

# Walthamstow Montessori School

## Newsletter

### Borough of Culture 2019

Waltham Forest is the first ever London Borough of Culture. Many of our families took part in the opening weekend of activities and it was lovely to hear from the children, sharing their stories and experiences from this event. One of our children shared with us one of the activities from the weekend which we replicated in class and the children made a lantern of Walthamstow Stadium a famous local landmark. Please check the borough's website for further exciting events taking place on our doorstep. [www.wfculture19.co.uk](http://www.wfculture19.co.uk)



### Dates/Trips:

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

Children in Reception, Prep, Elementary and Beech will be visiting Lloyd Park on Thursday morning.

Please ensure that you have returned your permission slip to the class teacher. Children to be dressed in suitable clothing for the journey and sensible outdoor shoes for potentially muddy and cold conditions.

### P.E. Lessons

On Wednesday the Upper School welcomed their new P.E. coach Mr Aaron. All the children took part in a session of multi skill games, which all the children thoroughly enjoyed.



Please ensure that all children arrive at school dressed in their P.E. kit on a Wednesday morning. This should include appropriate footwear for P.E. Children without the appropriate footwear will be unable to participate in the lesson.

### Mark Making

We are excited to be telling you about one of our new areas in our lower school. Our 'Mark Making' area has a wealth of interesting and stimulating activities to encourage writing development in a natural and unpressured way.



This includes sensory activities such as forming letters in pastel coloured sand to reveal gold beneath to provide a clear impression of the letter without having to actually write it.

Some of the ways this can be achieved is by using copiable pattern cards which are replicated using a cotton bud and water onto a small chalkboard and a post-box and some envelopes to write letters to post into. This helps to prepare for writing and refine hand movements.



### 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 procedure 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

## **Class Information**

The children in Kindergarten and Nursery have been learning their Montessori 'Continents' song. Please practice this song with your children.

*Tell me the continents,*

*Tell me the continents,*

*Tell me if you can.*

*North America, South America, Africa, Europe and Asia.*

*Don't forget Australia,*

*Don't forget Australia,*

*Tell me the continents,*

*Tell me the continents,*

*Tell me if you can.*

## **Elementary**

Last week, the children learned about vertebrates and invertebrates, and how scientists classify living things. Children created charts about invertebrates, and invertebrates and used classroom resources to find information about the animals. Some children created elaborate reports in their Science notebooks and others created lists of the animals, putting them in categories of vertebrates or invertebrates. They have also been learning about Mountain ranges in the world, and have created posters about the

Himalayas, writing facts and drawing pictures of mountains on their posters, using classroom resources and books to find their information. In literacy, children finished listening to 'The Seal Children', and wrote literacy reflections about the story. Some children also used descriptive language to write paragraphs about pictures from the story. We also discussed similarities and difference in the story, 'Can you catch a Mermaid'. In addition to this some children are working on writing mechanics, punctuation, using capital letters and checking for spelling. Others were working on using possessive apostrophes. All children also are reading independently, with partners and to the teachers in the classroom.

In maths children are working on addition and subtraction with the stamp game, multiplication through 12, word problems and elapsed time challenges. Children are also using Montessori materials for long multiplication, using the checkerboard and bank game for multiplication. We also welcomed our wonderful new gym coach Mr Aaron to school this Wednesday. The children really liked the activities they participated with him, and they learned a lot about team work and also learning about respecting your opponent's when playing games.

We also had a wonderful curriculum meeting. If you weren't able to attend, I do have handouts and curriculum overviews to pass on to you.

This week, we will journey to Lloyd Park for bird watching. This ties in nicely with our bird studies in the classroom, as we are discovering more about various vertebrates this term.

## **Prep**

Last week the children worked hard on their creative writing skills. They have written a short stanza in relation to our topic and have also begun to write sentences or short stories using picture prompts.

In Maths, the children continued to work with Money related activities. They worked with the Montessori set of coins and value cards. Some of the children were encouraged to practice further with exercises relating to making denominations whilst others were encouraged to stretch their abilities and solve money related word problems.

In Science we talked about how the Earth orbits the Sun and how it affects our life on Earth.

