

W/C Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023

# Walthamstow Montessori School

## Newsletter

### World Book Day

To celebrate World Book Day on **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.



**If you are looking to change or increase your sessions, please advise the office by the end of next week so we can assess availability.**

### Easter Holiday Club

Thank you to those who returned booking forms for the Easter Holiday Club 2023. Confirmation and invoices were issued last week.



**Please settle the invoice by the deadline of Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. If payment is not received your place may be offered to another child.**

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

### Pancake Day

The children enjoyed a special pancake snack last Tuesday to mark Shrove Tuesday. They prepared the items for their snack by chopping bananas and squeezing lemons and oranges. The children in our Children's House also enjoyed whisking the batter and practicing with the frying pan for their pancakes!



### Important Diary Dates

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

### Elm Class Trip

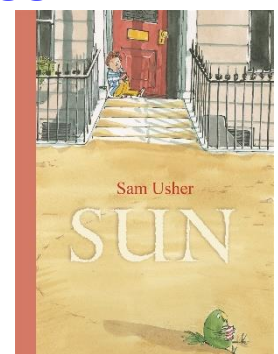
Tomorrow, Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February, Elm Class will be taking a trip to Lloyd Park to partake in a workshop on hibernation and surviving winter with the park's educationalist team. Please ensure your child is dressed weather-appropriate.

### Summer Term 2023

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

### Book of the Week

Sun  
by  
Sam Usher



## Class Information: Children's House

Last week the children were learning about hibernation. We discussed what it means to hibernate, named some animals that go into hibernation and looked at how some animals get ready for the winter months and prepare for the big sleep.



The children enjoyed our role play area where they created a habitat for our little hedgehog. Francis chose to create a cosy den for the hedgehog to sleep in.

We also observed Shrove Tuesday by indulging in some yummy pancakes. The children enjoyed preparing the batter with Miss Lorna. They took turns to whisk the batter and patiently waited for their pancakes, which they thoroughly enjoyed!



Our phonetic sound of the week was 'h'. The children came up with lots of words such as hotel, holiday, hedgehog, hot, heart. Throughout the week the children continued to engage in various literacy activities. Some have been practising their letter formation, some have been using the Large Movable Alphabet to make a list of words using their phonetic knowledge, and others continue to practise their reading and writing skills.



We also revisited the Pink Tower and Brown Stair with an extension activity. The children were shown how to build a wall using these two materials. This activity can be likened to a game of Jenga where the largest stair is placed next to the largest cube from the pink tower and the wall is slowly built upwards. Through this activity they explored the relationship of width and size and it also enabled them to practice dexterity and balance by attempting to remove the pink cubes from the wall without letting it fall!



In art, Miss Alex continued our discussion on hibernation focussing on the hedgehog. She talked about the spikes on the body and the fur on the face and its colour. Miss Alex



demonstrated how we could use different colours to create brown. The children mixed their colours and created a hedgehog using fork prints.



The children had a lot of fun making hedgehogs using clay and sticks during our out and about session. They kneaded, rolled, moulded and pinched their clay to get it in shape before adding sticks that they collected from the garden and finishing it off with googly eyes.

This week we will be learning about temperatures. Our sound of the week is 't'. 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 't' for show and tell.



We will also be celebrating St David's Day on Wednesday and World Book Day on Thursday.

**On Thursday, the children are invited to dress up as their favourite character. We would also like the children to bring in a pre-loved book and swap it for a different book that they can take home.**

## Kindergarten - Elm Class

Last week the children were learning about hibernation and animals that hibernate and in particular our focus has been hedgehogs. We combined numeracy into



making our own hedgehog. We reinforced our shape knowledge of circle, rectangle and triangle and introduced a new shape, semi-circle. The class really enjoyed our out and about session this week as we collected leaves and sticks to hibernate our own class hedgehog. Children were

invited to place the natural items into the 'hibernacula' ready for the hedgehog to hibernate. We will continually check on him to ensure he is safe and still sleeping. Children enjoyed Pancake Day, and all had the opportunity to cut their own banana and squeeze juice from oranges and lemons. We finished our week by creating salt dough and manipulating to make our own hedgehogs.

Rhea also celebrated her 4th birthday with a birthday walk in class. She enjoyed showing photographs of her birthdays from the previous 3 years. Happy birthday Rhea!



This week we are going on our trip to Lloyd Park. Please ensure you have returned or emailed your permission form. This trip will really complement the learning we have undertaken so far, and I am sure the children will really enjoy it.

It is also World Book Day on Thursday, and I look forward to seeing all your lovely costumes to celebrate this really important event. Reading corners are an important part of our classroom environment. Giving books their own area emphasises the importance of books and also provides children with an opportunity to learn how to look after and care for their books.

As well as these lovely events we will also be learning about temperatures. We will experiment with ice and make predictions as to what melts the ice the fastest between water, salt, or sugar. It is also St David's Day so our learning will be around this patron saint and the country of Wales. The phonetic sound of the week will be 't'.

