

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

# Walthamstow Montessori School

## Newsletter

### World Book Day

All the children and adults enjoyed dressing up for World Book Day! Every year we celebrate World Book Day to encourage a love of reading to the children and celebrate our favourite authors and characters. Each child took home a book token to exchange for a free book in a local bookstore!

Thank you to all the parents who came in to read their favourite childhood book to the children, they really enjoyed this special afternoon.



*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.*

### Elm Class Trip

Elm Class enjoyed a lovely trip to Lloyd Park last week for a workshop with the park's educationalist team. Miss Rebecca led a workshop on 'Surviving Winter' and the children learned all about hibernation. This



was brilliantly complementary of our current topic where we focused on hibernation last week. The children each made a clay hedgehog and



became hedgehogs themselves when they wrapped up warm in blankets ready to hibernate. We then enjoyed a game where, in turn, half of the children hid pinecones and the other half had to find them, ready to store away for hibernation! The session ended with a lovely snack and story read by Miss Rebecca in the park.

### 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.

**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.**

### Important Diary Dates

- Spa Day – Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March
- 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

### Red Nose Day

On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March WMS will be fundraising for Comic Relief. We are busy planning lots of exciting fund-raising activities to help support this wonderful charity. All children and staff are invited to dress in red – you could even paint or wear a red nose if you have one! Please bring a recommended donation of £1 to support this charity.



## Spa Day

We are delighted to say that, following the success of our first ever WMS Spa Day last year, we will be hosting another this year! This will take place on **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023**. An important communication surrounding this was sent last week to opt out of any aspect of the day. Please ensure the office is also aware of any skin sensitivities or allergies. We are looking forward to this wonderful day that promotes well-being, calmness and kindness towards ourselves and each other.



## WMS Alumni News!

We were so excited to hear from a previous WMS parent that their child had received a full music scholarship to Forest School from September. *Angelo's mummy said, "the seeds were sewn at WMS." Congratulations, Angelo.*

## Flower Monitor

Thank you, Eloise, for bringing in a lovely bouquet of tulips and arranging them so beautifully!



## Dance at the Children's House

We are very pleased to share that from today the Children's House will be having dance and movement lessons from Vestry School of Dance. Please send your child with ballet shoes if they have and they will need to be bare foot if not. We hope your child will share all about it with you!



## St. David's Day

Last week on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March was St. David's Day. The children marked this day by discussing the national flower of Wales, the daffodil, and by creating some beautiful daffodil art.



Our Children's House looked at images of things that Wales is recognised for.

## Conjunctivitis / Threadworms

We have had a confirmed case of conjunctivitis and a confirmed case of threadworms at the lower school. Please keep an eye out for symptoms of both these childhood infections in your child and inform the school if you become aware of them.

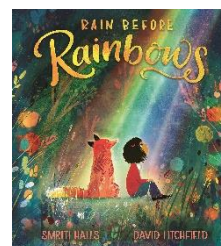
### Class Information:

## Book of the Week

*Rain Before Rainbows*

by

Smriti Halls and David Litchfield



### Children's House

A busy but exciting week filled with lots of learning!

Last week we learnt about temperatures. We discussed what temperature means and how it can be measured. The children used a laboratory thermometer to measure different temperatures. They watched closely as the mercury rose and fell



depending on how hot or cold the water was.

We revisited the Thermic Bottles, this time grading the bottles from the warmest to the coldest. This activity helps the child become more

aware of different temperatures in the environment. We extended the learning by grading the temperatures based on seasons using our classified seasons and temperature cards.

Our phonetic sound of the week was 't'. The children were able to name lots of things beginning with t – some of which were tambourine, tent, triangle, tortoise, tractor. We also reviewed some of the sounds we have learnt over the past couple of weeks through a Phonics Game. The children took turns to match a picture to its initial sounds. This is a great way of reinforcing phonetic sounds and associating sounds to objects.

On Wednesday we learnt how Saint David's Day is celebrated in Wales. We looked at the traditional costume worn by Welsh people and some of the food that is eaten. The children also learnt that the country of Wales is part of the United Kingdom. We located Wales on the map and the children were introduced to the flag of Wales. During the group the children learnt that Wales is a country that is famous for its hills and mountains. We looked at pictures of Mount Snowdon and some of the castles in Wales. Some of the boys were shocked to find out that Rugby is the national game of Wales and not football!

Having learnt that the national flower of Wales is The Daffodil, the children created some daffodils using potato prints for art.



