

W/C Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024

# Walthamstow Montessori School

## Newsletter

### School Photographs



School Photographs are taking place this week. Please see the letter and email sent regarding your child's photograph and timings if your child does not usually attend on a Wednesday.

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

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May – Penrhyn

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May – Brookcroft

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

### Changes to Sessions

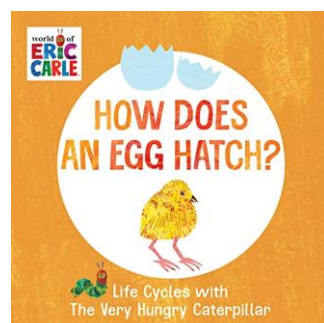
If you wish to make changes or increase your child's sessions for the Autumn 2024 term, please ensure you have emailed the office **by the end of today, 13<sup>th</sup> May.**

### Autumn Term Invoices

Invoices for the Autumn 2024 term will be issued from **1<sup>st</sup> July 2024.** The first instalment will be due on or before 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

### Book of the Week

How Does an Egg Hatch?  
By  
Eric Carle



### Reading in the Montessori Classroom

At WMS we love to celebrate each child's achievements and are so proud of all our children. This week we'd like to share one of our 4-year-olds, who loves reading his school reading book to us!



In a Montessori classroom, learning to read is nurtured gradually. First the child has a limited phonetic code with sandpaper letters and can read short phonetic words. This is expanded with digraphs and sight words until they can read phrases, sentences and eventually a whole book! Their key to reading continues to grow and the layered approach fosters a love of reading and literature throughout life.

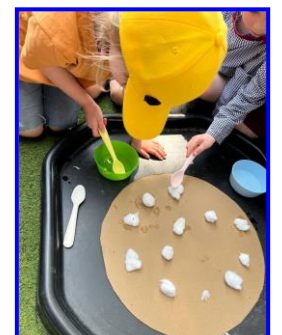
### Class Information:

#### Children's House Brookcroft

Last week at Children's House Brookcroft, the children continued to learn about our topic of minibeasts. We enjoyed looking more deeply at the life cycle of a butterfly.

Using materials, we discovered the language for various parts of a butterfly. We have 5 caterpillars in our classroom at the moment, and every day the children observe the changes taking place. We are looking forward to seeing them form chrysalis and eventually become beautiful butterflies!

We have new materials around our topic in the classroom and the children are enjoying exploring them very much.



The children continue working on practical life activities to strengthen their fine and gross motor skills, preparing their

hands for writing and their mind for thinking mathematically and logically towards a goal.



During our art lesson this week, the children made a representation of the life cycle of a butterfly. This activity helped them to apply their knowledge of the life cycle with a fun creation.

In our out-and-about session, the children worked in groups to create a butterfly feeder using card and cotton. We added some nectar to it for the butterflies. The feeders were then hung in the garden to hopefully attract and help feed some butterflies.

This week, we will be learning about ants. We will find out about their life cycle and how they work together in a colony. The phonetic sound of the week is "a".

### Children's House Elm

Last week was an interesting week learning more about butterflies in the beautiful sunny weather. We had a fantastic time crafting our very own caterpillars in their cocoons using materials such as pompoms, lollipop sticks, and empty toilet rolls. This hands-on activity helped us further practice our creativity as we demonstrated good hand-eye coordination, concentration, and fine motor skills.



The children engaged in learning about the anatomy of butterflies, identifying key body parts such as antennae, head, thorax, abdomen, and wings.

Through our book of the week, "How does the caterpillar change?" coupled with observing live caterpillars, the children marvelled at the wonders of nature, noting behaviours like crawling, and eating. Using our mathematical skills, we counted the number of caterpillars observed and compared their sizes, fostering an appreciation for both



mathematics and the natural world.

During our "Out and About" session, we constructed a butterfly feeder, mixing sugar water akin to flower



nectar. This activity not only provided insight into the importance of nourishment for butterflies but also instilled a sense of responsibility towards caring for nature. We each made our own butterfly feeder to take home to place in their garden.



We also celebrated Mikaeel's third birthday as he walked three times around the sun. This moment provides a learning opportunity for the children to think about how they've grown since they were babies. Happy birthday, Mikaeel!

This week, we will continue to discover and explore our minibeast topic, whilst we focus on ants. We will look at the life cycle of an ant and discuss the different stages. Using classified cards, we will also discuss and learn the different parts of an ant.

### Children's House Oak

What an exciting week we have had in our last week of learning about butterflies. We welcomed our beautiful caterpillars into WMS ready to watch them grow and become butterflies. The children were very excited indeed to watch them get bigger and we are eagerly making predictions about what the butterflies might look like.

For our Out and About session, we made our own butterfly feeders using



sugar water, a bottle and some flowers and hung it in the garden on the trees as we patiently wait for some visitors. We also practiced doing some big and small movements in the garden for our exercise, practicing fluttering like a butterfly and crawling like a caterpillar. We used some of our



lovely new materials on the shelf to explore some other life cycles like the life cycle of a plant and the life cycle of a frog.

This week we are learning about a new mini beast, all about ants! To start off our new topic, we will be looking at the life cycle of the ant, and the different parts of an ant. Our sound of the week is 'a' for ant.

We will be doing some baking this week, learning about measurements, exploring textures and smells through the ingredients, and using fine and gross motor skills to make cupcakes and decorate them to look like they have ants on them.

For our out and about session, we will be doing an exercise game called The Ants Go Marching, to help practice our gross motor skills and practice following and recalling instructions.

## **Nursery – Acorn and Seedlings**

Last week we continued learning about the life cycle of butterflies. The children were able to recognise all the stages of the life cycle, and they have enjoyed discussing butterflies in our groups.

We are observing real caterpillars in the classroom where children can see how they are growing and moving around. This is a great opportunity to watch them becoming butterflies and observe the life cycle in action. We are looking forward to seeing them become chrysalis' and eventually butterflies!

We continued listening for the sound "b" in butterfly. We also talked about how butterflies collect nectar and that they also like fruits. We will feed our butterflies sugar-water and fruit when they hatch.



We looked at pictures of different types of butterflies and had discussions about the colours and patterns on their

wings. We enjoyed decorating our own butterflies sticking different colours of paper with glue. This was a great opportunity to continue discussing colours and developing our fine motor skills.

During our 'Out and About' lesson, we talked about growth and transformation using the life cycle of the butterfly. We created stations for each stage of the life cycle and role-modelled different postures and movements. Everyone had lots of fun joining in this activity which helped coordinate our gross motor movements. We were very happy to see children enjoying acting out on the life cycle story that was introduced to them. They all took turns and pretended to be eggs, caterpillars, cocoons and butterflies.

This week we will start learning about ants. We will be talking about life cycle. Our sound of the week is "a" for ant!

**Best wishes, WMS Admin**

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