

W/C Monday 29th April 2024

Walthamstow Montessori School

Newsletter



Happy Birthday WMS

The children enjoyed discussing and celebrating the school last week on it's 23rd birthday. The children had a very special snack on the day and enjoyed eating cake with their friends. They made some wonderful artwork as a gift to the school, too.



Our last day of this half-term is Friday 24th May. School will resume on Monday 3rd June.

Birthday Walk

At WMS we celebrate birthdays by recognising them with a special Montessori birthday walk. Last week we celebrated Molly's birthday and the children enjoyed seeing photographs of Molly at each year of her life so far.



Birthday walks allow the children to gain a greater understanding of the passage of time as they walk around the sun holding the Montessori globe. We look at photographs of the child at each age to understand what a birthday signifies.

If your child is celebrating a birthday, please let your child's teacher know so that we can arrange one of our birthday walk celebrations.

Key Diary Dates:

Monday 6th May – Bank Holiday
Wednesday 15th May – Penrhyn Photographs
Thursday 16th May – Brookscroft Photographs

Notice Period

Thank you for providing notice if your child is not returning for the Autumn 2024 term. Formal acknowledgement will follow from today by email with a notice letter and parent form to be completed and returned. If you do not receive this by the end of the week, please ensure you inform the office.

Meet the Teacher

Miss Rebekah has already enjoyed getting to know the children and creating some fantastic artwork with them!



School Photographs

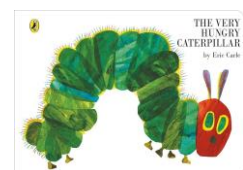
A letter will be sent this week regarding the upcoming school photographs.

Your child must have black plimsols and a WMS smock to have their photo taken.

Wednesday 15th May – Penrhyn
Thursday 16th May – Brookscroft

Book of the Week

The Very Hungry
Caterpillar
By
Eric Carle



Class Information:

Children's House Brookscroft

We had a busy week at Children's House Brookscroft. We continued to work on our topic minibeasts. The children learned more fun facts about spiders. They discovered that most spiders have eight eyes, but some have six or fewer. They also learned that spiders could dance!



In mathematics, some children have been introduced to the Montessori Snake Game. As the child creates a long snake and then counts it into golden 'ten bars', they are reinforcing their additions to ten as well as the essential combinations needed for addition. The coloured beads give the child a sensorial impression of each quantity in their addition as they come to associate each bead with its colour, such as the bar of 5 always being blue.



We celebrated St George's Day on Tuesday and the children had the opportunity to make their own English flag of St George.

It was also a special week for the school as we celebrated our 23rd Anniversary, On the occasion, we had cake for a snack on the day. The children made 23 flowers to represent the years that our school has been open and these are displayed on our board.

This week, we will be learning about butterflies. We will discover the life of a butterfly and find out interesting facts about them. The letter sound for this week is "b" and our book of the week is The Very Hungry Caterpillar.

Children's House Elm

Last week was a busy week as we delved deeper into the world of spiders! The children enjoyed searching for minibeasts in our garden.

The children thoroughly enjoyed our book of the week, "The Very Busy Spider," identifying different parts of the spider's body along the way. Our Sticky Web Spider experiment was



intriguing, teaching us why spiders don't get tangled in their own webs.

During our Out and About session, we got creative as we used our fine and gross motor skills to draw intricate webs on the floor with coloured chalk, exploring patterns and shapes.

In addition, we celebrated and learnt about St. George's Day by listening to a story about who he was and what he was famous for. We each crafted our very own St. George's flag.

Wednesday was extra special as we celebrated WMS's 23rd birthday! We sang and indulged in some delicious birthday cake for snacks!

This week, we will be learning about butterflies and exploring its life cycle and their habitats. We will also be exploring concepts such as symmetry. We will be listening for the phonetic sound 'b' in butterfly.

Children's House Oak

Last week in Children's House Oak, we finished our learning on spiders. The children have found it so exciting learning fascinating new facts about Spiders and tarantulas and have enjoyed some wonderful art activities and experiments. We learnt



about the different parts of a spide, how they make their silk and where it comes from, and how they spin their webs. We looked at some different types of webs like the funnel web of the Funnel Web Spider! We also learnt that some spiders don't spin webs at all.

On the 23rd it was St. Georges Day and we learnt all about who St. George was and the story of the dragon. We then made some St George's flags using red tissue paper and glue, where the children practiced their fine motor skills following along an outline of the St. Georges cross.

On Wednesday it was WMS's 23rd Birthday! We had a lovely day celebrating and the children thoroughly enjoyed some cake for their snack. We also worked on a beautiful art piece celebrating the 23rd year of our school.

Our Out and About session was very exciting as the children helped look for sticks. We then used these with wool to make our own webs. They were very busy looking for spiders in the garden as we have yet to find



one! We did find a very small spider near the front door so we gently picked it up for the children to observe before setting it free in the garden.

This week our focus minibeast is the wonderful butterfly. We will begin our learning with the life cycle of a butterfly and their habitat. This ties in nicely with our book of the week being "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" by Eric Carle. Our phonetic sound of the week is 'b' which we will identify in 'butterfly'.

Nursery – Acorn and Seedlings

We continued learning about spiders. The children enjoyed discussing the life cycle of a spider, and using the vocabulary 'minibeasts'. We looked at different kinds of minibeasts and children enjoyed matching them to identical cards. We are doing activities in small groups at the moment as this helps children to get to know each other better and they are also practicing taking turns. These are usually language activities

where we sing, or learn interesting facts about spiders using pictures and books. For example, we enjoyed learning why spiders don't stick to their own web by doing a small experiment! We asked the children to walk their fingers along some sticky tape to experience their fingers sticking. We explained that this is how



insects stick on the spider's web so they could sensorially understand the idea of something 'sticking'. When we put a small drop of cooking oil on children's fingers, they didn't stick to the tape anymore. Spiders have a special oil on their bodies that keeps them from sticking to their webs.



The children who have joined our classroom continue to settle into our daily routine. A key feature of the Montessori method is that each material or activity is directly preparing a child for the next more

challenging activity. Last week we were concentrating on practical life and sensorial activities in the classroom. The motor skills and coordination the children gain in these activities is a preparation for future writing. A preliminary step to be able to write is the ability to control a pencil which requires highly developed fine motor skills, a great deal of concentration and patience. Therefore, Maria Montessori developed many Practical life and Sensorial materials for 2-3 years old to utilize the pincer grip that is needed for clear and neat handwriting. For example, when scrubbing a chair child use circular movements that are very similar to the movements they will need in their wrist when tracing letters.

We are also continuing with sound games. These help children to identify the different sounds that form a word. We only use simple words and introduce the first phonetic sound: for example, I can hear "s" in spider.

We ended the week with our forest school lesson where we enjoyed collecting sticks and creating spider webs. This was again a great activity for children to practice their fine motor skills and concentration.

This week we will start learning about the life cycle of a butterfly. Our phonetic sound of the week is "b". We will be discussing colours, symmetry and we also prepared some nice art activities.

Best wishes, WMS Admin

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