

# Walthamstow Montessori School

## Our Weekly News



### A love of nature.

**The Montessori curriculum aims to foster a lifelong love of nature in all children.**

All our classrooms have plants and fresh flowers, providing a perfect opportunity for the children to discuss the flowers, identify them and practise practical skills such as cutting, pouring, and arranging.

Each week at WMS a different child is the Flower Monitor for their class. The Flower Monitor brings in fresh flowers for the class and spends time cutting and arranging them for display in the classroom. This is a lovely Practical Life activity for the children to engage in, and a special and proud event for the Flower Monitor each week. Miss Karen will message you the week before it is your child's turn, so you can be prepared!

# 1

### HOLIDAY CLUB

We will run a Holiday Club at half-term on Mon 21st and Tue 22nd Oct. An email was sent last Friday with all the details to book your child in.

# 2

### PARKING

Thank you for parking carefully near the school. Please do not obstruct the garages; this area is for staff parking only and must always be kept clear.

# 3

### PARENT CORNER

Check out the Walthamstow Parent Facebook group; a wonderful page has been added with fun groups and sessions to attend locally.



### Wow Moments.

We love to hear about the children's achievements outside of school, so we can celebrate them with you. Find a Wow Form on our website!



### Our Book Of The Week.

'Snail in Space' by Rachel Bright, a book about a little snail determined to be the first snail in space!



### No Nuts!

We have children in the school with severe nut allergies, please remember we are a totally nut-free school.

## Acorn & Seedlings

**Last week, we had an 'out of this world' week, learning all about space!**

We have continued to work on the number of the week "8" by practising counting the eight planets in our solar system. We have also been working on the phonic sound of the week "s", linking it to our topic on Space.

Our children have been working on one of our favourite activities in the class, the Pink Tower, to reinforce an understanding of dimension & height. This activity develops visual and muscular discrimination of size in three dimensions and develops co-ordination and fine motor control.

The children have been very creative making their own rockets using different recycling materials. This activity helps the children practise skills such as cutting, identifying shapes and colours and develops fine motor skills.

We have been busy creating something big too! The children took part in a rocket experiment that taught them

about chemical reactions and how they can be used to propel a rocket. This experiment also taught them about visual elements such as line, shape, form, colour, tone, pattern and texture.

This week, we will be focusing on the book of the week "Snail in Space" by Rachel Bright & Nadia Shireen. We will be supporting this story by learning the phonic sound of the week "e" using sandpaper letters for the children to trace, and we will reinforce the letter formation using the sand tray.

We will also carry out a magnet experiment to explain gravity and will also be talking about land, air and water.

The children will be creating a Sun model. Our children will visually understand the difference between water and land. They will also see that Earth contains more water than land.

We will be creating sensory bottles too. This activity helps the children's language development, as they will be talking about what they observe and also be working on their gross motor skills. The activity will develop the children's sensory skills, as it stimulates their sense of sight, sound and touch.

## Children's House Elm

**Last week, we continued exploring space by learning the names of the eight planets, with the "Eight Planet Song" and our storybook of the week.**

During P.E. last Monday, we practised throwing, catching, rolling, and kicking a ball in the garden. This activity is great for developing both fine and gross motor skills.



## Jeans For Genes Day

**Jeans for Genes Day at WMS is Fri 20th Sep 2024.**

Each year at WMS, we fundraise to support Jeans For Genes Day and help support individuals and families affected by genetic conditions.

This event will take place at WMS on Friday 20th September. Please send your child to school wearing jeans or denim, with a suggested donation of £1 for this wonderful charity.

If you have any old or unwanted denim, please send it in to us on the day; we will use it for some fun Jeans For Genes Day art activities!





In addition, we practised washing and drying our hands independently, which helps improve personal hygiene, enhances fine motor skills, and fosters a sense of responsibility.

We have been reading about the artist Piet Mondrian and his use of colours and shapes, such as squares and rectangles. We created our own Mondrian-inspired artwork and explored his artistic techniques.

During mark making, we experimented with different colours of paint, some cars, and some malleable materials to create unique mark-making designs using our imaginations.

On Wednesday, we had our “Out and About” session; we used ingredients like bicarbonate of soda, effervescent vitamin C tablets, and various temperatures of water to explore the concept of pressure and create a simple “rocket science” experiment. This activity helped the children develop an understanding of cause and effect, as well as basic scientific concepts.

