

W/C Monday 19th February 2024

Walthamstow Montessori School

Newsletter



Welcome Back to the second half of the Spring 2024 term. We are looking forward to the exciting activities and learning we have

planned over the coming weeks. We have a few new families joining us this half-term, I am sure you will join us in making them feel very welcome.

Alpacas Visit to WMS!

On the final Wednesday before half-term we had a very special visit from alpacas Hugo and Truffles! The children were very excited but kept very calm around these gentle and friendly animals.



The children had lots of yummy snacks ready to feed them and Hugo and Truffles even had enough to take home leftovers!

We paired this day with general wellbeing, the children enjoying making fruit kebabs for snack, learning some breathing and relaxation techniques, practicing yoga and giving each other hand massages! A truly memorable day for all.



Pancake Day

Tomorrow, Tuesday 20th February, we will be celebrating Pancake Day with the children through a themed snack. Children will be squeezing oranges and lemons and chopping bananas

to enjoy with their pancakes. The Children's House will be making their pancakes from scratch!

Chinese New Year

The children thoroughly enjoyed their Chinese New Year celebrations. They learned that it was the Year of the Dragon, read stories and had opportunities to join in some artwork for this festival. The children explored traditional clothing and objects and some even tried it on! Some children looked at Chinese numerals for numbers 1-4, and some were even able to practice writing these symbols! We are looking forward to a visit from a martial artist who will give the child an experience of a Chinese lion dance!



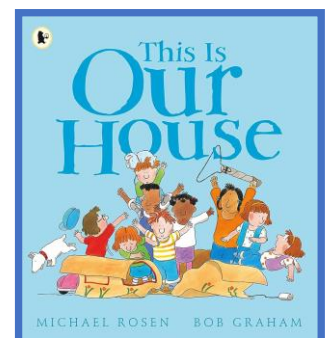
Our last day of this term is Thursday 28th March at 12.30pm. Please note your child will not need a packed lunch on this day.

Class Information:

Book of the Week

**This is Our
House**

**By
Michael Rosen**



Children's House Brookcroft

The children at Brookcroft are very excited to be back after the half term break, and we hope that all had a good and restful time.



On Wednesday before half-term, we were all in Penrhyn to meet our friends the Alpacas. The children had a lovely time learning more about the animals and enjoyed feeding them fruits brought in from home.

This was also a wellbeing day for the children and they enjoyed making fruit kebabs and practicing relaxation techniques.

During the final week, the children discovered the customs and tradition around the Lunar New Year. They've learned how children around the world celebrate this festival. We also discussed the Chinese zodiac signals and we each found out what zodiac animal we were, though many of the children wanted to be dragons!



During our art lessons, we made dragons using strips of paper and also hearts using card and various fabric to take home for Valentine's day. The children enjoyed exploring these collage techniques with different fabrics.



This week, the children will explore the different types of homes around the world. On Tuesday we will celebrate Pancake Day and we will be making pancakes as part of our cookery lesson. The phonetic sound for this week is "w". Please help your child to look out for things in their environment that starts with "w". A gentle reminder that our show and tell session takes place on Thursdays so please refrain from sending your child in with any objects when it is not that day. Personal favourite toys cause upset between the children and is disruptive in the classroom environment.

Children's House Oak

We have had a very busy and exciting time at school before half-term, with lots of fun activities and learning. We started our week with learning about Chinese New Year, we had a look at some traditional clothing and decorations, and we read a story about how the zodiac years came about. For art, the children made some dragons as it's the year of the dragon and they also made their own lanterns. Miss Hatti's brother will visit us soon to show us a Chinese Lion's head costume and some martial arts!

For Valentine's Day, the children made some beautiful cards for their loved ones, following a discussion about celebrating Valentine's Day with the people you love the most.



On Wednesday we had a very exciting day with the alpacas coming in, the children were so happy to feed and pet the Alpacas, Hugo and Truffle! We had a relaxed and calm afternoon doing yoga, having hand massages and having a rest with some cucumbers on our eyes.

