

W/C Monday 6th May 2024

Walthamstow Montessori School

Newsletter



Seurat

This term we have been introducing the children to the work of French post-impressionist painter, Seurat.



Namely, the children have been learning the term 'pointillism' and have already had the opportunity to create their own artwork using this technique. For example, some children have enjoyed using corks to create pieces inspired by 'The Pine Tree'.

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

Key Diary Dates:

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 with a leavers form has been sent to all. **If you have provided written notice but not received a notice letter, please inform the office.**



School Photographs

A letter will be sent regarding arrangements for 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

Birthday Walk Celebrations

At WMS we celebrate birthdays by recognising them with a special Montessori birthday walk. Last week we celebrated Luca and Felix's birthdays!



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.

Changes to Sessions

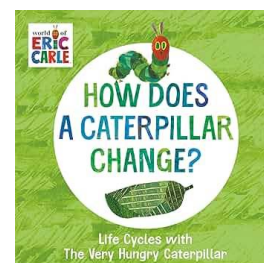
If you wish to make changes or increase your child's sessions for the Autumn 2024 term, please ensure you have emailed the office by 13th May at the latest. After this time, it may be difficult to secure your preferred sessions as we confirm our availability for the upcoming term.

Autumn Term Invoices

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

Book of the Week

How Does a
Caterpillar Change?
By
Eric Carle



Class Information:

Children's House Brookcroft

We had a busy week at the Brookcroft

Children's House last week. The children have found out more about butterflies. The children found out that butterflies are fragile but at the same

time strong as they need a lot of strength to come out of their cocoons and spread their wings. The children also discussed what makes them strong, many said eating their food and some said being strong also means being determined or overcoming fears. This week, we will continue to learn more about butterflies, their life cycle, and the parts of their body. In the art area, children have made beautiful butterflies using paper rolls and tissue paper.



We had a cookery lesson last week where the children made a banana and raisin puff pastry. Each child helped to prepare the ingredients and enjoyed following the recipe to create their yummy snack.

A reminder that if your child wants to bring an object from home to share with their

friends, this should be brought in on a Thursday.

We have lots of new materials in our classroom around the topic of minibeasts for the children to explore. This week, our phonetic sound of the week is "b", and we will be looking closer at the life cycle of a caterpillar (butterfly) through Eric Carle's 'Life Cycles' books.

Children's House Elm

The children were busy learning about the butterfly last week. We focused on the lifecycle of a butterfly and how they evolve through their lifetime. The children contributed during our discussions, using new vocabulary such as 'cocoon'.

We explored symmetry in art. The children learnt that not all butterflies have the same pattern on both their wings. Children enjoyed painting one side of the paper, folding the



other half and opening it to see if they made a symmetrical butterfly!

Our artist of the month Seurat has sparked creativity and intrigue about colours, patterns and textures. We have been incorporating his style of art, known as pointillism, making some beautiful art throughout the week inspired by 'The Pine Tree'.

We celebrated Luca's 4th Birthday as he walked 4 times round the sun. This moment provides a learning opportunity for the children to learn about the passage of time and their journey of growth from a newborn into a child! Happy birthday Luca.

In the garden, we acted out parts of the butterfly life cycle. Engaging the child's entire body through gross-motor activity helps to engrain their learning by linking the body and mind, since young children are learning through their movement and senses in their interactions with their environment.

This week, we will continue to learn more about butterflies, their body parts, and different kinds of butterfly. We continue to

reincorporate sound 'b' to reinforce the child's awareness of this sound in words.



Children's House Oak

It was another interesting week learning about a new minibeast, with the children learning so many new things about butterflies. We started our learning with the life cycle of a butterfly, talking about the different stages and the names of each stage. By the end of the week the children could recall the word 'chrysalis' and each stage of the life cycle. We made some beautiful butterfly prints with paint and some flowers to go alongside the butterflies for our display board. We also spoke about butterfly habitats and had a visit from a friendly caterpillar aptly named Colin!

For our out and about lesson, we had a lovely session acting out the different stages of the life cycle. The children had turns being the egg, the pupa, the caterpillar and the butterfly, enjoying it so much they carried





on the play after we'd finished the lesson! We also celebrated Felix's birthday with a special birthday walk. Happy birthday Felix!

This week we will be continuing our learning about butterflies and caterpillars. We will be looking at the different parts of a butterfly and learning new words like antennae and thorax. We will also be looking at different kinds of butterflies and focusing on the different patterns and colours on their wings. Our phonetic sound of week will be 'b' and some children will be able to trace or write this sound. For our out and about session, we will be doing a life cycle themed obstacle course.

Nursery - Acorn and Seedlings

Our week began with discussions and learning about the life cycle of a butterfly. We learned a new song about the life cycle of a butterfly called: *There is a Hungry Caterpillar on a Leaf*. All the children enjoyed reading 'The Very Hungry caterpillar' by Eric Carle. We will focus further on the steps of a butterfly's life cycle this week.

The children enjoyed a puppet show about the hungry caterpillar and they were able to have conversations about what happened throughout the story. This was a great opportunity to start learning days of the week as we read through the book. We also practiced our counting skills by counting each fruit the caterpillar ate on each day of the week.

Our phonetic sound of the week was "b". Once familiar with a sound, the children trace its sandpaper letter to gain a sensorial impression of its symbol and formation. We looked for objects around the classroom beginning with the sound "b". We will continue bringing this sound to the children's awareness this week.

We explored colours through art and colour tablets - one of our Sensorial materials. Last week we were learning about the colour blue. Children were able to recognize the colours and their names and enjoyed exploring and mixing blue paint with other colours. We used our mixed



paints to create butterflies, painting one half and folding our paper to create a symmetrical pattern. We also enjoyed sponge printing.

We ended the week by collecting natural materials in our garden and used them for an art activity where we created familiar insects, discussing the various shapes and colours.

We have more creative activities prepared for this week. The children will be discussing what happens to a caterpillar throughout its life in more detail. We will also be looking closely at the primary colour red, through our sensorial materials and art activities.



Best wishes, WMS Admin

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