During our out and about session, we carried out a simple science experiment where the children had to predict what would make the ice melt faster i.e. salt, sugar, cold water or warm hands. The children observed how quickly salt and their warm hands melted the ice block compared to water and sugar.

On Thursday we celebrated our much-anticipated World Book Day. The children had been talking all week about what they would be wearing. Some of the children brought in their pre loved storybooks to swap and it was a day filled with lots of story telling sessions. The children enjoyed sharing their favourite stories. Francis shared his book "Oi Frog!" and showed us some of the pages that he found funny. Aaron's book – "Funny Bones" was enjoyed by all. We even learnt the

Skeleton Dance and the "Dem Bones" song and there was "Cuddly Duddly" which Joshua loved narrating. The children also made some beautiful bookmarks for their books.

A massive thank you to Theo's Mum, Anna, for dressing up as an Alien and coming in to read two lovely stories to the children – "Dragons Love Tacos" and "Aliens Love Underpants" which the children thoroughly enjoyed.



The children continue to explore a variety of activities from the shelves. Some have been repeating the activities that have been introduced which are an important aspect of the Montessori learning as the children not only refine their skills but through repetition they are problem solving and making new discoveries.



This week we will be learning all about

Rainbows. We will look at how rainbows are formed, talk about when or where rainbows can be seen and do some simple science experiments relating to rainbows. Our phonetic sound of the week is



'b'. Please continue to think of words with your child beginning with this sound. They could also bring in something that relates to this sound for Show and Tell to help them make links.



## Kindergarten - Elm Class

A busy week in Elm class. Our trip to Lloyd Park was really enjoyed by all the children. They all engaged in making a hibernation den using sticks and natural objects for their hedgehogs that they had made. The conservationist was very impressed with the children's knowledge around hibernation that we had covered

the week before in class. Children also participated in a turn taking game involving pinecones that were hidden and needed to be found just like squirrels that need to find their food. We enjoyed our snack at the park before finishing with a story.



Last week we also talked a lot about temperature. Every day we looked at the thermometer and learnt that the red line was called mercury, and if the red line was higher meant it was warmer and if the red line was lower it meant it was colder. For our 'out and about' session we learnt about the impact salt, warm water and cold water has on ice. We used our critical thinking skill to predict what we thought would happen. Children watched as the warm water quickly melted the ice cubes the fastest, followed by the salt that dissolved the ice. It was lovely seeing all the Children's costumes on world book day and the children were very excited to share and tell their friends who they were dressed as. I can see them all really developing their confidence in talking in a group.

Thank you to Ananya's mummy for coming into our class and reading a book to the class plus many others that the children had bought in class.



Thank you to Fran for being flower monitor this week and making our environment look beautiful.

Happy 4th birthdays to Elyas and Johan who celebrated this week.

This week we will be learning more about rainbows and why they happen. To create a rainbow white light from the sun enters the droplet of water and is reflected. It

causes dispersion in the same way in which white light generates a spectrum of light when it goes through a prism. A rainbow is a special phenomenon that occurs in nature that occurs when it is sunny on one side and raining on the other. It consists of an arch that forms in the sky made up of seven colours. We will be creating our rainbows in various forms of art. Phonetic sound of the week will be 'r.'



## Kindergarten - Beech Class

We had a very busy week in Beech class last week. Our focus was on learning about temperature and doing some experiments. The children learned that temperature is how hot or cold something is. Our bodies can feel the difference between something which is hot and something which is cold. To measure temperature more accurately, a thermometer can be used. We looked at two different thermometers, room, and body thermometers. The



children explored using a thermometer on each other as well as taking turns. In addition, we explored using a room temperature and practiced reading the numbers on it. We also reinforced that something cold has a low temperature and something hot has a high temperature.

Throughout last week, we practiced our phonetic sound of the week - 't' in temperature. The children did brilliantly well as they each linked the sound to words beginning with 't'. Lily linked the sound 't' to tall, Alba linked it to 'telly', Fatimah linked it to 'turtle' whilst Beckett linked it to 'tools'.

Furthermore, the children were encouraged to trace the letter using the Sand Tray, chalk board and their literacy book. They also attempted to write the letter 't' using the Read Write Inc lyrics - "down the tower, across the tower".



The children demonstrated great enthusiasm throughout the entire activity.



We also celebrated Saint David's Day by listening to the story and baking cookies which was linked to our topic, temperature. The children were asked if we needed a high or low temperature to bake. "The oven needs to be hot to bake

the cookies" said Ella. We all agreed that the oven needed a high temperature for it to bake our cookies. The children also practiced the basic maths concept of quantity through measuring, such as 4 cups, 2 cups etc., which in turn helped build their self-confidence in following instructions to prepare the recipe!