This week, we will be resuming our lessons on Houses and Homes, with houses through the ages and houses around the world. We will be showing the children different pictures and having discussion on how houses have changed over time and how different homes are around the world. We will be having a lesson on the continents globe and having a look at the continents as well, as we discuss the environments and how houses are built differently for different climates.



We would really appreciate if parents could send in their family pictures (size 4x6 max) after the half term so that we can complete our art activity. Our phonetic sound of the week for this week will be "w".

Children's House Elm

Before the half term break, we had a busy and interesting week where we got to learn about the Chinese New Year. We listened to a story about the celebration and how excited the children are during this season. We explored various Chinese materials in relation to the celebration such as the red and gold Chinese outfit, chopsticks, Chinese dolls, to mention a

few. We enjoyed familiarising ourselves with the numbers 1-4 in Chinese and some of us even attempted writing the Chinese numbers.

To celebrate Valentine's Day, we practised our baking skills in measuring and mixing ingredients together to make a dough, before rolling and cutting heart shapes to make some delicious cookies. We patiently waited for them to bake and decorated them with some icing and sprinkles. We all chose who we wanted to give our cookies to.



The highlight of our week was the visit from the Alpacas, Hugo and Truffles. We watched as they made their entrance into our big hall, and we all went to the garden to feed them some snacks! We also made some fruit kebabs for our own snacks and enjoyed cutting up the fruits and stacking them on the kebab sticks. We ended the day by massaging each other's hands using some essential oils and lotion. Afterwards, we practising some yoga poses and relaxed using some cucumbers on our faces.



During phonics groups, we practiced identifying the phonetic sound "a" and linked this to words beginning with "a" such as ambulance, apple, alarm, arm, ant, alligator. Some of us also linked it to our names. We also used our gross motor skills to practice writing the letter in the air and some children wrote the symbol in sand, chalk or on paper.



This week, we will be learning about houses around the world and celebrating Pancake Day. We will be discussing what Shrove Tuesday is about and its relation to pancakes.

We will discuss climates around the world and how some houses are suitable for that climate. We will explore the different materials used in building the house whilst talking about different shapes and sizes of material pieces. We will look at pictures of various homes around the world and use our observation skills to identify the differentiating features compared to the houses and homes around us. We will practise using our descriptive

language to differentiate these homes from the ones we are used to.

Furthermore, we will use the Montessori continent globe and map to name and identify the seven continents of the world while also incorporating and discussing the houses around the continent.

Our phonetic sound of the week is "w" in world.

Nursery – Acorn and Seedlings

The final week of the half-term was a busy one for our nursery communities. We started the week by learning about Chinese New Year. Here we discussed how is this festival celebrated and we looked at some pictures of people celebrating on the streets. We reintroduced the globe with continents of the world and learned the

Montessori continents song. We are hoping that children shared their knowledge with you at home. We then looked at traditional Chinese clothing, talked about the famous dragon dance and listened to some music from China.



We also discussed Valentines Day which fell during the half-term. The children joined in a discussion about celebrating with their loved ones at home. We enjoyed songs about who we love, and we are hoping that the children will sing them to you at home!

On Wednesday we had our wellbeing day. It was a very busy day where we talked about different ways of relaxing. We discussed different emotions, and it was fascinating listening to children's stories about why we feel sometimes sad, happy, excited, or sad and seeing their understanding.



We also looked at different ways of calming down when we have big feelings. We practiced breathing exercises, yoga postures and made a glitter jar to help us calm down when we are sad. We also had fruit skewers for snack that children enjoyed preparing all by themselves.

Everyone was very excited to welcome our Alpaca visitors Hugo and Truffles! They enjoyed being stroked and munched on lots of snacks that you prepared for them. Some children were a little nervous but had

great encouragement from all their teachers. It was a lovely experience for everyone.

We have enjoyed welcoming the children back this morning for another busy week. We will be discussing houses around the world. We will continue learning about continents of the world and we will look at different types of houses from different countries. Our phonetic sound of the week will be "W".

Best wishes, WMS Admin

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