

W/C Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024

# Walthamstow Montessori School

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## Newsletter



### Alpacas Visit to WMS!

We are looking forward to our visit from these friendly boys on **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February**. The alpacas are very excited to come and meet us all. They are very gentle animals and can be stroked, hand fed and cuddled. An email communication with some more information will be sent this week.

### RSBP Birdwatch

Children across the school have enjoyed partaking in the RSBP Big Birdwatch. Indoors, children have been looking at classified cards of types of birds we may find and learning their names. They have made bird feeders and binoculars and enjoyed putting these to use in our garden during their forest school sessions to spot some birds!



**Do let us know if you spotted anything unusual when out and about during Bird Watch Week!**



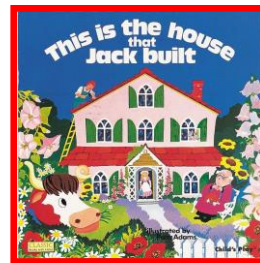
### Chinese New Year

We are looking forward to celebrating the upcoming Lunar New Year. Miss Hatti's brother is a martial artist who frequently performs at Chinese New Year festivals. He will be visiting WMS to show the children his traditional costume and a child-sized Chinese lion head prop to show the children.

*Our last day of this half-term is Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February. We return to school on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024.*

### Class Information:

### Book of the Week



*'This is the House that Jack Built'*

### Children's House Brookcroft

Last week, the children looked at different types of homes across the world, as part of our topic around 'homes and houses'. They discussed each particularity of these homes, and the materials used to build them. The children also discovered the names of the different types of houses around the world and located them on the continents globe, extending their cultural awareness.

During our art lessons, the children have made beautiful little houses out of toilet rolls and paper. We have then displayed them on our board in the school.



The children continue to be introduced to materials from across the Montessori curriculum. Practical Life develops a child's coordination of movement and concentration in preparation for further activities, and also help them to feel a sense of pride and responsibility in their classroom. Here a child works with the knobless



cylinders, culminating their sensorial experiences to explore dimension, shape, colour and size altogether.

If your child has a reading book, please help them to read at home and write a comment in the reading record book for us to maintain a dialogue on your child's reading.

Every day in groups, we discuss the things that make us kind, helpful and courageous. This week we will discuss the people who help us to build houses e.g plumbers, architects, electricians and builders.

We will also be making binoculars and trying to spot some birds in the garden during our 'out and about' session this week to continue our learning for the RSBP Big Birdwatch.

The phonetic sound of the week is "p" Please help your child to find objects in their environment that start with 'p' to bring the sound to their awareness.

## Children's House Oak

Last week in Oak Class we had lots of fun doing activities related to Birdwatching Week and The Three Little Pigs.

On Monday, the children loved our sensorial re-telling of the Three Little Pigs where teachers used musical instruments, props, and real straw, sticks and bricks to tell the story to the children. We also made pictures of the three pigs houses using straw and sticks to decorate them. The children enjoyed some art activities related to this throughout the week.

Thursday was our 'Out and About' session, and the children had a great time gaining a sensorial understanding of birds and birdwatching. We created bird feeders and enjoyed spotting some birds we can name! There will be opportunity for children to follow up on this experience with further learning throughout this week.

This week in groups we will look at rooms in our house. We will be discussing what rooms are in a house and what rooms the children have in their house and how some rooms are bigger than others. We will also be discussing what these rooms are used for. We have some beautiful activities set up for the children on

houses and homes including an activity where children have pictures of different rooms in the house and the children have to match the correct furniture and appliances that belong in the rooms. Parents can extend this learning with their children at home by having discussions around furniture and parts of objects around the home. Naming things in a child's environment is crucial in a child's understanding of their surroundings and being able to orientate themselves within it, as well as extending their language development.

The letter sound of this week is "p". Please help your child to find objects in their environment that start with 'p' to bring this sound to their awareness.

## Children's House Elm

Last week our learning surrounding houses and homes continued in line with the book of the week - The Three little Pigs.

We also developed an understanding of family trees in relation to our topic by discussing who lives in our homes., who belongs in my family and my extended family members. We enjoyed having children bring in photographs of their families for us to discuss and appreciate each other's heritage.



We enjoyed the RSBP Big Birdwatch last week by learning the names and basic features of the birds around us, listening to different sounds that birds make, creating colourful binoculars to watch them closely, and looking after them by offering bird feeders. Our 'out and about' session gave the children a real and sensorial experience of bird life as we explored the environment and watched the birds in our garden. The children were excited to spot some of the birds they can name!

Thank you to Elias and Maisie for bringing in items from home to share with their friends in a group. The children enjoyed hearing about Elias's Room on the Broom toy and seeing the photographs Maisie had taken on her camera! They even had a demonstration of how to use a camera from Maisie.



The children enjoyed making pizza last week. Some extended their learning by identifying the sound 'p', and

practicing tracing and writing this letter sound.

We look forward to another exciting week learning all about the different rooms of our home and focusing on the phonetic sound 'r'.

## Nursery – Acorn and Seedlings

We had another busy week in our nursery classes. Our story of the week was the Three Little Pigs. The children enjoyed listening to the story and acting it out. They were able to recall what happens in the story and used some of the repetitive lines from it. We used questions and children were encouraged to answer in whole sentences. We were looking at different shapes and sizes when we discussed the materials used for building the house such as small, large, short, light, heavy.

On Wednesday we enjoyed having our session in the garden. We practiced throwing and catching a ball and using steps to climb and jump down. For some relaxation, we practiced some yoga poses, balancing and breathing exercises. These exercises help children to concentrate and can enhance their memory. Montessori said that movement was essential in young children's learning. They improve their posture, flexibility, strength, balance coordination and gross motor skills.

We prepared for our out and about lesson by learning about what binoculars are and what they are used for. The children had opportunity to use binoculars and discuss in group what they see. They were encouraged to make their own binoculars using toilet paper rolls.

We learned about body parts of the bird and observed them in the garden. Children could follow up on their experience with the parts of a bird puzzles.



We ended our week by creating bird feeders using seeds. This was a great opportunity to discuss and get children involved in big garden bird watch. It is much more exciting for the children to see birds nibbling away at something they have made themselves! They were very

proud to be helping the birds in the winter.

We will be discussing different rooms in our homes this week. We will introduce the different people that can work on the interior of a house and when building the house. We will talk about sizes, measurements. Our phonetic sound of the week will be sound "r".

**Best wishes, WMS Admin**

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