During our ‘Show and Tell’ session on Thursday, Helena shared a Mexican instrument and demonstrated how to play it. Miss Rebecca showed her art album, allowing us to feel different materials and discuss the colours and techniques used. This session helps boost self-confidence and communication skills as children present and share their interests with peers. Please remember to send your child with an item to help them contribute during this session as it helps their public speaking skills, as well as self-expression.

On Friday, we baked and made star-shaped cookies using flour, sugar, butter, and water. We learned about baking tools such as rolling pins and measuring cups, and took turns scooping, mixing, kneading, and cutting out star shapes. This activity supports fine motor skills, teamwork, and an understanding of measurement, as well as following instructions.

This week, we will focus on planet Earth, learning about its inhabitants and ways to care for it. We will also

conduct a magnet experiment to explain gravity, and learn more about land, air, and water.

## Children's House Oak

**We had a fantastic week last week. All the children have settled really well into the classroom, and begun to build relationships with staff and their peers.**

It's brilliant to see the children engaged and focused whilst working with the Montessori materials in the class, such as our Practical Life exercises and Sensorial activities. The children are practising opening and closing boxes, pouring water from one jug to another, using the dressing frames, and washing up the dishes when they finish their snack.

Sensorial activities, such as the Pink Tower, The Broad Stair and the Knobbed Cylinders, help the children to focus and develop concentration. They help develop mathematical and cognitive thinking too, as well as fine and gross motor skills, and language skills.

On Monday, the children enjoyed doing Yoga outdoors, helping to strengthen their growing bodies and encouraging calm and quiet in the classroom by providing a physical outlet for the children to express themselves.

Last week, we introduced the sound “S” and thought of words which begin with ‘S’, such as “scissors”, “sun”, “snake”, “star”, and “spider”. We kindly ask parents to read with their children every day and ask them to look for the sound of the week in words. Last week, we also practised and reinforced our learning of the number “8” by writing it in the sand tray and counting groups of 8 objects.

We have been talking and focusing on the artist Piet Mondrian and doing art activities, which are inspired by his work. The children used their imagination, pretending to be little artists, whilst using different pieces of square and rectangular paper in bright colours, and sticking them on to black paper.

Every Friday afternoon we have a music lesson. Last week, we practised songs about space and some exciting new songs to help the children socialise with each other.

## Children's House Brookcroft

**Last week was our first full week in the Children's House.**

We continued our discussions around the Earth and all the children can recall it is made up of land and water. We introduced this concept using the Montessori Sandpaper Globe and the children gained a sensorial impression of the difference between land and water. We created a collaborative "Earth" artwork, using sponges and paint for the water, and carefully spreading glue and scattering soil for the land. The children know that it takes one year for the Earth to move around the sun, and this was reinforced during Fern's birthday walk when she held the globe and walked around the sun for each year of life. Happy birthday Fern!

As part of our discussions around the Earth, we spoke about who lives on the Earth and how we can protect it. This extended into the classroom with caring for plants by watering them or cleaning their leaves.

The children enjoyed their first Ballet lesson with Miss Tracey, and tennis with Miss Hillary. Partaking in sports promotes



the development of gross motor skills, as well as collaborative work in a group.

The children have become extremely settled within their new environment and are enjoying becoming part of the Children's House community. They are introduced to new activities every day across all areas of the Montessori classroom. We are incorporating "sound games" daily; you can help your child develop phonemic awareness by playing "I spy" with the phonetic sounds of words. This week, we will continue our topic by looking at how Earth is part of a wider solar system of planets that orbit our Sun.

### A very happy 60th Birthday Miss Anna Maria.

We celebrated Miss Anna Maria's birthday in the sunshine on Friday. The children sang happy birthday and enjoyed watching her open all her presents and cards, including a special present from Miss Lorna, some gorgeous puppets she requested to enjoy with the children. Miss Anna Maria was so excited and prepared a puppet show for the children straight away!



### Need to contact us?

**Here are all the important details you need:**

To contact the office, dial:  
020 8523 2968

Or email:  
[office@walthamstowmontessori.com](mailto:office@walthamstowmontessori.com)

Don't forget to follow us on Instagram too and look out for regular posts of what we are doing!



### Bumped Heads.

If your child bumps their head at school, we will send you a text. These texts are sent as an extra precaution to ensure you are aware. If you receive a text, it is because all is well with your child, and we will be keeping an extra eye on them.



### Diary Dates.

A list of dates to note for this term can be found on our website under 'Diary Dates'.



### Photo Commission.

Thanks to all your photo orders, we were able to earn enough commission to purchase a new picnic table for the garden at Penrhyn and a 2 persons taxi, which we know the children will love!