

Walthamstow Montessori School

Newsletter

A very Happy New Year to all our WMS families and friends. We hope you have all enjoyed a happy and restful Christmas break. We are delighted to welcome all our families and children back for our Spring term, which is already promising to be both a very busy and exciting one. We ended last term on a 'high' with the Christmas concert! We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did - the children made us very proud singing so beautifully and delivering their lines well. Thank you so much for the kind feedback.

We have had a number of new children joining us throughout the school and I am sure you will all join us in making those children and their families welcome. For those parents whose children have moved on to new classes, we hope they find the change both exciting and challenging. If you are unsure about which class your child is in this term, please do not hesitate to ask.

Also, a very big thank you to all parents and children for our lovely Christmas cards and gifts.

Please be reminded that we break for the February half-term on Friday 15th February.

Dates/Trips:

Children in Reception, Prep, Elementary and Beech will be visiting Lloyd Park on Thursday 24th January. Each group will be led by our very own park wildlife educationalist to help us spot the local and visiting wildlife, as part of the Big Garden Birdwatch 2019! Please keep an eye out for your trip letter as it will need signing and returning.



Diary Dates

Important diary dates have been issued. We are still in the middle of finalising some of the class trip dates so once these have been finalised we will advise you by letter. Please remember to visit our web site regularly for these updates and term dates.



Splats E-Safety Day

On Wednesday 9th January the Splats team, led by Captain Splats Team Robot joined the school for the day. Children ended the day with a show for the parents all about E-safety and how we act online and in life to keep us safe.



Concert DVDs

If you have ordered and paid for a DVD then you should have received your copy. Please ask at the front door for yours. The profit we made on the tea towels and DVDs goes straight back in to the school – we will be sharing with you any new projects ahead that your fundraising will contribute towards.

Termination of a Place

May we respectfully remind you that you are required to provide notice, in writing, if your child will be leaving the school. This written notice should have been received by the school office on or before the first day of the new term. Therefore, if your child is leaving us at the end of the spring term 2019 and not returning in April 2019, we should have received notice on or before Friday 4th January. After this date school fees for the summer term will be invoiced and payable, as per your signed terms and conditions.

Spring 2019 Term Fees:

All school fees should now have been paid for the Spring term. Unpaid fees will incur a penalty fee of £50 per week they remain outstanding as well as your child being asked not to return to school until fees are settled in full.

Absence from school

If your child is absent from school, then it is important that you telephone the office/send an email advising us of this no later than 10:00am. Please ensure that you advise us of the nature of the absence i.e. sickness/holiday etc. It is very important that we are made aware of any childhood illnesses such as chicken pox, measles, mumps, vomiting and or diarrhoea etc - so if you suspect that your child may have come in to contact with anybody with infections then please let us know ASAP.



Wet Weather Precautions



We are, of course, looking forward to some Spring weather and lighter evenings but with wet, windy weather continuing you should ensure that all children have a pair of wellington boots on site for when they play in the garden. These, as well as anything your child brings to school,

should be clearly named in order to avoid confusion.

Please check the school website (click on 'About Us' and then School policies) for details on our school's snow policy.



New School Bags

Some children still have the older draw-string school bags in the Lower School. We are finding the children prefer our newer backpack style bag.

They cost £5.50 each and can be ordered via the office. Please complete an order form which can be found at the front door if you would like one.

School Smocks

If your child is in Nursery or Kindergarten can we ask that they wear their school smock. The smocks protect their clothing especially during messy play and when they are participating in their art and craft sessions.

You can order your child's smock via the school office and they cost £20.00 each.

Spare Pants

Good quality used pants/knickers are needed in the Lower School. If you have any that you no longer need for aged 2-4 years old, they would be greatly appreciated.

Class Information

All children will be coming home with their class 'Welcome Back' letters. These letters will give you a full understanding on what the class teacher will be working on with their children this term and information on class trips.

Elementary

Happy 2019! Children are back to work in their work cycle, focused and engaged. They also enjoyed their music lesson with their new music teacher, Dr. Yui.

In class one of our literacy book topics this term is Myths. We've been reading and discussing merpeople and Viking gods. The children so far have really enjoyed listening to 'Can You Catch a Mermaid' by Jane Ray, 'The Seal Children' by Jackie Morris and listening to stories about Viking Gods. Children have been making predictions, participating in discussions, and completing literacy reflections, book reviews and creating mind maps about these books, as well as writing questions they have about the books and myths.

In Science children are learning about The Seven Characteristics of Living Things, which are what all living things need to classify as living. The children have been creating MRS NERG posters about the living things, as well as writing about them in their science books. Ask your child what the MRS NERG acronym stands for. (movement, respiration, sensitivity, nutrition, excretion, reproduction, growth.)

Children are also writing stories using a word bank to choose from many words. They look at a picture, and use their imaginations to come up with who, what, when, when, where, why and how of the story and including these ideas in their writing. Children are also working on neatness in handwriting, strengthening their grammar skills, by peer editing and self-editing. Ensure when you are working with your child at home that they can understand what they wrote, that they capitalised the first letter of the sentence and any proper nouns, that they put the correct punctuation on the end of their sentence and ask them to circle any words they think might be misspelled. If they think they have misspelled words, they can use a dictionary to look them up.

In maths children are working on a variety of things, addition in the expanded form, place value, rounding decimals, checkerboard, stamp games and bank game activities.

Prep

Happy New Year and welcome back to a new term! I hope that all of you had a good rest and enjoyed family time.

The children are excited to be back in school. They immediately got back into their work cycle mode.

