

W/C Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024

# Walthamstow Montessori School

## Newsletter



### World Book Day

To celebrate World Book Day on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March** the children will be invited to dress up as their favourite book character. There will be lots of fun and educational activities running throughout the week for the children to take part in to encourage a love of books and reading. Children will also receive book tokens to use in local bookshops.

**Ahead,** we have many diary dates that are approaching that we will be celebrating and speaking with the children on such as St David's Day on 1<sup>st</sup> March, International Women's Day on 8<sup>th</sup> March. Ramadan will begin as well as our exciting 'Maths Day' and class outings.

### Goodbye and good luck to our very own Inspirational Woman!

It is Miss Isabelle's last working week at WMS. Isabelle joined the school team straight from university to support in our Tea Timer Club and very quickly became a popular member of the WMS team in the classroom.



As much as she loves working with the children Isabelle has been following her dream to become a Fire Fighter. After a long 12-month recruitment process she begins the intensive training course which she has told the children includes driving the fire truck!

We all wish her the best of luck and look forward to her coming back to WMS in the fire engine to meet the children and speak further about the role of a female firefighter.

### Pancake Day



The children enjoyed a belated Pancake Day at WMS last Tuesday. The children in our Brookcroft Children's House made their pancakes from scratch and learned lots of new skills. All children across

the school enjoyed practicing cutting fruits and squeezing lemons and oranges to enjoy on their sweet pancakes, as well as lots of new vocabulary on this day.

### Birthday Walk Celebrations

At WMS we recognise birthdays with a Montessori Birthday Walk. The child walks around the sun holding a globe for each year of their life, helping children to understand the passage of time.



If your child is celebrating a birthday soon, please send them in with photographs of themselves at each age so we can

celebrate with a birthday walk.

### Flower Monitor

At WMS, children enjoy bringing fresh flowers for their classroom. The children cut and arrange the flowers for their friends to make their environment look beautiful and take lots of pride in caring for them throughout the week. Practical Life activities such as flower arranging help children to develop a functional skill as well as coordination of movement, independence, concentration, and social behaviour. Thank you to all the children who brought in beautiful flowers last week!



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

## Inside the Montessori Classroom...

In Montessori environments children are provided with lots of opportunities for developing practical life skills. Here, a child works with scrubbing.

He prepares his material, such as filling a jug with water, preparing his brush with soap, and laying out everything he needs on a waterproof mat, engaging the child's mathematical mind with a clear sequence of steps and practice in decision-making. In scrubbing the chair, he develops his coordination of movement, independence, and concentration as this open-ended activity can be repeated until a child feels satisfied. It also indirectly prepares the child for writing, strengthening the wrist with circular movements as they scrub the surface of the chair. When he has finished, the water is emptied into the pail for emptying, everything is cleaned, dried, and returned to the shelf ready for the next person to use, instilling respect for the environment, the material, and our friends.



## School Photographs

We have confirmed dates for our school photographs this year. A letter will be sent in the summer term with more information. There will be arrangements for all children to have their photo taken, even if it is not their usual school day.

**Your child must have black plimsols and a WMS smock to have their photo taken. Please contact the school office if you require a new smock.**

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May – Penrhyn**  
**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May – Brookscroft**

## Parent's Corner

### Family Time Tips

The Early Years Alliance have released a new free digital home learning service. This will include daily

topics such as activities for language and learning through play, health + wellbeing tips plus nutritional advice for children.

Please follow the link for more information on the EY Alliance website.

<https://www.eyalliance.org.uk/new-free-digital-home-learning-support-services-families-young-children-launched>

## Invoices

### Extended Session Invoices

Despite reminders, we are noticing a high percentage of extended session invoices are not being paid by the given deadline. Reminder texts are always sent to all on the due date via our Teachers2Parents system. Payments made after due dates will incur late payment fees of £10 per outstanding week.

### Summer Term Invoices

Summer term invoices will be issued from 13<sup>th</sup> March. The first instalment will be due on 22<sup>nd</sup> March and the second will be due on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

## Scarlet Fever

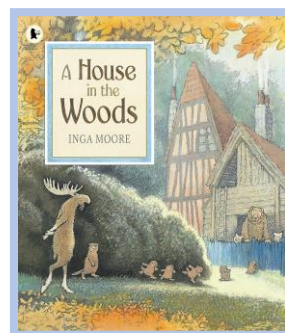
We have been notified of a diagnosed case of Scarlet Fever in our lower school building. If your child displays any symptoms please keep them off school and book a visit with your GP. Your child can return to school 24 hours after they started taking antibiotics.

### Class Information:

## Book of the Week

A House in the Woods

by  
Inga Moore

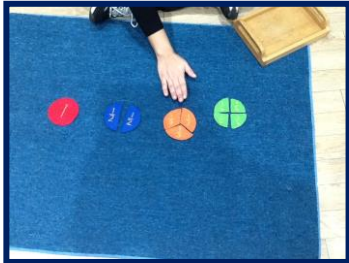


## Children's House Brookcroft

Last week in the Children's House, the children explored the different homes around the world. We discovered the caves homes in Tunisia, the yurts of Central Asia, the igloos of Canada and many more!