## Kindergarten – Beech Class

Throughout last week, we enjoyed learning about hibernation using picture books, songs and other learning materials. The children were also able to demonstrate good understanding of their knowledge of hibernation at the end of the week. We looked at

various pictures of animals that hibernate to survive during winter and learned how their body temperature, heart rate, breathing, and other metabolic activities slow down significantly to save their energy. We also looked at other animals that don't hibernate such as lions, tigers, zebras, cheetahs, leopards and a few other animals. We learnt that the reason why certain animals hibernate during winter is because food supplies become scarce. We also looked at one of the ways it may be scarce, for example, when it snows the snow buries their food underground making it difficult for the animals to source for what to eat!

During our "Out and About" session, we acted like bears hibernating and being woken by our "animal friends" when spring came. We linked this role play to our understanding that by Spring, the animals will start to wake up from their hibernation. The children enjoyed this role play, and each took turns to act as bears. Ronnie played a good hibernating bear that, when disturbed by his friends' touch and noises, he didn't wake up but once they all shouted, "Wake up



bear, Spring is here!" he jumped up happily and reunited with his friends. "I can't wait to see the hedgehog again... when spring comes, right now they're still hibernating," said Beckett. When we got back inside, the children were creative to make different animals that they think are still

hibernating. Manon made a bear out of playdough and a cave for it to hibernate in.

Our phonic sound of the week was 'h' in hibernation. The children all contributed brilliantly well linking this to other words beginning with 'h' – "horse", "hat", "hand", "hot" and "house" to name a few.

They were each invited to trace the letter sound in a sand tray as well as attempt writing it on the chalk board. We all looked round our environment to source for objects and pictures beginning with the sound 'h'.



Lily traced 'h' on the Sand Tray whilst Fatimah attempted to write letter 'h' on the child board.



The children have also continued to engage in their Montessori activities. Here, a child chose to work with the Cylinder Blocks. This is a Sensorial material that helps a child to refine their visual discrimination and trains their eye to see finer and finer differences. This also introduces the visual discrimination of size, they refine the child's perception of dimension and prepare for mathematics activities such as comparison, grading and seriation.

Another child has been practising cutting along the lines using a child sized scissors. This activity helps the child build muscle control, develop hand-eye coordination, strengthen their tactile spatial awareness, and improve their fine-motor movements.



During Pancake Day, the children enjoyed squeezing oranges and lemons as well as cutting bananas.

This week we will continue to learn about weather and focusing on temperatures as well as incorporating St David's and World

Book Day into our learning this week. We will look at tools to use to measure temperature such as a thermometer. Our learning will be supported using different learning materials and experiments. In addition to this, we will continue to focus on our Montessori activities within and outside the classroom. Our phonetic sound of the week will be 't' in temperature. Don't forget to continue to support your child's learning by sending in a safe object beginning with the phonic sound 't' so we can link our classroom learning to objects from home which can be brought in preferably on a Wednesday or any day throughout the week.

## Sycamore Class

We began our week learning about animals that hibernate and discussing what hibernation is and why animals hibernate. On Monday we looked at different animals that sleep through the winter and we focused on the phonetic sound "h" for hibernation through looking at different objects around us begins with sound "h".

We continued with this topic on our 'out and about' lesson. Children were introduced to our class hedgehog soft toy. We talked about the process of hibernation from start to finish. We helped to find a place for our hedgehog to hibernate. We had a discussion about cold weather in wintertime, and how animals keep themselves safe and warm.



We followed this by talking about birds migrating to a warmer climate during wintertime. Children enjoyed acting out on story: "We're Going on a Bear Hunt" by Michael Rosen. We also enjoyed art activities and a music lesson where we learned a new song about hibernation and different places for different animals to hibernate.



On Tuesday we made pancakes to celebrate Pancake Day. The children enjoyed cutting bananas and squeezing orange and lemon juice to have on their pancakes.

This week we will be talking about temperatures. There will be art activities and experiments to help

children understand the concepts of hot and cold. Our phonetic sound of the week is "t".

We will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday. The children are invited to dress up in their favourite book character.

## Nursery - Acorn and Seedlings

The Nursery children were excited about this week's topic. We talked about what the animals do during the Winter, and explained what hibernation means. We looked at, sounded out and traced the letter "h" for "hibernation", and extended our learning by finding objects in our environment beginning with this sound.



We looked at photos and videos of the bear and the hedgehog in hibernation and we created bears and hedgehogs using paint and a fork. The children especially loved recreating the story "We're Going on a

Bear Hunt" and building a house for the hedgehog during our 'out and about' session.

This week we are going to talk about temperatures and do some science experiments explaining temperatures. We are also going to acknowledge World Book Day, explore our newly created book corners with lots of new exciting books and get dressed up as our favourite book characters.

## **Best wishes, WMS Admin**

**Important Numbers**



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