

Walthamstow Montessori School

Our Weekly News



Our Harvest Festival Assembly.

What a wonderful morning we had all together!

We enjoyed spending the morning all together at Penrhyn last Tuesday. We learned how seeds grow & the names of vegetables. We sang lots of songs and Oak and Elm classes taught us a little bit of signing. Then, we heard a poem and looked at beautiful Harvest pictures. Finally, Miss Lorna read us 'Handa's Surprise' and she had lots of fun props to show the children and lots of willing, excited helpers!

We thank you all for your generosity and many Harvest donations. We will be taking them all to the local shelter and Food Bank this week.

1

HALF TERM

We wish you all a happy and restful Half Term next week. We look forward to returning to school on Monday 28th October for the second half of the Autumn Term.

2

WELCOME

We are very excited to welcome 6 new families to WMS after Half Term. We also wave goodbye to 3 of the children who are moving on to new settings.

3

SCHOOL TRIP

Brookcroft Children's House had an exciting trip to Lloyd Park last week. They walked to the moat & looked for signs of Autumn. They enjoyed a picnic snack too.



Holiday Club.

Our Holiday Club will be running on Monday and Tuesday next week, with lots of fun, seasonal activities.



Our Book Of The Week.

'The Leaf Thief' by Alice Hemming & Nicola Slater. Join Squirrel on his hunt for the leaf thief.



Slapped Cheek.

We have a confirmed case of Slapped Cheek at school. For more information on Slapped Cheek, visit the [NHS website](#).

Acorn & Seedlings

Last week, we learned all about the planet Saturn.

During our Out and About session, the children hunted for planets in the garden, working on teamwork and communication skills. We learned about the rings around planet Saturn and discovered that Saturn is different from all the other planets. Using playdough, we recreated the rings around Saturn, developing our fine motor skills and imagination. We have been sequencing the planets and reinforcing counting to number 8. For our art activity, we created the planet Saturn for our classroom board and looked at the order of the planets in our solar system.

We have been working with the Montessori Touch boards, which encourages the children to use their language skills, as well as understand what different textures feel like. This activity also promotes tactile awareness, hand and eye co-ordination and works on the children's motor skills.

For our Harvest Festival, we got together for a lovely assembly. Miss Lorna read us our favourite book, Handa's Surprise. The children really enjoyed learning all about



Harvest, as well as taking part and sharing beautiful work they had created.

For our cooking lesson, we made oat and raisin cookies, talking about how the farmers harvest oats using a large machine called a combine harvester, which we sang about in our harvest assembly. The Children took turns in mixing and counting each spoonful of ingredient, as well as measuring. Cooking allows our children to learn and practise some basic math concepts and develops their language skills.

Children's House Elm

Last week, we continued learning about space and the planets with high levels of confidence and enthusiasm. The children eagerly celebrated the much-awaited festival of Harvest with excitement and happiness.

We could see all our children's happy faces holding on to their artistic scarecrow puppets, having harvest fruits and vegetable baskets, listening to uplifting stories, singing and dancing to songs and celebrating the importance of farmers and crops during the season.

As an extension of our learning about Harvest, we also learned the names of some new vegetables, fruits and grains. We used our senses to explore a few such as ginger and squash. The children were introduced to knives, and they did some excellent cutting of vegetables such as carrots, squash, broccoli etc. Later, we used these cut pieces to print some lovely vegetable pictures.

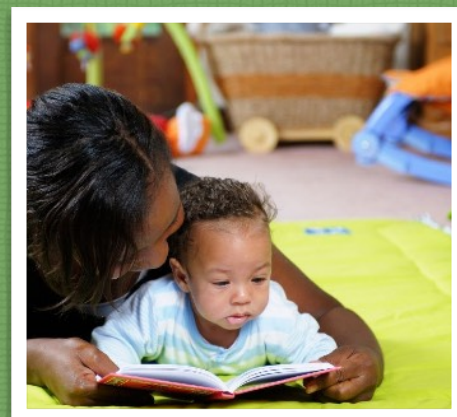
Indoors, the children engaged in Practical Life based activities such as buttoning, rolling mats, pouring and transferring. We are also practising work with literacy and numeracy. Last week, we focussed on the sound 'S' and counting numbers up to 8.

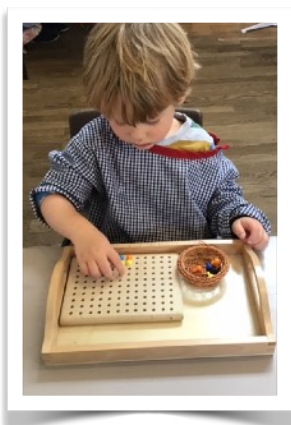
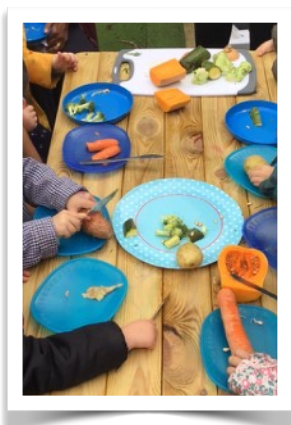
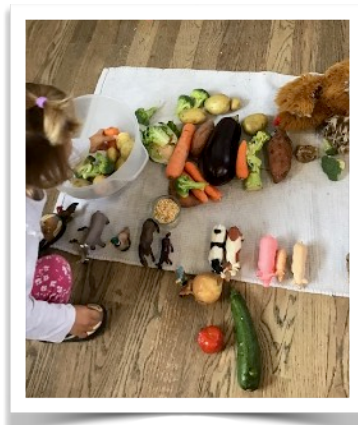
PARENT CORNER

Waltham Forest Local Authority have sent us information about Speech and Language Support Drop Ins.

