

Walthamstow Montessori School

Newsletter

The children are always sharing lovely stories with us. Last week on the way back from our trip to Lloyd park, where had been birdwatching as part of RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch. We had a lovely quote from a child in Beech class. Whilst leaving the park after singing some songs, the teacher explained that they all needed to stop singing so that they could listen for traffic and be safe. A child said *'that's ok we can sing just with our hearts'*!

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

Our Display Boards:



Kindergarten children have been working hard on their topic 'Continents' display boards this term. Please take a look at their lovely work being displayed throughout the school when you next pop by.

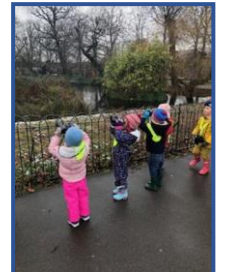
D.T. Lessons

Beech class had their first DT lesson this term with Miss Alex. Miss Alex talked about all the exciting things they will be doing during their lessons. Their first task was to cover and decorate their workbooks!



Trip to Lloyd Park

Both Upper school and Beech class visited Lloyd park on Thursday morning as part of RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch. They learned about the many birds that visit and live in Lloyd park and interesting facts about their habitats. The children worked together in spotting and counting the birds they had seen and heard. They also spent time feeding and identifying



the different ducks in the moat. Vicky the park's Educationalist was impressed with their knowledge and enthusiasm, asking lots of interesting questions!

Lower School Assembly

'Save the date' - Please diary - Wednesday 13th February at 10am. More information on this to follow but all nursery and Kindergarten parents will be invited to join us on this morning.

Extended Services

If your child has attended our breakfast, lunch time or tea timers clubs in January, please note that invoices will be sent home on **Monday 4th February**. This will cover weeks commencing, 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th January. Invoices will be due for payment by **Friday 8th February**.

Term Dates

New term dates for 2019-20, can now be found on our website and are also displayed on the notice boards at both the Lower and Upper schools.



Chinese New Year



We will be celebrating Chinese New Year on **Tuesday 5th February**. Children will be invited to school wearing red.

If any parents would like to come in and contribute/share their knowledge on Chinese food or culture with us, please contact the school office.

Geography Day

Friday 1st March will be our geography day throughout the school.



The children will be working on various fun and exciting tasks, which will mainly focus around maps, map making and simple orienteering.

If you have an interest in maps or are qualified in anything related to geography or maps, please get in touch as we would love to have parents involved in this exciting day.

Summer Term School Fees

Please be advised that your child's Summer term school fee invoice will be issued on **Monday 18th March** with payment due (50%) on or before **Monday 25th March**. If you would like to pay in two instalments, then the second instalment would be due on or before **Tuesday 23rd April**.



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.

Snow Precautions

With the threat of us getting some snow in the surrounding area, we urge you to please check the school website (click on 'About Us' and then School policies) for details on our school's snow procedure policy.



Lower School Footwear

Please can your children come to school with their indoor school plimsols for changing into. We are often working on the floor mats in the classroom, and it is much nicer and prevents the floors and mats becoming dirty with outdoor footwear being worn in school.

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 Antarctica

Tell me the continents,

Tell me the continents,

Tell me if you can.

Elementary

Last week Elementary had a wonderful time at Lloyd Park for a bird watching expedition. They identified many birds in the park, listened to their sounds, learned about some of their migration patterns and got to feed the ducks. Back in class some children completed bird reports by looking in books and computers. Children also went on another 'out and about' session this week to identify and classify invertebrates in the garden. They are learning about the scientific process of classification. Children also completed research on different vertebrates. This week we focused on birds, reptiles and amphibians.

In literacy, the children are looking at mythology and Greek gods and goddesses as well as structure and forms used in poetry.

In maths, the children worked on word challenges, multiplication, long division and dynamic subtraction.

This week we will continue to look at Mountain Ranges in Geography, Poetry and Myths.

Prep

Last week the children continued working on their creative writing skills using picture prompts. We also reviewed the use of commas in sentences and created a 3-day lunch menu for our book character – Bob - "The Man on The Moon".

In Maths, the children were introduced to bar charts. We looked at how data could be collected and represented in a table using tally marks. The children had a go at creating their own bar chart and were able to answer simple questions relating to their graph.

In Science we watched a short video of how the Earth rotates on its axis to create day and night. Using our Continent Globe and torchlight we rotated the globe and looked at how different parts of the globe were illuminated at different times. The children observed the following: when UK enters light, it is daytime and it is night time in Australia and when it is daytime in Asia, it is night-time in South America. The children then wrote their own explanations on what causes day and night.

The children enjoyed their trip to Lloyd Park albeit the freezing weather. They couldn't wait to get their hands on the binoculars! Some of the birds sighted were

Sparrows, Woodpigeons, Robins, Blue tits, Starlings, Moorhen and a Peregrine.

Reception

Last week Reception class learned how animals survive in the winter; how they stay warm; where do they get their food. Animals do amazing things to get through the winter! They migrate, hibernate or adapt.

During our morning maths session, we have focused on subtracting to 10. Also shapes and 3D shapes. We worked with letter and sound "y", we searched the sound at the beginning, middle and end of the words. We can build words from letters and groups of letters. We had an exciting Design and Technology lesson. Miss Alex and our teachers helped us to wrap our DT notebook with wrapping paper.

