

Walthamstow Montessori School

Newsletter

Chinese New Year

We had a lovely week of activities to celebrate Chinese New Year. Traditionally during this festival red is worn as it symbolises good luck and good fortune. The highlight of the week was a puppet show performed by Lachlan's and Zoe's mummies, telling the story of the 'The Great Race' the story of the Chinese zodiac. The children were captivated by the story. At the end of the show all the children were given a Fortune cookie to take home.



Violinist

We are extremely fortunate to have a talented violinist at our Upper School. Neve, visited the Lower School last Wednesday and performed for all the children and staff. Neve played Waltz by Brahms, The Witches Dance by Paganini and of course everyone's favourite 'Twinkle Twinkle little Star'. The children then had the opportunity to ask questions about the Violin and Neve explained what the different parts of the violin are called and how to look after her instrument. Neve played beautifully, and we would like to thank her for sharing her amazing talent with us all.

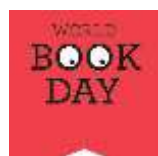


Everywhere Bear had a very busy weekend and went on some lovely adventures with Imogen in Beech class. Thank you, Imogen, for taken such good care of 'Everywhere Bear'. I wonder what 'Everywhere Bear' will do next weekend?



Reminder our February Half Term holiday is from Monday 18th February until Friday 22nd February and school is closed during that week. School re-opens on Monday 25th February.

World Book Day



World Book Day is **Thursday 7th March**. Activities will be planned throughout the whole of the week.

If you would like to read a book with the children please put your name down, a list of time slots will be displayed at the school doors from week commencing 25th February.

Easter Holiday Club

Our Easter Holiday Club will run from Monday 8th April to Friday 12th April 2018.

If you would like your child to attend complete a booking form. These are available at the front door.



Lower School 'Themed Assembly'

Wednesday 13th February at 10am

All the children have been practising for their Assembly this week and are looking forward to showing their parents and carers all their lovely work.

Composer of the Week

The composer of the week is Mozart. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart is regarded as one of best composers in the world. He lived over 250 years ago. He was an excellent piano and violin player and he wrote beautiful music; which people still love to listen to today.



Safer Internet Day



We will be having a Safer Internet Day on Thursday 21st March, this will be led by Mr Nicos and Miss Alex.

Further information about the day will follow.

Red Nose Day

This year red nose day is on Friday 22nd March. We are busy planning lots of exciting fund-raising activities to help support this wonderful cause.



Sickness Policy This is a reminder that if your child has vomited or has diarrhoea, that they should not return to school for 48 hours.

Small objects should not be brought into school. We often find small change dropped by the children. Such items can be choking hazards. Please check your child's school coat for small objects and please remove any items that are unsuitable. Thank you for your co-operation.

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.



Staff news

Sadly, this week we will be saying goodbye to Miss Mary. Miss Mary will be missed by all the children and staff at WMS but we would like to wish her all the best in the future and would like to thank her for all hard work and dedication during her time at WMS.

Upper School Chinese Art Project

The upper school produced some beautiful art work for Chinese New Year.



Class Information

Elementary

Last week children enjoyed Chinese New Year celebrations at school and had special assembly of a puppet show from Zoe and Lachlan mummies. They also enjoyed decorating dragons in art with Mr Graham. In class, children are working on Kenning Poetry, Cinquain poetry and Haiku's. We have



been learning a lot about poetical structure and how to use metaphors and similes in writing. We've also been using parts of speech in writing, completing book reviews and some children have begun to write their own myths.

Our science topic last week was exploring the plant kingdom. Children have been comparing, finding similarities and differences between a variety of plants. We also began looking at the water cycle and the hydrosphere. The children created diagrams of the water cycle, as well as wrote facts about the water cycle in their books. Some children also are completing reading and writing about the Andes mountain range and the Alps mountain ranges, finding the location on maps and drawing them in their books.

In maths children are completing long division with stamps and test tubes. Some children are also completing equivalent fractions and simplified fraction exercises. Other children are working on multiplication exercises, addition and subtraction with change and completing exercises involving money work, identifying coins and bills and adding the sums together.

This week, children will learn about fossils and rivers, and also listen to a version of the myth Beowulf, and complete writing responses about the story. Children will also be able to write their own myths.

Prep

Gong Xi Fa Chai! Last week we celebrated Chinese New Year. We wore red on Tuesday – an auspicious colour to mark the Year of the Pig. In class we read traditional stories relating to the Chinese Zodiac Calendar and saw pictures of how Chinese New Year is celebrated throughout

the world. During circle time, we discussed some of the Chinese traditions and Ella shared her experience and a photo from her recent visit to China. The children made Chinese Lanterns had fun unscrambling sentences relating to Chinese New Year.

