

W/C Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023

# Walthamstow Montessori School

## Newsletter

### We wish you all a lovely and restful half-term break

with your families and friends, and look forward to seeing you all when we return on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February. We have some new families joining us after the half-term and are sure you will join us in giving them a very warm welcome to the school.

### Beech Class Trip

Tomorrow, Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February, Beech Class are taking an exciting trip to Lloyd Park.

The session will be a workshop called 'Big Park Bird Watch' and complements wonderfully the children's learning this term around the RSBP Birdwatching event.

Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather as this session is outdoors so hats, gloves and suitable footwear are essential!

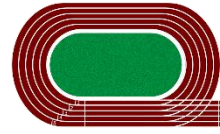
### Summer Term Invoices

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.

### School Photos

Our annual school photos this year will take place at Penrhyn on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May and at our Children's House on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May.

**Your child must be wearing their WMS smock and plimsols to have their photo taken. If you need to order a new smock please contact the office ASAP.**



### Sports Day 2023

We are excited to confirm that our Sports Day 2023 will take place at the Waltham Forest Feel Good Centre on **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023**. Please save the date in your diaries for this fun annual event! Please note school is closed on this day as we will be at the event and you must remain with your child. Full details will be provided nearer the time. This event is for all children regardless if they attend school on a Friday.

### 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.

### Parents Corner

Henry have released an up-to-date list of dentists in the borough who are currently offering routine appointments and accepting new patients. This PDF was emailed by the Head of School to all parents last week for your information.



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

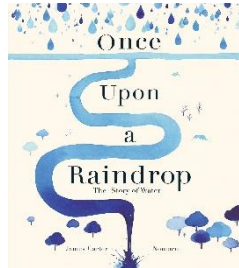
### Important Diary Dates

- Beech Class Trip – Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023
- Elm Class Trip – Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 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

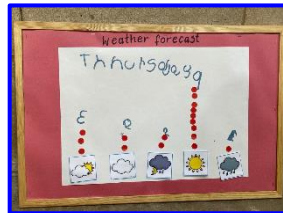
## Book of the Week

**Once Upon a Raindrop**  
By  
**James Carter**



### Class Information: Children's House

Last week we learnt more about weather forecasts. We discussed what it means to make predictions and we talked about how weather is predicted and who predicts it. The children learnt that a Meteorologist is a scientist who studies and predicts the weather. Daily the children would predict the weather for the following day. Using that information, the children recorded their predictions on a chart and when completed, they were able to see at a glance, and count the most popular prediction made by the group.



Thank you Ava-Lily for bringing in such a special bouquet of flowers which she bought from the market. We discovered that the tulips were still attached to their bulbs. The children were able to see first hand the different parts of the flower. They got a chance to touch and describe the roots – 'stringy'. In groups, the children have replanted the bulbs, hoping to grow our own tulips.



The children continued learning about weather symbols in art. Miss Alex showed them how to make a weather wheel. The children enjoyed drawing their own unique weather symbols.

The children also explored the process of how rain falls through our cloud in a jar experiment. They observed how the food colouring fell as raindrops through the shaving foam clouds when it got too heavy.



We had a lovely out and about session. The children enjoyed hot chocolate and learnt about air



pressure. We made a simple weather barometer with a balloon and a jar and showed the children what happens when pressure pushes down. The children observed that the straw moves upward. We related this to weather being fine and sunny. The barometer will be placed in the garden so the children can see the weather condition associated with the barometer's position.

Lots of new activities are being explored by the children.



Roman working with the Article Box

Eloise exploring the Constructive Triangle - Box 1



Louis building the Trinomial Cube

This week we will be learning more about rain and the water cycle. We will be making a class rain catcher/gauge and measuring the rainfall (hopefully it rains!) and also exploring which material makes the best umbrella. Our phonetic sound for the week is 'r'.

## Kindergarten - Elm Class



A busy and lovely week in Elm class. The children really enjoyed our discussion around predicting the weather and weather forecasting. We learnt that we need to know what the forecast will be like to

prepare ourselves for the day ahead. We started our week with an activity from our topic area.

Using the symbols we were able to sound out and match the first letter of each word to the correct weather symbol. Children were then invited to find their name and place it under their own



prediction for the weather the following day. Using our numeracy skills we were then able to see that five children thought that there would be a rainbow, one cloudy etc. Unfortunately five children were disappointed when there wasn't a rainbow the next day! We continued our learning around our sound of the week 'p'.

Using a sensorial concept we used shaving foam mixed with food colour and glitter to mark make the letter. This experience gives children the opportunity to express themselves and explore new materials other than pen and paper. For our Out and About session we again used the shaving foam to create a cloud within a jar filled with water. Drops of food colouring were used to create the effect of rain. We then developed our physical skills by using the large parachute to represent different types of weather. This activity strengthens arm muscles in a gently but effective way. To make the activity a bit more challenging a ball was added and children enjoyed trying to keep the ball balanced within the parachute.

Over the week the children were also very proud of their artwork. We all made our own weather wheel. This was a really enjoyable activity where they all followed instruction and were keen to take them home.



Thank you to Rhea for your show and tell last week. Rhea showed her friends a penny whistle which she played for the class. Coming from a musical family it was lovely to see how Rhea too will possibly take an interest in music.

