



Walthamstow
Montessori
School

Tuesday 3rd September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Lorna Mahoney
Principal

Walthamstow Montessori School
Penryhn Hall
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WELCOME BACK – Children’s House (Brookcroft)

Welcome back to the Autumn 2024 Term, we are very excited to be welcoming the children back this week. We have much to look forward to with our new class and new teaching team for the academic year. Miss Jessica will be leading the class with a lovely team comprising of Miss Alex, Miss Faiza and new teacher, Miss Eve, who is very excited to be joining WMS this year.

To help settle the children in during the first week, I would encourage your child to bring something that will help them talk about their summer holidays. This could be a postcard or object from a place you have visited, something you have made, or a drawing or photograph to help your child discuss what they did during the break. Please ensure this is handed to the teacher at the door rather than in your child’s bag so we know about it.

Topic for the Autumn Term

We are excited to embark on the topic of ‘Space’ this term. To help the children’s understanding that they exist within a wider world and universe, we will begin by looking at our own Earth, sun and moon, and then at how this sits among a whole universe of fascinating planets, each with their own characteristics and properties. Each week, we will look at a different planet or aspect of space through groups, art projects, songs and experiments to help the children learn about planets, astronauts, and many other exciting aspects of outer space. We will share this with you in each week’s newsletter so you can discuss it with your child at home too. If you have an opportunity to visit the Science Museum, I strongly encourage this!

We will be confirming dates for off-site educational visits and you will be contacted with details and permission slips in due course. We will be visiting Lloyd Park to observe the changes in season as well as for other outdoor learning and activities. We hope to take advantage of the lovely park near us as much as possible this term.

We will also continue with our out and about sessions on a Thursday in the WMS garden. These sessions are designed so that we take the learning outdoors, whatever the weather. Therefore, as the weather begins to change; please can you ensure that your child has appropriate clothing at school. Please ensure a pair of Wellington boots are left at school (clearly labelled).

Walthamstow Montessori
School Limited
Registered in England and
Wales
Company number 4787576

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1 The Shrubberies, George
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An Introduction to the Montessori Curriculum:

At WMS we follow a Montessori curriculum alongside with our daily work cycle alongside our topic learning and extra-curricular activities. There are 5 main areas of a Montessori classroom: Practical Life, Sensorial, Culture, Language and Mathematics.

Practical Life materials are exercises of daily life; the children develop functional skills using real, purposeful materials that are open-ended, allowing for the development of concentration as well as independence and coordination of movement. These activities also encourage social behaviour as the child carries out real activities that benefit the community, as well as having the independence to act for themselves and therefore help others, such as in pouring a drink or fastening buttons.

Children of this age take in everything in their environment through their senses, therefore Montessori designed Sensorial materials to aid perception of the environment through each sense. This helps the child build an organised view of their world and way of categorising things and develops the intellect. There are materials for each of the 5 senses.

Culture refers to all learning about the world. This includes geography, botany, animals, science, music and art. For example, the children will enjoy flower arranging, learn about music through the bells, or materials to learn about the world and each of its continents. Cultural learning is extended through language, reading and further activities.

Language is a huge part of the Children's House. Oral language activities and groups extend the children's vocabulary and awareness of sounds from the very beginning of a child's Montessori journey. In a Montessori classroom we gradually build a child's phonetic key to reading so it feels spontaneous, and this really nurtures a love of reading throughout life. The children do lots of work on phonics and reading words, short phrases and sentences, before we introduce reading books.

Mathematics in a Montessori classroom begins with a concrete introduction of quantity, making numbers and mathematical concepts accessible to young children. Through materials designed with the child's development in mind, mathematics becomes an interesting exploration for the child that lays the foundations for later mathematical concepts.

Timetable:

Please note, if your child does not attend on all days, they will still access activities throughout the week such as outdoor learning, music and art.

Monday	Dance
Tuesday	Italian and Tennis
Wednesday	Art
Thursday	'Out and About' - Forest School
Friday	Music

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Special Requests:

Mugs / cups:

Every child in the Children's House is required to have their own mug or cup. Please may we ask that this is china / glass / earthenware etc and not plastic. This could be something you already own or buy and is for your child to keep in the classroom. It may be a nice idea to look in charity shops with your child to choose their cup. It is something special and personal that will be used daily for the snack table, mealtimes and the occasional hot chocolate in the winter during forest school!

Birthdays:

At WMS we recognise birthdays with a Montessori birthday walk. We would like to invite parents in for these so please speak to Miss Jessica when your child's birthday is approaching. Please see our website for more information on how to prepare for your child's birthday group under the 'School Life' tab.

Travels and Postcards:

If your child travels anywhere this year, please do send or bring back a postcard! This helps your child to talk about where they have been and what they have done, helping to develop their oral language and social confidence. We will be creating a book in the class to be continually added to of postcards brought in by friends in the Children's House.

Festivals:

If you are celebrating any religious or cultural festivals at home and would like to share this with the class, please speak to Miss Jessica so we can recognise these and celebrate at school too with parent involvement.

REMINDERS:

Lunch:

Please be reminded that **nuts are not allowed** to be brought into school as we have children with confirmed severe allergies. Please also be reminded that we adhere to a **grape free policy** here at Walthamstow Montessori school as this can be a serious choking hazard.

Lunch boxes should all be clearly labelled.

Uniform:

Please ensure your child has a pair of **black plimsols**. These will stay at school for your child to change into each morning upon entering the classroom. For garden and home time, they will change into the outdoor shoes they arrived in. **Smocks** must be worn when children arrive in the morning. Please ensure all items of clothing and shoes including your child's plimsols and smocks are **clearly labelled with your child's name**.



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School Day Timings:

Please be reminded the school day begins at **9.30am** and finishes at **3pm**, unless your child is attending extended hours in which case it is **8/8.30am and 5.45pm** at **Penrhyn**. The Brookcroft door will be opened at 9.25am each morning.

Illness / Medication:

Please do not send your child to school if they have been unwell in any way, especially if you have had to medicate them (e.g., give them calpol/Paracetamol) before they arrive, as once the medicine has worn off, the discomfort of your child being ill will return. WMS has a 48-hour policy for sickness and diarrhoea.

Newsletters:

Please ensure that you are receiving weekly newsletters, if you are not receiving it, please let the office know. Our weekly newsletter can also be found on the school's website along with Term Dates.

Once again welcome back, and as always, please do not hesitate to ask for an appointment if you have any matters you wish to discuss.

Yours sincerely

Miss Jessica

Children's House Lead Teacher