Our week began with the children being introduced to our term topic. They learnt about Our Universe and how it came into existence, the Big Bang and what makes rocket fly. We also did a couple of experiments. We created a whirlpool in a bottle and observed how a chemical reaction, which produces gas, can be used to propel a rocket.

In Literacy, we read the book Man on the Moon By Simon Bartman, which the children found hilarious. We have been doing some work relating to the book where the children designed a jumper for Bob and used Apostrophe's in their description. The children have also been practising their spelling words using the small movable alphabets. Some of the children have also been working with the Preposition boxes and making sentences using prepositions.

In Maths we are working with Money. The children were introduced to the different denominations of coins and we looked at various ways of making a certain denomination. Some of the children continued to work through the Stamp Games exercises and skip counting using the bead chains.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Curriculum Meeting on Wednesday 16th January at 9.45am.

Reception

Last week all the children from Reception class shared where they were for Christmas and what gifts they received. They wished each other a Happy New Year too.

During our morning sessions we worked with letter and sound 'r' searched the sound at the beginning, middle and end of the word. We made sentences with the words. We also talked about the animals as a topic of this term (where they live, what they eat etc).

On Monday the children met their new music teacher Dr. Yui and they really enjoyed their first lesson. On Wednesday we have had our Splats E-Safety Show with the Splats teacher Mr Sebastian. It was a very educational and exciting event for all. On Friday during our art lesson we helped Prep class children to make their planets out of tissue paper and then we made a collage all together.

Kindergarten:

Beech:

Hope you had a lovely Christmas break and welcome all back for a fantastic Spring term. Beech class was introduced to the class topic on continents and spent some time talking about all 7 continents with the puzzle map. We have a special Montessori 'continents' song which we are all enjoying learning.

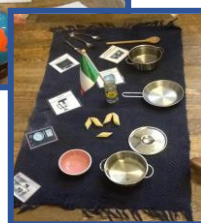


We started our week by making a globe with a balloon! Furthermore, we started talking about Europe and some countries in Europe. We looked at France, where we learned some French expressions, had a French snack (baguette and croissant), we learned the capital of France and made the flag. We also looked at Spain and Italy, some traditional clothes around these countries and talked about famous food. They enjoyed watching a flamenco show! We made a bull for Spain and the leaning tower of Pisa for our art lesson. On Friday we discussed facts about Denmark and located Denmark on the puzzle map of Europe. This week we will continue learning about Europe.



Oak:

Oak class returned from the Christmas break looking forward to the new lessons and experiences as well as meeting their new friends from Seedlings and Acorn classes. Last week we learned about seven continents. We also looked closely at some countries in Europe, such as France, Italy, Spain and Denmark. We learned about French food, Spanish corrida, Leaning Tower of Pisa in Italy and a famous Danish writer called Hans Christian Andersen.



We exercised our gross motor skills and coordination during our PE session, where we practised walking in a straight line holding a cup of water. We made Spanish bulls out of paper in our 'Out and About' session.



During our music lesson we learned about traditional musical instruments from European countries such as Spain (Castanets), Albania (Qifteli) and Macedonia (Tapan and Dajre).

As always, we were very busy in our classroom, working with shapes, letters and practical life activities.

Sycamore:

Last week, the children explored the continent puzzle map and focused specifically on Europe. They discovered lots of new information about France, Spain, Italy and Denmark. For the country Spain, the children explored different kinds of foods that are traditionally eaten such as paella and patatas bravas. We looked at short clips of children wearing red and black outfits participating in the flamenco dance. We also learnt about different landmarks including the Leaning Tower of Pisa in Italy and the Eiffel Tower in France.

For our country France, there was an enjoyable food tasting activity where the children were given the opportunity to explore their gustatory sense. There were mixed opinions across the group as some of the children preferred croissants whilst others preferred the baguettes. Continuing our topic on continents, the children demonstrated good concentration skills whilst exploring the continent puzzle map where after a three period lesson, many of the children were able to locate Europe by its red colour and positioning on the continent map. We continued our learning by focusing on the sandpaper letters 'f' for France, 's' for Spain, 'i' for Italy and 'd' for Denmark. Each child traced the letter in the sand whilst verbalising the phonetic sound for each country.

This week, continuing our topic on 'Continents', we will still be focusing on the Continent Europe. There are lots of activities planned around the countries, Germany, Sweden, Norway, England and Portugal.

Nursery:



Last week, nursery children practiced the principles of our environment through basic grace and courtesy activities. They demonstrated how to

carry a chair, walk around floor mats, put away their work and how to watch a friend who is working. We also had a discussion about the importance of these grace and courtesy lessons.

Next week we will start introducing our topic - the world we live in. The children will have an opportunity to have a sensorial experience with the land and water globe, learn about continents and oceans and explore our continent further. We will be making an island and a lake using soil and water in the garden for our 'out and about' session. Our culture table will have various objects representing European countries and we will be creating a geography folder consisting of cards with pictures from around Europe. These cards will represent the traditional clothing, food, architecture, geography features and animals in Europe.

Please help your children by finding fun ways together to identify the letter and topic of the week at home, to support their work in school.

Best wishes, WMS Admin



Important Numbers

To contact the school office dial:

020 8523 2968

email: e17montessori@aol.com

Please also 'like' our face book pages. Select the one that says Walthamstow Montessori and Elementary and 'like' us!

These pages are updated with new features every day on events, school news, Montessori information, parenting news and local news and events.

So please don't miss out on what we are doing and 'Like' our page.