



W/C Monday 24th April 2023

# Walthamstow Montessori School

## Newsletter



**Welcome back** to our summer term 2023. Please join us in giving a very warm welcome to

our new families at WMS; we hope you are all settling in wonderfully. We have a very busy term ahead with lots of exciting things to look forward to.

Class 'welcome back' letters have been sent so do let the office know if you haven't received one. These are full of details of plans for the term so do take the time to read them.

Summer term diary dates have been amended (and re-amended!! and are attached to this email in case you missed them). Please make a particular diary note for sports day as this is a whole school event offsite and school will be closed on this day.

**Please note we break for half term on Friday 26th May and term resumes on Monday 5th June 2023 (early risers and tea timers run as normal on this day).**



**Happy Eid to all our families and WMS teaching team that were celebrating over the last few days.**

Last week, the children learned about the important Islamic festival of Eid al-Fitr. This follows the holy month of Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. The children took part in lots of art activities related to Ramadan last week. Classes made some wonderful cards and our nurseries made beautiful decorations. Children

enjoyed having henna designs on their hands Children's House!

Please see your child's respective class info to read more about how all the wonderful ways we celebrated.



**At WMS we embrace and celebrate all faiths and important dates from our families home countries.**

### School Photographs

**Nursery & Kindergarten: 18<sup>th</sup> May  
Children's House: 24<sup>th</sup> May**

Your child must be wearing their school uniform and so if you do not have a smock, please contact the office to purchase a new one. A letter with full information will be sent out for timings etc and arrangements if it is not your child's school normal school day.



### **Happy 22nd Birthday WMS!**

Please join us in wishing WMS the happiest of birthdays! Miss Lorna founded the school 22 years ago on Saturday 22nd, and how very lucky are we all to be part of such a wonderful school today.

The children have all enjoyed getting creative with ways to say, 'Happy Birthday' and these will make lasting treasured memories on the walls at WMS!



We'd like to thank Miss Lorna

for all her love and hard work over all these years and for the many ways she has made a difference to the lives of so many families and little ones. Happy 22nd Birthday WMS!

## King's Coronation

Details of this special celebration were sent out last week by email. Lots of activities will be taking place throughout the w/c 2<sup>nd</sup>



May for the children, leading up to our Tea Party on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> and procession over Lloyd Park on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you to all those that have offered to help and further lovely ideas for celebration. We will be in touch shortly.

**Thank you so much** to Matilda and her mummy Telma who spent the weekend together designing and making this very special and unique bunting for us as a gift. We will certainly have it for many years to come for all our celebrations and remember Matilda and her lovely family and their time at WMS!



## Earth Day – Art and D.T.

On Friday the children celebrated Earth Day. This special day provides a wonderful opportunity for bringing focus to our environment and how to care for it. We began this project by discussing recycling. Why is it good for our Earth to recycle? What can be recycled? What happens to recycled materials? Children in our Children's House identified and named the different continents on Earth.



The Children's House enjoyed planting their sunflower seeds.



## Sun Hats and Lotion

We are looking forward to these warmer months where the children will be taking their learning outside whenever possible. Please ensure your child has a named sun hat and that sun lotion is applied before school. We will make sure that the children are drinking plenty of water to keep them hydrated and their school smocks will protect them.



## Watch your speed!

This is a polite reminder that if you are driving to school and dropping off your children, to drive slowly and carefully and legally when parking near the school.

Cars should be parked in designated bays and not dangerously in front of the school gates or in front of the school garages.

It has been observed (even when there are available and safer parking bays available) that cars have pulled up very sharply in front of the school gates where children are entering and leaving. Please share this with family members or carers of your child.

## Gardening and Sensory Garden

In both school gardens we have started work on our sensory gardens and planting patches to explore as we spend more time outdoors in the sunshine. These will comprise various herbs and plants such as rosemary,



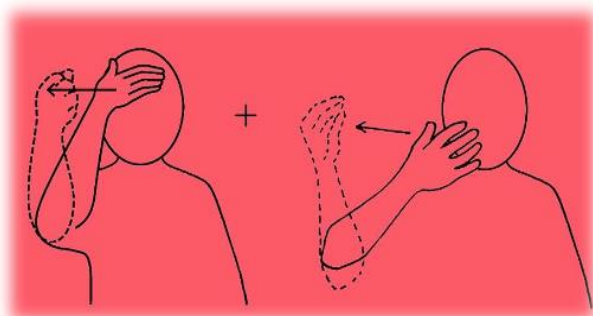
strawberries, and parsley, for the children to nurture, smell, touch and even taste over the coming months. This will provide a lovely sensory experience for the children as well as a wonderful opportunity for learning practical life skills. The children will, with guidance, plant the herbs and be taking care of them throughout the term. We look forward to enjoying these areas very soon!