During our 'Out and About' session, we discussed about the cold temperature and what we need to do to feel warm. Afterwards we made a kite where the children were excited to run around in the garden flying their kite.



The children enjoyed making suncatchers out of paper plates, petals, a clear sticky cover and glue. They all practiced their hand-eye coordination as well as concentration skills as they applied glue on to the clear sticky cover to make their preferred patterns using the petals.



We also celebrated World Book Day where we all dressed up as various characters. The children designed their own bookmarks and were excited to take turns as they read their books to everyone. Thank you to Ronnie's mum for coming in to read to the children lovely stories to help celebrate this interesting and busy day. The children chose a story each and tried to draw their favourite part of the story. Alba chose the 'Princess in the forest' story and her favourite part was when the moss boys brought in some breakfast to the princess.

We ended the week with an ice experiment to further help reinforce our understanding on cold temperature. This experiment also supported the children's understanding of low temperature and we compared this to our baking cookie experience on Wednesday where we learned about hot temperature. With the ice experiment, we used hot water and salt to see which ice will melt faster. The children identified that the hot water melted the ice faster compared to the salt. We also use three jars of different water temperature which the children brilliantly identified the hot, warm and cold temperature.

Afterwards, we listened to a story called 'Sneezy the Snowman'. This story is about a snowman, who doesn't like to be cold and sneezes a lot, he keeps coming up with ideas to try and warm up only to melt and have to be built again by some children. This is also a rhyming story that follows a pattern which we all followed and was able to predict what Sneezy the Snowman will say. The children demonstrated good concentration skills throughout the story and at the end, we were happy to see that he got the right temperature he needed. We made our own melted snowman and brainstormed some things that would melt a snowman. Manon said "the sun can melt the snowman" while Ella-Roux said her "snowman melted because it was in the hot bath."

This week we will continue to learn about weather and focusing on what a rainbow is. We will look at the colours that make up rainbow. 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 'b' in book. 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

Last week we were talking about temperatures. At first, we introduced the thermometer to the children. We looked at the numbers on the thermometer and learned to read whether the temperature was hot or cold. The children enjoyed a discussion about what we enjoy in winter when it is cold, and in summer when it is hot.



A favourite activity of the week was our balloon experiment. We filled one jug with hot water and another jug with icy cold water. Then we attached the balloon on the top of the plastic bottle.

When we placed the bottle with the balloon in hot water, the balloon inflated. When we placed the balloon in cold water balloon deflated.

Another experiment was to watch what happens when we pour food colouring in icy water, and hot water. In hot water, the food colouring dissolved fast. In cold water it was a slower process. Following this experiment, we talked about invisible water molecules that move fast in hot water and slow in cold water. We played a game pretending to be water molecules moving fast or slow.

All of us really enjoyed World Book Day. Thank you for helping your child choosing costume of their favourite book character. Children enjoyed making book marks, reading their favourite books and even a 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' puppet show. At the end of the day, we all enjoyed a story from Elliot's Daddy, Steve. It was a story called *Harry the Highlander*. Thank you for taking time to visit us and introducing soft toy of Harry to the children. They thoroughly enjoyed it!

This week we will be learning about rainbows. We will be discussing different shades of colours and participating in art activities. Our learning will be complemented by the use of the Montessori colour box 3. Our phonetic sound of the week is "b". We will also celebrate international woman's day on Wednesday.

## Nursery – Acorn and Seedlings

Last week at the nursery was very special as we celebrated World Book Day. The teachers have given our reading corner a makeover, something we do frequently to encourage the children



towards the corner. Giving books their own area of the classroom shows their importance to the children and inviting to encourage a love of reading. During last week, the children discussed their favourite books and why they loved reading. We also did craft activities such as bookmarks using the main characters of their favourite book at school.

The children also worked on the topic of temperature. They discovered how temperature is measured using a thermometer. During our out-and-about session, the nursery children had a little experience finding the difference between



warm and cold by putting their hands in warm water and then in cold water.



We also celebrated St David's Day last week and the children made paper daffodils on the day to take home.

This week, we will continue on our theme "Weather" and we will be finding out more about rainbows. We will learn how rainbows are formed and children will be able to discuss their favourite colours. The phonetic sound of the week is "b".

**Best wishes, WMS Admin**

**Important Numbers**



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