This week we will be talking about the rain. This will include the water cycle. We are hoping for some rain this week so that we can explore the puddles outside. We will be exploring how rain is formed, and what causes rain. We will understand that within a cloud, water condenses into another causing the droplets to grow thus causing the rain. We will also look at materials that make the best umbrella and carry out an experiment using cotton, plastic, paper and foil. Children will be able to use their prediction skills to say which one they think will work best. Within class we will also concentrate on the practical life activity of water pouring. This is also an activity that can be done at home. Water pouring activities can help build a child's concentration, control of body movement and fine motor control. Our sound of the week will be 'r'. Please continue to think of words beginning with this sound.

## Kindergarten - Beech Class

Beech Class had a busy and interesting week last week. We focused on predicting the weather in addition to our Montessori activities. We looked at different methods of predicting rainfall using classified cards. We learnt the names of three different methods which are the doppler radar, satellites and rain gauge. We also learned the word Meteorologist, and discussed who they are and what they do. We took turns to pretend we were meteorologists and predicted the weather throughout the week. We used an old method of predicting the rain by looking at the sky to guess how the weather be the next day. This was very interesting as some of us guessed right, however a few of us wanted a rainbow which we are yet to see!



For our Out and About session, we enjoyed the rain cloud in a jar using some shaving foam, water, and food colouring. We took turns and practised our waiting skills as it took a little while for us to see the "rain drop" in the jar, however, when it did we were intrigued to see the effect in the water.

Afterwards, we enjoyed listening to a fictional story about rainy weather where we took turns to gently splash in mud in our welly



boots. Afterwards, we printed our boots on the paper and discussed the shapes and patterns seen.



We ended our Out and About session by playing a parachute game. This activity promotes various skills such as team work, 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



Thank you to Ella for being our classroom flower monitor. Our classroom looked more beautiful with the colourful flowers you brought in, and the children enjoyed taking care of the flowers too.



Ella invited Manon to care for the flowers she had brought in.

Lily is using a blindfold to feel each Tactile Tablet before pairing them. This activity allows children to pair and grade using their stereognostic sense. The purpose of this material is to help refine a child's tactile sense. "...this feels rough to me"



said Lily when feeling one of the materials.

Here, a child chose to show another how to use the Spindle Box. Whilst presenting the activity, another joined to observe and both children concentrated throughout the activity. They were shown how to complete the cycle of activity. The child presenting felt proud of herself after presenting the activity. "I have shown them how to use the Spindle Box... and we tidied up already."

This week we will continue to learn about weather and our topic is on rain and the water cycle. Our learning will be supported using picture cards in the form of story, story books and other materials. The children will also participate in a rain experiment, play the "I spy" game and other exciting games in relation to rainy weather. 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 'r' in rain. You can help support the children's learning by sending in a safe object beginning with 'r' so we can link our classroom learning to objects from home. The children were fascinated to see Alba's special wood bark colour pencil for our phonetic sound of the week 'p' in pencil. Everyone did brilliantly well thinking of different items beginning with 'p'. They have also enjoyed relating and seeing their items from home too which has also encouraged the children to often share and take turns with each other during circle time.

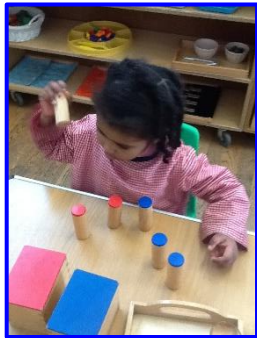
## Sycamore Class

We had a very interesting week making predictions about the weather. We explained the different methods use by meteorologists to predict the weather, and looked at a thermometer and different satellites that help us to predict the weather forecast. We made weather predictions for the week and paired each type of weather with its phonetic sound. The children are becoming more familiar with the four seasons. They are starting to name the four seasons and each of their characteristics.



The favourite activity of the week was definitely our science experiment, where we looked at what happened when it is raining, and why it rains. We discussed the importance of the rain and water for our planet and looked at dry places that don't get much rain. The children learned that these are called deserts. We learned about the Sahara Desert in Africa where there are extreme heats and talked about how difficult it may for people, animals and plants to live there.

This week we will be discussing the rain in further depth, including the water cycle. We will be learning about rainforests which are home to lots of plants and animals that don't live anywhere else. We will continue explaining the water cycle and how clouds are formed. We will also talk about how too much rain can cause flooding. Our phonetic sound of the week is 'r'. We will be looking at objects beginning with sound 'r' and playing "I spy" games to reinforce this. We will be talking about Valentine's Day, learning new songs, and making valentines crafts. During our mornings children



continue using Practical Life activities and they are becoming more confident in skills like pouring, spooning, or folding. Some of the children were introduced to Montessori sensorial activities which help to organise and refine their visual, auditory, and tactile senses.

## Nursery – Acorn and Seedlings

The nursery children enjoyed learning about the weather predicting. The children learned that the word "predict" means "to guess" and we also learned that the person whose job it is to predict the weather is called a meteorologist. We discussed how knowing what the weather is going to be like can help us dress appropriately. The children were asked to identify the weather symbols and then took turns to predict



what the weather would be like tomorrow. We all placed our guesses, and the next day we checked and found out that some of the children's predictions were right! The children also enjoyed drawing clouds on an aluminium foil using markers and also creating an umbrella collage.



This week, we are going to learn how rain is created through a science experiment and a variety of stories, art activities and games.

## Best wishes, WMS Admin

Important Numbers



To contact the school office dial:

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Email

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