

W/C Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024

# Walthamstow Montessori School

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## Newsletter

**A very Happy New Year** to all our WMS families and friends. We hope you have all enjoyed a happy and restful Christmas break. We are delighted to welcome all our families and children back for our Spring term, which is already promising to be both a very busy and exciting one.

We have had lots of new children joining us throughout the school and I am sure you will all join us in making those children and their families feel very welcome. For those parents whose children have moved on to new classes, we hope they find the change both exciting and challenging. If you are unsure about which class your child is in this term, please do not hesitate to ask.

### Christmas Concerts

Thank you for coming to our Christmas Concert at the end of term. The children thoroughly enjoyed performing 'Oopsy Daisy Angel' for you!



### Session Changes

If you wish to request any changes to your child's sessions for the summer term, please inform the office in writing by **12<sup>th</sup> January**.

Please also be reminded that if your child turns 3 before 31<sup>st</sup> March, they will become eligible for funding from the summer term and required to attend a minimum of three full days per week. Please confirm with the office your preferred 3 days if your child has only been attending 2 sessions per week.

### Notice Period

Please be reminded of your child's notice period as per your Terms and Conditions.

If your child is not returning for the Summer 2024 Term, (i.e., April 2024) then notice was required in writing or email by January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024. If you have any queries regarding notice periods, please email the office to discuss.

### Holiday Clubs

The children enjoyed a very successful Christmas Holiday Club full of crafts, songs and fun.

Booking forms will be sent soon for our Easter holiday club which we are proposing will run from 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> April.



### Welcome Back Letters

You will have received a 'Welcome Back' letter detailing all the exciting things that your child will be getting up to this term as well as lots of important information. Please make sure you read this to be informed on all of the key information and lovely plans for the weeks ahead. They can be found on our website.



### No Nuts

As I'm sure you are all aware we are a strict nut-free school. This includes walnuts. Please ensure that you do not send your child in with nuts or nut-based products in their packed lunch such as small sweets (e.g. snickers) or nut-based spreads (e.g. Nutella, peanut butter). We have children in both schools with severe nut allergies. These items will need to be removed from your child's lunch.

## 'Bumped Head' Text

If your child bumps any part of their head during a school day, we will always send a standard text to you. These texts are sent as an extra precaution to ensure you are aware. If you receive a text, it is because all is well with your child and we will be keeping an extra eye on them.

## Parents' Corner

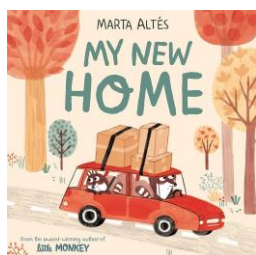
If you're over eleven weeks pregnant or have a child under four, you could be eligible to take part in the Healthy Start scheme and get a prepaid card to buy essentials. You can also use your card to collect free Healthy Start Vitamins. Please see the Waltham Forest family hub for more details.



## Class Information:

### Book of the Week

My New Home  
By  
Marta Altes



## Children's House Brookcroft

The children in our Brookcroft Children's House are happy to be back at school. We have welcomed our friends from Children Houses Oak and Elm, who are all settling in well, as well as some new friends to the school.

We have started working on the topic for this term, "homes and houses". During the coming weeks, the children will discover different types of homes and houses, how people live and how they are built. We will also be extending this learning to the houses and homes of animals.

The children of Brookcroft have enjoyed being introduced to some simple relaxation exercises and visualisations with positive affirmations to help build self-esteem and confidence.

We will continue to have ballet class on Mondays and PE on Tuesdays, please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for these days.

Our phonetic sound for this week is "f". Please help your child find this sound in objects found around the home.

## Children's House Oak

Welcome back to the children in Oak class and to our new children that have joined. We hope you all had a lovely winter break. For the latter part of last week the children settled back really well into class routine and were happy sharing stories of their Christmas.



The topic for the term is 'Homes and Houses.' This week the class will be introduced to the topic and talk about various types of houses. Their vocabulary skills will be extended by learning the words 'bungalow' 'flat' 'cottage' 'caravan' and 'farmhouse.' The children will look at the characteristics of each and how they are all different and just like we are all different people also live in different houses. We will be particularly talking about door numbers this week. Please encourage your child to learn which number their own house is so that they can share it with the class and look for door numbers on your walk to school.

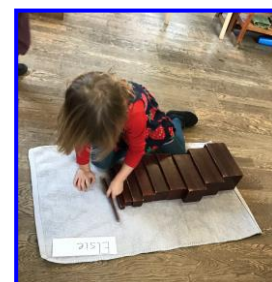
We will also talk about the role of a postman and why door numbers are important. For our 'out and about' session this week children will pretend to be a postman and will be invited to post their own written letters through post boxes numbered 1-5.

Our phonetic sound of the week is 'h.' Please encourage your child to think of words beginning with this sound.

## Children's House Elm

We hope you had a lovely break and we were happy to welcome the children back into their class. The children have happily and quickly settled back after the break.

Last week, we discussed how we all spent our holiday and everyone shared their experiences with visiting Santa, unwrapping presents and going to the park to play. The children have been introduced



to this term's topic which is 'Homes and Houses' and we have begun looking at different pictures of houses such as bungalow, flat, detached house, farmhouse, cottages, etc and identifying the type of house we live in.

This week, we will continue to look more into Homes and Houses by talking about the significance of having a house number, and the older children can begin to practise writing the numbers. In addition, we will discuss the importance of having a home and things that we can do in our homes such as sleeping, eating, relaxing, etc. We will also look at parts of a house such as a roof, window, door, bathroom, etc.

Our phonetic sound of the week is 'h'. Could you kindly reinforce this at home and play "I Spy" games to help develop your child's phonetic understanding.

## **Nursery – Acorn and Seedlings**

Welcome back to the Spring term. We started the new year by talking about our winter break spent with our family. We heard how much the children enjoyed their presents and Christmas pudding! The children seemed very happy to see their friends again and they all showed great concentration using activities from the shelves again.



We will continue with lots of Grace and Courtesy lessons, where children learn and practice how to use materials, or use their words to express themselves.

We also begun discussing our topic for this term which is Houses and Homes. We are learning a new song about building house which you might hear your child singing at home!

This week we are welcoming new children in the classroom. This is great opportunity to be talking about who lives in our house as we all introduce ourselves. We will use glue and different sized shapes to create house for children to explore how different shapes can make a picture. Our colour of the week is yellow. Our phonetic sound of the week is "h", in home.

**Best wishes, WMS Admin**

**Email:**

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