Our P.E lesson on Wednesday was a great hit with the children. They thoroughly enjoyed the multi skills games and were definitely left out of breath at the end of the session!

## **Reception**

Last week we talked about 'symmetry' and how do we know that the shapes can be divided into two equal parts by a line of symmetry. Using this knowledge, we painted some beautiful pictures during our art lesson.

We learned more about Mammals, Canines and Felines. We read the book 'Kolah the Koala', a true to life adventure with a family of cuddly Koala's, we discovered where they live, how they spend their day and what they eat. We also learned what we can do to help protect the threatened Koala population.

On Friday during our 'Out and About' session we talked about 'Animals in Winter'. Learning about the meaning of migration and which animals migrate.

On Tuesday and Friday, we prepared our own healthy snack for snack time. The children really enjoyed this.

On Wednesday morning we met our new PE coaches and we had our first PE lesson with them. We had fun!

## **Kindergarten:**

### **Beech:**

Last week Beech class continued learning about more countries in Europe. On Monday we had a science activity while we learned about Germany and some important facts about it. We talked about Albert Einstein and performed the 'bending water' experiment. The children combed the teacher's hair and held the comb next to the running water. They were surprised when they saw the water bending out towards the comb. We also learned interesting facts about Scandinavian countries Norway and Sweden, we made Northern Lights art in the classroom with chalk and paper. Furthermore, we learnt facts about England and Portugal. We looked at pictures of landmarks, discussed traditional clothing, food and we also listened to Fado (Portuguese) music. This week we will start talking about the continent of Asia.

### **Oak:**

Last week Oak class continued to learn about countries in Europe. We looked at Norway, Germany, Sweden, Portugal and the United Kingdom. We listened to two amazing stories and watched a puppet show about Hansel and Gretel and a delicious looking gingerbread house, where a scary witch lived. We learned that this story was written by Hans Christian Andersen, who was a children's author from Denmark. We also heard a story written by Brothers Grimm, 'The Ugly

Duckling', a story about a different duckling. He looked different from the other ducklings, but he was still very beautiful and precious. In our weekly 'Out and About session' we did scientific experiments with water! We learned what happens to water density and texture when it is mixed with different elements, such as oil, sugar, food colouring, etc.



During our PE session we concentrated on our gross motor skills and had fun with an obstacle course set up in the garden. Look at us climb, run and jump!



Lastly, we made our own flags of England - the cross of Saint George - using glue and tissue paper.



### **Sycamore:**

Last week we learnt some more amazing facts about Europe here in Sycamore class. After the teacher's presentation many of the children were able to name different landmarks relating to London during a three-period lesson. They were able to tell their teachers the names Big Ben, The London Eye and Tower Bridge. One child confidently explained to his class that 'Tower Bridge opens because the ships are too big.'

During our 'Out and About' session, the children used leaves to decorate the Norway flag, then they used red and blue paint to cover the leaves. The flag was then added to our lovely classroom display of a flamenco dancer which is surrounded by different country flags from the seven continents.



One of our children, Aariz demonstrated excellent literacy skills as he wrote the names of different countries located within the continents.

The children finished off the week by creating some beautiful mosaic art.



This week Sycamore class will be focusing on some exciting activities relating to Asia.

We will also be focusing on the letter of the week 'n'. As usual, please can you discuss with your child about different objects in their environment. The children all enjoy sharing ideas each week with their teachers and peers.

### **Nursery:**

The nursery children started last week with a senatorial exploration of the globe. They have been learning to distinguish the land and the water sections of the globe by colour and texture. We created a lake and island from soil in the garden for our 'out and about' session. Everyone had a turn in exploring the surfaces with their fingers. We went on exploring the



world we live in by introducing the continents on the world map puzzle and singing the song: "Show me the continents". Europe was the first continent we identified on the map and we have created a



geography folder of Europe. The children were also introduced to the cultural table where they had an opportunity to explore items from European countries. This week the nursery children will get more familiarised with how the people of our world express themselves through variety of arts. We will be introducing the world-famous artists and their special artistic expressions. Matisse, Pollock and Picasso are just some of the artist we will be talking about.



**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.**