

W/C Monday 22nd February 2021

Walthamstow Montessori School

Newsletter

Welcome back, we hope you all enjoyed your half term break and are ready for a very busy rest of the Spring term.



Chinese New Year



We had a lovely week of activities to celebrate Chinese New Year, the year of the Ox. The children were invited to wear red which is traditionally worn during this festival as it symbolises good luck and good health.

The children really enjoyed eating some noodles and even had a go at using chopsticks!



The children participated in some lovely art activities which included making Kongming Chinese lanterns, Chinese lanterns are used in Asian festivals to bring prosperity and good fortune.



World Book Day

To celebrate World Book Day on **Thursday 4th March** the children will be invited to come to school dressed up as their favourite book character on this day. There will be lots of fun and educational activities running throughout the week for the children to take part in to encourage a love of books and reading.



Teatro di Burattini

Signor Stefano made a Teatro di Burattini (Puppet Theatre) to entertain the children this week for their Italian lesson. The interactive theatre ensured that the children were engaged while learning all the names of the characters.



Numeracy in Montessori Classroom

We wanted to share this lovely spontaneous moment with you this morning. As part of our work on Chinese New Year the children have been introduced to the Chinese numerals.

One of our 2 year olds used a tiny wooden treasure chest of golden coins and placed a quantity of coins below each numeral after the teacher has placed the numeral cards in a line on the floor mat.



At this age it would be very unusual for a child to correctly place the right quantity in association with the numeral however you can see that the '4' is correct.

What is evident is the precision in the placing of the coins, the deep concentration, and the fine motor skills in placing the coins in a line below each number.

In this was this small child is demonstrating a developing awareness of quantity.

It is also possible that they have seen other, possibly slightly older, children working with the Montessori material 'Cards and Counters' where numbers from 1-10 are placed from left to right and the correct quantity of counters is placed below each number in pairs to begin a visual understanding of odd and even and pairing.

Farewell to Miss Susie

The children in Beech class made sure that Miss Susie's last day was filled with lots of love.

The children hand made some lovely cards and also helped to make a heart canvas.

Miss Susie will be missed but we would like to wish her all the best and hopefully we will see her again soon.



Upper School Art Lesson

For their art lesson, Sycamore class had to create a pattern using the three main shapes: circle, square and triangle.



Children had to draw one shape per given square, the area around the shape (surrounding) needed to be coloured in a different colour than the actual shape. We only used the three primary colours.



Prep class had the Basilica de la Sagrada Familia in Barcelona as their topic. In Art we started to paint the

city using lots of different colours.

This week the Basilica will be placed in the middle of the drawing. The children always love being able to use paint as a material.

Composer of the Week

Igor Stravinsky (1882-1971). Born near St.

Petersburg, he piano as a young moved to the Second World in Hollywood,



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.

learned the boy. Stravinsky USA during the War. He settled where he

Class Information

Prep Class

Prep class had a week full of learning and enjoyment .

We learnt about pollination, which is a very important part of the life cycle of plants, insects, birds, bats and now the wind transports pollen between flowering plants, which means the plants can make seeds and reproduce. Prep class children were fascinated by this natural phenomenon. We also learnt about wildflowers and the names of some of them.

In terms of our topic, prep class children learnt some interesting facts about Spain and one of its landmarks, the Basilica de la Sagrada Familia. Some of the children, as you can see on the picture ,did a great job and presented a lovely project with lots of writing and many pictures. Well done everyone!

Since we don't just learn about the landmark of the country, but also about the culture. Prep class children got the opportunity to attend a "flamenco master class" and learnt some movements! It was super fun and the children loved it!

To finish off the week, we had a little "WMS Got Talent" and some children got to perform in front of a very strict audience, who applauded excitedly when the performances ended.

Sycamore Class

Sycamore class celebrated Chinese New Year before the half term break. We have practiced some Kung Fu movements, we listened and performed the story of the Zodiac, we made lanterns and we also used chopsticks to develop our fine motor skills. We even had a typical Chinese snack all together! We were very engaged with the Chinese culture and their traditions.

Also, to conclude with Mental Health activities, we created our antistress balls using some flour and balloons. It helped us to talk about our feelings and squeeze them when needed.



Moreover, as one of the coldest weeks of the year, we had enjoyed the snow so much! We experimented with it, using our ice melting knowledge, made snowballs and even had a "peaceful" snow fight. It was fantastic to be able to play with the snow together.

Beech Class

We had a lovely week celebrating the Chinese New Year before the half term break. The children learned where China is on the puzzle map of the world and they loved looking at the culture table that was filled with objects representing China and South Korea.



Children enjoyed listening to "The Great Race" story and learned how the animals in the Chinese zodiac came about. An activity of tracing Chinese characters was introduced, and children made red envelopes, discovering this part of the Chinese tradition.



We also said goodbye to Miss Susie by making lovely cards and singing a song for her. We will miss her dearly!

This week, we will have fun making pancakes. Children will identify and measure the ingredients for making the batter and they will have an opportunity to flip the pancakes over with Chef Oscar, followed by choosing their own toppings and enjoying having pancakes in a group. Many new activities for taking care of the environment will be introduced, such as arranging flowers, dusting, looking after the bookshelf, how to use a snack table and the art shelf.

Oak Class

Last week Oak class children focused on China and why the Chinese New Year is an important celebration.



We celebrated Chinese New Year by learning about their traditions; wearing red clothes to bring good luck; eating noodles with chopsticks; making crafts such as a Chinese lantern or a Chinese drum; and dancing a traditional Chinese fan dance. It was incredible!



Also, we talked about Chinese culture and which are the cultural differences between England and China.

We discussed which are the most important landmarks in this country too. Oak class children did a great job building the Great Wall of China with LEGO and designing a Panda's mask.

At the end of the week, we celebrated St. Valentine's Day. We had a chat about what it is love and how can we show our love to others. We made a list of words linked with love. We learned how people say "I Love You" in different languages. We made a Candleholder for our Valentine too.

Nursery

Nursery children celebrated Chinese New Year before the half term break. The children enjoyed taking part in a variety of fun activities. We sang the "Show me the Continents" song and found China on the continental globe. We talked about Chinese language, traditional costumes, music, and food and looked at the classified cards made on this topic. We talked about the animals represented in the Chinese zodiac and identified them on the



classified cards. On Tuesday we wore red and had noodles for our snack. The children enjoyed creating lanterns and oxen as well as the traditional Chinese money envelopes where we also introduced a counting game. The children were fascinated with the dragon as a symbol for the Chinese New Year and they loved creating dragon puppets. We also acknowledged St. Valentine's Day by singing songs about love and created Valentine canvases and cards.

We had a rare opportunity to enjoy our garden covered in snow and we enjoyed making a snowman and having "snowball fights".

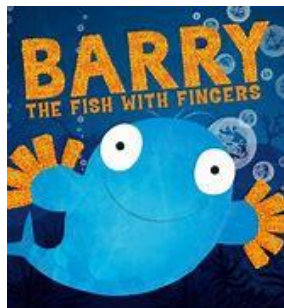
This week we are going to continue with our topic about the people who help us. This time we are going to learn more about the teachers and their profession through lots of songs, games and activities.



**Heart Canvases
made by Willow
Class**

Book of the week

*Barry
The Fish With Fingers
By
Sue Hendra*



Best wishes, WMS Admin

Important Numbers



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