In Literacy, we continued working with Prefixes. Some of the children chose to make a list of words with the prefix 'un' whilst others made sentences containing a prefix. We also looked at the use of exclamation marks and wrote some interesting sentences.

In Maths, some of the children were introduced to fractions. Others continued to work with the Stamp Game repeating their work with Dynamic Operations, multiplication and division board or challenging themselves with the box of Addition or Multiplication Equations.

During our topic session, we discussed and learnt some interesting facts about Planet Mars and continued creating our fact sheets.

Our week ended with Lachlan's and Zoe's mum doing a lovely puppet show based on the book 'The Great Race'.

Reception

Last week was a very busy and exciting for Reception class, we celebrated the Chinese New Year. We designed and decorated red lanterns, masks and we finished our Chinese Dragon too.

We told different picture stories; arranged full sentences and wrote them down.

During our show and tell session Zoe showed us her beautiful silk dress with floral motifs she has dressed. We all saw the little red envelopes where the Chinese people put in money, chocolate or sweets for the children. We held Chinese chop sticks in our hands too.

During our morning lessons we focused on subtracting and subtracting zero.

We learned to use rulers, to use meters and centimeters. During the week we read a very interesting book - 'Surprise Puppy'.

We talked about how responsible we should be when we have a pet at home. How to care for it and train it.

On Friday we were dressed up as animals and we had lots of fun!

Kindergarten:

Beech:

Last week, Beech class was talking about the continent Antarctica. We looked at the flag of Antarctica, the animals they live in and the icebergs and weather conditions. Children learnt how to use a compass to navigate and explore on their own voyage to the Antarctic. On Tuesday we had two lovely parents in Penrhyn who they did puppet show for Chinese New Year. Children enjoyed the show and we had a group discussion about the Chinese New Year. For our music session this week we had a child from upper school coming in to play the violin. All the children enjoyed listening to the little "concert".

Furthermore, we had penguin food printing activity on Friday to support our weekly topic.

We also read our Everywhere Bear book and sent it home with one of our Beech class children. We enjoyed listening the journey they had during the weekend!



This week we will start talking about a different continent, Australia. If you have any supportive materials, you can send them in with your child.

Oak:

Last week, Oak class looked at the most remote and the coldest continent in the world called Antarctica. We found out that there are no people living in Antarctica permanently, but only scientists doing research in special stations. Antarctica, however, has a rich animal world, which we read about in our book of the week called, 'Say Hello to the Snowy Animals'. We also had a discussion about the type of clothes we will need if we go to Antarctica, and what else we would need to take with us.



Last week marked the beginning of a two week celebration for Chinese New Year, which we joined in by making our own Chinese lanterns and watching an amazing puppet show about the origin of the Chinese New Year celebrations. We had a go at a Phonics Piggy Bank activity, where we practised



our sound of the week "p".

As usual we enjoyed practising our writing skills, by doing a lot of exciting activities teaching us how to hold a pen. We also enjoyed our new mark-making area, where we practised making marks using chalks, pebbles, colour sand, playdough and many more other exciting tools!

We did an experiment with water and its different states. We touched and looked at water in its liquid and ice states. This was fun!

Sycamore:

An exciting start to the week here in Sycamore class where our topic continued about continents.

We looked at the Continent Antarctica and made some interesting discoveries about the weather, types of clothing, the different array of animals and the explorer Robert Falcon Scott.

The children were able to competently locate Antarctica on the puzzle map after the teacher presented and retold different facts that was explained to them.

To further enhance our studies about Antarctica, Sycamore class participated in an exciting science experiment where they were given the opportunity to observe different changes to ice as it melted.

Each child was given a sensory experience as they chose an object of their choice to freeze. In turn, they observed as each object melted. Some children tried using their hands to melt the object faster by manipulating the ice with different tools.



As an extension activity we discussed whether the object would sink or float. We also discussed about the transition of ice from solid to liquid, then liquid to solid.



Our fun filled week continued with a re-visit to the largest Continent on the puzzle map Asia as we all celebrated Chinese New Year.

We all participated in lots of activities including making a fan, a role play activity using chopsticks and a puppet show provided by two of our parents depicting the story behind the Chinese New Year. To round off the occasion, all the children were treated to fortune cookies which they thoroughly enjoyed.

This week we will be focussing on the Continent of Australia.

We will look at some exciting activities about this continent. We will also be celebrating St Valentine's Day.



Nursery:

We had a fantastic week of celebrating Chinese New Year. The children loved exploring the culture table with objects from China. The Chinese fan was a very popular item and they loved opening and closing it as well as fanning their teachers. Children made lanterns, money envelopes, pig paper crafts and dragons. We listened to Chinese music during the Montessori cycle and practiced how to use chopsticks.



This week, the children will be exploring the sports around the world. They will discover more about football, tennis, cricket and basketball by learning the rules of these sports and playing them in the garden. There will be various art activities to support these lessons.

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.