If you have any spare herbs or perhaps some planting flowers we would love to make our Penrhyn courtyard bloom. Please let us know if you are able to donate to us.

## Class Information

*Makaton Sign of the week at WMS!*  
*'Summer'*



Draw your hand across your forehead and then your mouth (hot season)

Visit [makaton.org](http://makaton.org) for further background and information on this great skill.

## Children's House

We have welcomed Alanna, Elyas, Felix, Fran, Freida, Rhea and Penny to our Children's house. We revisited and familiarised ourselves with classroom routines and boundaries. The children were also very excited to share stories of their Easter break with everyone.

The children enjoyed their first tennis session with Miss Hilary. During the session, they practised catching and throwing exercises.

Our topic for this term is Continents. We have been working throughout the week with the Continent Globe and the Puzzle Map. The children have also been singing the "Show me the Continent" song to help them identify the different continents.



Our number for the week was 7 and we have been working with the Number Rods and exploring different ways of making 7. The children have also been exploring a variety of numeracy activities. Elyas chose to build the Pink Tower and measure the height using a measuring tape. He read the measurement and enjoyed sharing it with us...59 cm!



Our phonetic sound for the week was 'c'. The children came up with lots of things that began with 'c' like carrot, caterpillar, cake, crawl, camouflage and catapult.

We read a book called Sameira's Eid, which gave an insight of how Eid is celebrated. The children have been spending a lot of time exploring our culture area. We had items like the Holy Quran, a prayer mat and tasbeeh (prayer beads), kufi (hat), oud, henna and dates. The children enjoyed looking at the Arabic writings in the Quran and noticed how different it looked to our alphabets. Some of them liked the sweet smell of oud, whilst others found it quite strong. As part of the celebration, Miss Faiza spent the afternoon creating beautiful henna designs on the children's hands.



Miss Alex showed the children how to use pointillism technique to make beautiful Eid Cards. The children also made a Crescent Moon and Star mobile.

This week we will continue our topic on Continents and our focus will be on Europe. We will be looking at the map of Europe,



identifying where some of the countries are located and introducing the children to some of the famous landmarks in Europe. Our phonetic sound for the week is 'l'. It would be great if children could bring in a safe object that begins with 'l' to help them make links to the phonetic sound.

## Kindergarten - Elm Class

Welcome back to this half of the term and hope you had a lovely Easter break. Elm class were excited to share their Easter news with each other.

A big thank you to Ananya who looked after our Everywhere Bear during the Easter break. Ananya had lots of fun with bear, and he seems to have adopted a new name of 'Berry the bear.' Berry enjoyed being part of Ananya's family where he visited an exhibition about where milk comes from and how it ends up being in the kitchen.



We started the week by introducing our topic for the term which is Continents. The children were introduced to the continent globe' and we identified that there are 7 continents. We will be using the Montessori material of the continents globe and matching puzzle map throughout the term. The ultimate purpose of the coloured globe is to help children grasp that the earth is made of continents and oceans. An indirect aim of the geography material is also to help children get a sensorial impression the size and shape of each continent.



The puzzle maps help children to memorise continents but also to gain a deeper understanding of how continents relate to one another. We will be exploring each continent in more depth over the weeks ahead. As a class we also learnt about the festival of Eid which is celebrated after the fast of Ramadan. Children were invited to make their own Eid mobile to take home. We also talked about Earth Day and the importance of looking after our planet. This year's theme is "Invest in Our Planet." Children used cotton buds to create their own Earth using green and blue paint.

This week we will be learning and baking some landmarks within the European Countries, namely England, France, Spain, Italy Germany and Belgium. If you have any photos of visiting landmarks within these countries please send them in with your child. The

phonetic sound of the week will be 'l' for landmark. Try to think of as many words with this beginning sound at home. Of course a famous sport within Europe is football and we will be setting up an assault course and use our gross motor skills to carefully kick the ball around some cones. I would like to continue with show and tell and this will be on a Wednesday for all children to be invited to bring in something important that they can share with their friends.



