

Walthamstow Montessori School

Newsletter

MP Visit

The locum MP of Walthamstow, Kizzy Gardiner visited the Upper School to give them an insight into her job. She asked the children questions about their knowledge of Parliament, such as, where are the Houses of Parliament? Who's the Prime Minister? Who's the opposition candidate? She was surprised at how quickly the answers came.

Kizzy spoke about the role she has with the local community of Walthamstow and how their concerns are then taken to Parliament. It is then discussed between the members and then voted on for actions to take place.

The children had the opportunity to ask her some questions relating to her role. She then had a discussion with the children about why rules and laws are made, and we came to the conclusion that it's for our safety. She ended the session by asking, what laws would you make if you were a member of Parliament? Quite a few responses were environmental, no cars and no pollution. It's good to hear their ideas and realise that they are on the right track for taking care of our planet.



Please be reminded that we break for the February half-term this Friday - 14th February.

Composer of the Week



Igor Stravinsky (1882-1971). Born near St. Petersburg, he learned the piano as a young boy. Stravinsky moved to the USA during the Second World

War. He settled in Hollywood, where he worked as a conductor and a teacher, while he continued to compose music. He became so famous in Hollywood that he was awarded a star on the Walk of Fame.

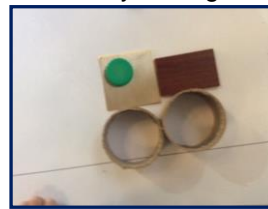


No grapes

Please ensure that you do NOT give your child grapes in their packed lunch, as young children can easily choke on grapes.

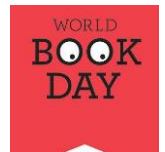
DT

Last week for their DT lesson the children in Reception class learned about various shapes of vehicles. Each child felt a vehicle in a bag and described its shape and form. After everyone had a go, we made one vehicle each made out of 5 items. The children then choose between a variety of recycled materials and items from the classroom. It was lovely seeing how creative the children became.



World Book Day

World Book Day is **Thursday 5th March.**



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 Monday 24th February.

Lost Property

As the end of this half term approaches please could you ensure you check the lost property bin for any items your child may have mis-placed during this half of the term.

Please could you check by Thursday 13th February as after this time we will be removing the items left and donation to charity.



Watch Your Speed

This is a polite reminder that if you are driving to school and dropping off your children, to drive slowly and carefully when parking near the school. PLEASE DO NOT, as recently observed, by a number of parents and staff, pull up at speed or at all in front of the school gates to access the parking space.



Penrhyn – please remember to close the school gate behind you **for the children's safety**. Even if people are in or out for a short time.



Elementary

Last week the children looked at leadership and important people of Walthamstow. In small groups the children worked at identifying relevant information relating to one person; each group then presented their chosen person to the rest of the class; George Monoux, William Morris and Frederick Bremer were the three people chosen from the past. The children also had the opportunity to interact with locum MP, Kizzy Gardiner representing someone of importance for Walthamstow today.

We have also talked about the role of a journalist and the children have been busy writing their own news articles. We have focussed upon the choice of words we can use to attract people's attention to read our article. The aim is to collate all the pieces together to make our own newspaper. This is work still in progress because the children are keen to type their articles on a computer.

Reception

Last week the children used their writing in almost all subjects of the curriculum.



Good writing also gives children a voice to share their ideas with the world.

For a child, learning to write involves handwriting, spelling, grammar and punctuation not to mention what we want to write and who we are writing for.

For that reason, reception class has put into practice their already acquired knowledge to carry out some activities that along with the Montessori resources are vital to improving

their writing.

The children have been discovering William Morris, the British textile designer, poet and novelist born in Walthamstow. The children had the opportunity to learn interesting facts about his life. With the aim of getting familiar with one of his most famous quotes, reception class shaped the letters of the quote by using some play dough that they made themselves. It was so much fun!



Kindergarten:

Sycamore and Beech Class

A busy week where our focus was on different minibeasts including a stag beetle the largest of them all with a growth potential of 8.5cm.

We also looked at British ladybirds learning the names with accompanying facts about each one. Some included, the Pine ladybird, the 14 Spot ladybird, the Larch ladybird and the Harlequin ladybird.

The harlequin ladybird in particular is orange with black spots. Measuring at between 5 and 8mm. The harlequin ladybird tends to gravitate towards different plants including lime and sycamore. During the winter months they can also be observed in houses and on rocky surfaces.

Alongside the wealth of information about lady birds, we also learnt about the ladybird lifecycle. In turn, we all correctly sequenced the eggs, lava, pupa and adult.

The focus on mini beasts continued with a lovely out and about session making a minibeast hotel in the garden. We enjoyed collecting leaves, sticks, stones and adding sand and soil in preparation for our mini beast hotel.

We are all excited to observe in a few weeks' time to see how many different mini beasts have taken up residence in our hotel.

We cannot forget the butterfly where we participated in a sequencing activity of the monarch butterfly.

The children also listened to a poem

**If I were a butterfly,
I would fly way up to the sky.
Past the rooftops and mountain peaks
My freedom I would not deny.**

**I would eat nectar from the flowers,
And fly high like the honeybees.
I would eat sap all day night and long,
From the tall and growing trees.**

**Although my wings would be pretty,
And I would fly way up to the sky.
I am merely just a little child,
And not a butterfly.**

This week our focus will continue on minibeasts in particular the different types of British frogs.

Oak Class

Last week our focus was on British Minibeasts where we got to use our senses to explore and expand our understanding on the life cycle of a ladybird. We compared the ladybird egg to the eggs we've seen and how different they look.

