warm welcome to our new children joining us this half-term too!

This week, the nursery will learn about hibernation, and they will discover how and why animals hibernate. The letter of the week is "h". A kind reminder that nuts and grapes are not allowed in school due to allergies and choking hazards.

Best wishes, WMS Admin

Important Numbers



To contact the school office dial:

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