As part of the Best Start in Life offer, the NELFT Speech and Language Therapy Team are running monthly drop-in sessions at each Family Hub. No appointment is needed and you can come along to meet the team for tips and ideas on how to support your child at home.

You can look out for simple tips and more information about what is on offer at the Family Hubs or where the nearest sessions are by [visiting their website](#).





Every week, we are exploring different kinds of art mediums to foster creativity, inspiration and joy. Last week, we did some fantastic Lego painting to make Harvest corns.

Our Out and About session was all about displaying energy and teamwork. The children were divided and encouraged to work in their groups, looking out for hidden planets like treasure hunt in the galaxy garden. Later we sequenced our planets and discussed their fun facts.

It was great to see the children developing confidence during the Show and Tell sessions. The variety of items is always interesting and adds to the curiosity in the classroom. We thank Conrad for bringing lovely flowers as the Flower Monitor of the week.

Using our fine motor skills, we mixed up ingredients and made galaxy themed cake pops, which were great fun for all. The children followed instructions and helped each other when needed.

This week, we will continue to explore more planets, with more focus on Mercury.

Children's House Oak

Last week, we celebrated The Harvest Festival on Tuesday.

The whole school happily joined together, singing a few harvest songs they had been practising and we also showcased our artwork, which included pictures of corn and wheat that the children decorated with different lentils and grains.

We started learning about Saturn and its famous rings made of rocks and ice. The children created some beautiful artwork using marbles and paint, which we added onto the class display board and in their art books. For our baking activity, the children thoroughly enjoyed making some 'planet pops'. They practised identifying the ingredients whilst they were exposed to the sensory experience of crumbling up the pre-made cupcakes and

mixing them with frosting. They then practised their gross motor skills as they squeezed the cake pop filling and rolled them into balls. Afterwards, they were guided on how to decorate them with white melted chocolate and different food colouring to give the pops a planet/galaxy effect.

For literacy we reviewed letters 's, m, e', using words such as 'sun, space, moon, etc', supported with different pictures of each word. For numeracy, we revised numbers 1 to 5, counting different things the children were finding in the garden, stones, leaves, snails and little sticks. The children are proud to participate in their 'Show and Tell' sessions on Wednesday, being able to take turns and practise listening to what their friends want to share about their favourite things from home.

This week, we are going to discuss the planet Mercury and explore different facts about the planet from our book about Space. The children will be shown pictures of the planet, as we discuss how it is different from Earth and why we cannot visit this planet. Please can parents send in with their children this week an **empty plastic bottle** for our activity, as we will be making star gazing bottles. For our cooking activity, the children will be shown how to create some fruit rocket skewers, using different fruit like strawberries and banana, shaped to look like a rocket. We continue to explore different art mediums as we carry on our artwork based around the artist of the term, Mondrian, and as we also make art based around the planet we are doing that week. For numeracy, we are going to continue to practise counting and tracing numbers from 1 to 8, based on our favourite song of the term, "There are 8 Planets". Our sound of the week will be focusing on the letter 'm'

Children's House Brookcroft

Last week was a beautiful and varied week in the Children's House.

On Tuesday, we celebrated our Harvest Festival. Together with the Penrhyn classes, we sang some Harvest songs.

The Brookcroft Children’s House then recited the poem ‘Here is a Tree with Leaves so Green’, and some children read lines from our own Harvest acrostic poem!

In the classroom, we discussed why we donate food to help those less fortunate than us. The children also discovered the word ‘harvest’ in relation to the harvesting of crops, and we’ve read lots of books and explored cards of fruits, vegetables and grains to support this.

On Wednesday, we took a walk around Lloyd Park, discussing the signs of Autumn as we went. We observed the mallards in the moat and the children learned that the male ducks are those with green heads! We stopped for a story and snack, before spending some time in groups hunting for fallen leaves in various colours, shapes and sizes. We discussed why leaves change colour in the autumn; the chlorophyll in the leaf absorbs the sunlight and makes the leaves green, but in the autumn, there is less sun for the chlorophyll, so it can’t make the leaves green anymore. We looked at Ginkgo and Oak tree leaves, and even heard some parakeets! It was a beautiful and calm morning spent among nature.

We look forward to following this sensorial experience with classroom work this week, such as exploring our leaf cabinet and learning the names of different leaf shapes or learning the names for parts of a leaf or plant.



On Thursday afternoon, we used the leaves we had collected to make nature hangings. They are now decorating our garden wonderfully in autumnal colours!

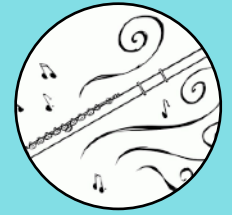
In our final week of this half-term, we look forward to welcoming Michele’s mummy in to play the flute for us! This will complement the ‘parts of an orchestra’ cards we have been exploring in our music groups, where the children have learned the terminology for orchestra, brass, woodwind, percussion and strings.

Alongside our busy week, the children continue to progress brilliantly in our work cycle, being introduced to new materials and perfecting previous work daily.

The community is well-established and I am so excited for our second half-term to keep seeing the children progress and discover even more with them.



Seedlings Flower Monitor, Albert.



Music Week.

This week is Music Week at WMS and Michele’s mummy is coming to play the flute to the children. If you would like to take part and play your instrument too, please speak to your child’s teacher, or the office; we would love to have you!



Help us!

We would like to please remind all parents and carers to close the main school gate at Penrhyn, when either entering or leaving the courtyard.



Half Term Fun.

All the children should have taken home their brown Autumn activity envelope. If not, please check with a teacher or the office.

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

Don’t forget to follow us on Instagram too and look out for regular posts of what we are doing.
 (@walthamstowmontessori)

Download a ‘Wow Moment’ form