On Thursday morning Reception class had a very exciting bird watching session at Lloyd Park with Vicky. She gave us binoculars and she explained to us how to use them when we were searching for birds. We learned a lot of interesting facts about the birds. During our session we also observed the behaviour of a squirrel and saw its home in the branches of a high tree. Later in class we talked about the parts of a squirrel's body. On Friday we enjoyed our art lesson. We made our favourite animals from paper.

Kindergarten:

Beech:

Last week Beech class had a very busy week! We started the week with talking about the continent Asia. We looked at three different countries, Russia, China and United Arab Emirates. We learned about their capital cities, the language they speak, their traditional clothing and their food. Furthermore, we tried to use chopsticks to transfer pompoms from one cup to another. It was really funny, and the children enjoyed using the chopsticks. Our Lloyd Park trip was very successful as well. Vicky, the parks Educationalist took us around the park and showed us the birds. The Children were marking down the birds they had seen and trying to learn their names. This week we will continue talking about Asia. We would like to remind you that 'show and tell' happens every Wednesday, please send in something that your child would like to share with the rest of the class.

Oak:

Last week was Bird Watching Week in the UK and we commemorated it in Oak class by looking at, listening to and talking about some of the most beautiful birds in our country. During our 'Out and About' session we went in the garden and tried spotting some birds using real binoculars! As a part of this terms topic we looked at two more countries located in the continent of Asia - Russia and China. We talked about



some of the popular sports in Russia and watched a video of an Olympic champion Evgeni

Plushenko. After watching Mr Plushenko skate gracefully across the skating rink few of us decided to become ice skaters when we grow up!

The other big country we learnt about last week was China, which is located in Asia. We looked at Traditional Chinese hieroglyphs and learnt how to say "hello" and "goodbye" in Chinese Mandarin language. We also tried to "eat" with chopsticks - which was not easy! Lastly, we did an amazing experiment with Skittles candy and water, which made a beautiful rainbow on a plate.

Sycamore:

Last week the children have been exploring the continent 'Asia' and the countries within. We looked at Russia closely as this is the largest country in the world and how their climate is different throughout the country. The famous Wassily Kandinsky was a Russian



painter and art theorist. He is credited with painting one of the first recognised purely abstract works. Sycamore class children participated in their very own abstract painting, we used shapes and a ruler to make lines. We were very fortunate that

snow fell overnight, and the children were really excited to explore the outdoors, we looked closely at how the snow settled around our garden. Even though it was really cold

the children held and touched the snow. A few children collected some snow and placed it into a container and they brought it in class. We all monitored how long it



would take for the snow to melt into liquid. On Thursday the children drew their attention to 'China' and learnt lots of exciting facts such as the traditional 'Hanfu' clothing which is made from silk and how beautiful the fabric is detailed. We all had a go at using chopsticks and tried to pick up strips of cotton wool, there was lots of laughter in class!

This week we will continue to focus on other countries within 'Asia' such as 'Japan' and 'India'. We may even have a surprise from a teacher dressing in a traditional costume. The final two countries we will touch on will be 'Cambodia' and 'Thailand'.

Nursery:

Last week, children explored the great artists of the world. They learned various art techniques by making their own interpretations of the worlds famous work of art. The children made Matisse's style collage, Monet's water lilies, created Pollock's style drip painting, drew a portrait like Picasso and made flowers out of play dough for Frida



Carlo's hair.

They were also introduced to the country of origin for each of these artists. For our 'out and about' session, the



children loved listening and observing birds in the garden. We spotted a robin, a black bird, a crow and many pigeons flying above.

This week, the children will have an opportunity to explore world music and folk dances. They will learn about Flamenco and create a clothespin Flamenco dancer, they will step dance to Irish music, learn about Russian music, dance to tango and explore the African folk dance. There will be various art activities, music and dance to support these lessons.



In art, Acorn class created this piece of work inspired by Jackson Pollock using his 'Drip paint technique'.

The Children in Nursery have been learning the planet song.

There are eight planets, eight planets in our solar system. There are eight planets, eight planets. Can you name all of them? Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars, Jupiter and Saturn too. Don't forget Uranus and Neptune. They're part of the crew.



Mercury is the smallest one, The closest planet to the sun. Shiny Venus is number two, By far the hottest planet too. Earth is home to you and me and living things like whales and trees. Mars is fourth in line, you know. It's dry and red with volcanoes.

There are eight planets, eight planets in our solar system. There are eight planets, eight planets. Can you name all of them? Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars, Jupiter and Saturn too. Don't forget Uranus and Neptune. They're part of the crew.

Jupiter has the largest mass. A planet made of layers of gas. Saturn is famous for many things, it's moons, it's size, it's pretty rings. Uranus means the God of Heaven. Count its moons, all twenty seven. Neptune's eighth and w ay out there, farthest from the sun we share.

There are eight planets, eight planets in our solar system. There are eight planets, eight planets. Can you name all of them? Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars, Jupiter and Saturn too. Don't forget Uranus and Neptune. They're part of the crew.

There are eight planets, eight planets in our solar system. There are eight planets, eight planets. Now we know all of them.

Please help your children by finding fun ways together to identify 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.