Some of the children enjoyed being introduced to fractions. In a Montessori classroom this is given as a sensorial exploration where children see that two halves are the same as one whole and so on.

Some children have traced the segments of each fraction and been introduced to their symbols.



The children have worked very hard finding words beginning with the phonetic sound "w" and have practised forming the letter in sand, on a chalkboard or on paper.

On Tuesday, we celebrated Pancake Day. We made our pancakes from scratch and enjoyed eating them for our snack with some fruits and lemons.

In Art, the children made a home with cards and lollipop sticks and drew the contents for each room.

This week, we will be discussing the habitats of various animals, and we will be making a bug hotel during our out and about session on Thursday. The phonetic sound for this week is "f". Please help bring this sound to your child's attention during your time at home or when out and about.

## Children's House Oak



Last week in Oak class we were learning all about homes around the world. We had a look at the different continents, and what kind of climates there are. We read a book all about different homes across the world, and the children were very

interested in the different structures like the homes made of mud and homes made of stone or rock. We made our own huts out of salt-dough and the children enjoyed painting them different colours. We matched different homes to their continents on the map. For our out and

about the children enjoyed exploring nature and having an energetic exercise session. Our sound of the week was the letter "w". We practiced the sound at circle time and the children loved looking at our sound bag with different objects beginning with w.

We enjoyed celebrating Pancake Day on Tuesday, and the children squeezed lemons to go on their sweet pancakes!

This week we will be learning all about animal habitats. We will be talking about the different types of animals and what kind of habitats they live in. We will also look at how animals are adapted to living in their own environments.

For our Out and About session we will be building a bug hotel and exploring what bugs we can find outside.

This week we will also be baking oat biscuits. Our phonetic sound of the week this week is "f". We would love for children to bring something very small from home beginning with the sound of the week to show our friends at circle time. We also have a little "pet" hedgehog that will be "hibernating" for the week! I hope your children will share this with you at home.



## Children's House Elm

Last week, we celebrated Pancake Day. The children enjoyed squeezing lemons, pouring the juices and eating the yummy pancakes!

We practiced identifying the phonic sound "w" in words, and most of the children linked this to words such as wheels, windows, whales, walrus, world and so on. One of the mornings, we reinforced the sound by playing a game on "w - whispers" to improve our listening skills, working as a team to understand this

sound better. This week we will focus on the phonetic sound "f".

We looked at homes around the world. We discussed how climates around the world differ and how houses are built to suit this. We observed the pictures of various homes around the world and learned about their unique features. Many children could understand that mud houses are built in hot countries to keep cool inside. The Montessori continent globe and puzzle maps helped us to name and identify the seven continents of the world while we looked at homes across the globe.

We extended our knowledge about different parts of a house, attempting to identify the beginning sounds of words such as front door, roof, windows etc and match them to those parts of a house picture. We also got creative making painted salt dough homes and colourful wooden stick homes.



The children enjoyed flower arranging, thank you to our flower monitor for last week! We trimmed the stems and decorated our classroom with vases of beautiful tulips.

Indoors we have also practiced scrubbing a chair, washing dishes and other practical life skills through hands on learning activities and collaborative teamwork.

Emmy brought in and showed the class how her whistle bird works, by filling it with water up and blowing air in to make chirpy melodic bird sounds! It was a lovely sound.

This week, the children are learning about the homes and habitats of animals. We will understand that animals also have their home which is called a habitat. A habitat is a place where animals get water, food, shelter, and comfortable space. We will see how different animals and birds make their homes and how it helps them stay safe and grow.

Furthermore, we will also discuss the temperatures of various habitats and learn to use thermal-descriptive language for them like hot, cold, wet, dry and more through sensorial experiences.

We wish Flynn and Elias a wonderful birthday as they celebrated last week with a special birthday walk.

## Nursery – Acorn and Seedlings

We had a very exciting week after our half term break. Our classrooms were refreshed, and children enjoyed using the new materials. We have moved some of the furniture around to create more space for floorwork for the children, it keeps the environment fresh and exciting for them too! This week we concentrated on showing the children how to use new activities that have come into our classroom, and adapting to changes like where is our snack table, practical life, sensorial, language, cultural and art areas. We have lots of interesting new activities and we are very excited to continue learning new skills.

We also enjoyed learning about houses around the world. We started with reintroducing the globe of continents, and we discussed how homes are different around the world. We learned about different materials people use to build their homes like tree houses in the Sahara Desert, collecting leaves and wood for homes, homes made of mud, or igloos in Alaska. The children really enjoyed looking at different houses, talking about the different shapes, colours and sizes they could see.



On Tuesday we had a great day celebrating Pancake Day. We enjoyed looking at the ingredients to make the pancakes and squeezing oranges or lemons on them. It was a great treat for the children, and we hope they shared their excitement with you at home.

This week we will be learning about animal habitats. We will be learning how different animals in the world live and what special features they have according to habitat they live in.

Our letter of the week will be letter "f".

**Best wishes, WMS Admin**  
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