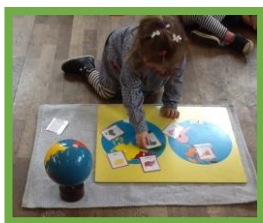
## Kindergarten - Beech Class

We started the week by having circle time and the children were happy to share their Easter break experiences, most of them seemed excited about the chocolates they ate during the break.!

Learning about continents, we have focused on the introduction to the seven Continents using the Montessori puzzle map, their location, colour and name. We furthered our knowledge by incorporating the Land and Water Globe to explore the continents sensorially. The children used their senses to feel the land and water surface and were able to say which one feels rough or smooth. During our "Out and About" session, we extended our learning outdoors as we looked at other lands on the continents. The children learnt that such places are referred to as islands and we used the Montessori Land and Water Forms to experiment, which helped the children demonstrate a better understanding of what an island is and different ways we can get to an island such as going on an aeroplane or ferry ride.

Using our book of the week, we looked at different languages around the world and then narrowed it down to our class. Some of the children said they speak other languages at home. Ronnie said, "I can say Buenos Dias in Spanish because I went to Tenerife in an aeroplane", Aila shared her language by saying "guten morgen" which means good morning in German. We looked at different

pictures to support our understanding of different languages.



We also learnt about Eid and how it is one of the most important celebrations in the Muslim community. We spoke about the significance of sighting the crescent to mark the end of the 30 days fasting. With visual support, the children learned that Eid Mubarak is celebrated with big family gatherings and sharing food and presents.

Our phonic sound of the week was 'c' in Continents. We also linked this sound to other words beginning with 'c' such as cat, car, and corn to name a few.

Our phonic sound for this week is "l" in landmark. You can help support your child's learning by sending in a safe object beginning with the phonic sound 'l' so we can link our classroom learning to objects from home which can be brought in any day throughout the week.

Thank you to Matilda for sharing the seashells she collected from her trip to Mallorca. The children enjoyed looking at them. In addition, thank you for also sharing your picture of the plant we planted last term during one of our "Out and About" session. The plant called "Empress of India" has grown beautifully well and Matilda shared that she had looked after her plant so well by watering it.

We also celebrated Earth Day and discussed how important the day is for everyone who lives on this planet Earth. We looked at a few pictures of ways to take good care of our planet such as recycling and using less water. We also spoke about the importance of throwing rubbish in the right bin.



This week, we will continue to learn about the Continent and our focus will be on Europe and Landmarks. We will be looking at naming and learning about some European countries and their landmarks. E.g. London/Big Ben; France/Eifel Tower etc.



## Kindergarten - Sycamore Class

Our first week back was lots of fun. We welcomed new friends in the class, and we are very excited to have them with us for summer term.

Continents of the world is a great topic for children to understand about the world, nature, animals and different cultures.

We introduced the globe of land and water. All children were confident to identify land and water. We looked closely on the islands and some of us can already name all of the continents of the world.

We discussed different transport and children were having some interesting ideas about how to get to different countries. One of the suggestions was to have under water DLR train!

There has been lots of activities to practice our fine motor skills through art and practical life activities.

We also learned about Eid and discussed how it is celebrated in the world.

We start each morning with a discussion, welcoming our friends and an introduction to Montessori activity from the shelves. We discuss our emotions and read books that help children understand their feelings. We continue with daily grace and courtesy exercises that help children to understand how to use the classroom materials or behave in different situations.

This week we will be learning about landmarks. We will be discussing different European countries each day and learn about famous buildings in Europe.

Our letter of the week is "I" for landmarks. We will share picture of different landmarks in Europe.

We will also learn and practice for PE football. We will practice some skills of kicking ball and working as a team.



## Nursery

We are all thrilled to be back to school after our Easter break. The children have settled back into their routines, and we have welcomed new friends into our classroom.

The theme for our summer term is the 7 continents.

Last week, the children explored the land and water globe and were able to spot the differences between the land and water. The nursery children were also introduced to the names of the 7 continents and their locations. We focused on the number 7 in class, the children have been counting together the number of continents using their fingers and nomenclature cards. During our morning circle time, children also enjoyed singing the " Show me the Continents" song. On Friday, we talk about the Eid celebration in our Muslim community and decorated a lovely crescent moon during our arts and craft session.

This week, the nursery children will explore Europe and the landmarks on the continent. The letter of the week will be "I" for landmark.



**Best wishes, WMS Admin**

**Important Numbers**



**To contact the school office dial:  
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**Email:**

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Facebook and Instagram pages!**