

W/C Monday 10th October 2022

Walthamstow Montessori School

Newsletter

Harvest Festival

Thank you so much for all your kind and generous donations for this year's Harvest Festival. The children had a beautiful assembly which I'm sure will be fondly remembered by all.

The children enjoyed Miss Lorna's reading of *Handa's Surprise* and had the opportunity to be part of the story themselves. We heard some lovely songs from all classes and the Children's House also delivered some poems surrounding Harvest.



Black History Month

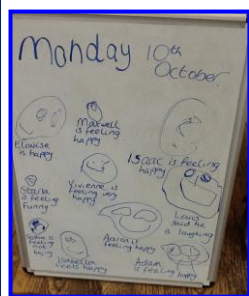
This week at WMS we are celebrating Black History Month. Already the children have been learning about some of the outstanding contributions that people of African and Caribbean descent have made to our country. We would really encourage for you to let your child's class teacher know if your child or family has anything they would like to share with us on this topic.



Signs of Autumn

Your child will be sent home next week with an Autumn bag, to collect signs of the new season when out and about during half-term. This is a lovely way to bridge home and school learning. We look forward to seeing what the children have found when they bring them back after half-term!

World Mental Health Day



Monday 10th October marks World Mental Health Day. At WMS children are encouraged to speak about their emotions and as their vocabulary expands, they can express themselves and their feelings better. Encouraging these

conversations is crucial in early years and aids children's understanding that it is ok to feel different emotions. Oak class spend time each morning saying how each of them are feeling and drawing a face to match the emotion so children can recognise what these feelings may look like.

Important Diary Dates

Please note we have rescheduled our whole-school assembly. This will now take place on **Thursday 17th November 2022.**



Halloween

On Thursday 20th October, the children and staff are invited to attend school dressed up in their Halloween costumes. But of course, as always, anything goes.

There will be lots of spooky Halloween activities going on at school throughout the day, finishing with a Halloween disco in the afternoon. Nursery will enjoy their Halloween disco in the morning when all the children are there.

School uniform on this day not required.

Headlice

We have been notified of a case of head lice in the Lower School, which is very common

amongst young children. Please check your child's head regularly and treat accordingly. Thank you.

After-School Club Booking

Today a communication was sent regarding after-school club bookings for the second part of the Autumn half term.

If you would like to change your days or request a place, please contact the office.

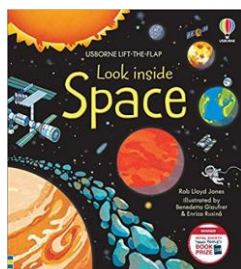
If your child attends already your place will be automatically rolled over unless you inform us otherwise.

Class Information

Remember, we break for the half term on Thursday 20th October. School resumes on Monday 31st October. Early Risers and Tea Timer clubs will be running on these days.

Book of the week:

A Look into Space
By
Rob Lloyd Jones



Children's House



It has been a busy and eventful week for the children in our Children's House. Our week started off with celebrating Harvest Festival with the entire school. During the assembly, we displayed all the beautiful crafts that the children had made. They also recited their two Harvest acrostic poems wonderfully - one being on Harvest and another relating to the Harvest Moon. To go with the poem, the children made a beautiful backdrop, which we are all immensely proud of!

Our focus of the week has been on the planet Saturn. Throughout the week the children have been learning various facts about Saturn. Some of the facts that the children were already aware of were that it was a gas giant, it was the second largest planet, and the rings were made of rock and ice. The children were introduced to more facts about the planet. We discussed how large Saturn was i.e., how many earths could fit into Saturn, the number of rings and moons it had, names of the smallest and largest moon (Mimas and Titan) which they might have shared with you and even how long a day in Saturn would be. We compared it to how many hours there were in Earth. Using that knowledge, the children created a paper plate model of Saturn and wrote some of these facts in their books.

Part of our week was also spent at the lower school. The children enjoyed seeing and working with some of the other children. During our time at Penhryn, the children explored the space shelf. They

enjoyed looking at picture cards relating to Neil Armstrong and his team's voyage to the Moon on Apollo 11. Some of the children also worked with the Planet Cards and Solar System mat, which gave them a hands on feel of where each planet was placed in relation to the sun.



In art, the children have started to create planet cards. Miss Alex showed the children how to mix some primary and secondary colours to get brown. The children then independently mixed their own colours to get the desired colour for Saturn.



For our Out and About session, the children created a Sun Burst. We connected twigs together in a shape of a star before each child took turns to weave red, orange and yellow yarn. We talked about the core being the hottest layer and weaved it with red yarn to reflect that.

The children have also enjoyed playing the game "What planet am I?" which not only helps to reinforce the facts but also builds on their current knowledge.

We would also like to thank all the children and parents for making us feel so special on International Teacher's Day last week. You all definitely made our day!

This week we will be celebrating Black History Month. We will also be learning more about the planet Mercury. The phonetic sound for the week is 'm'. We will also be working with digraph 'er' throughout the week.



Kindergarten - Oak Class

Oak class have really enjoyed their learning this week. The planet Saturn was our focus where we learnt that this planet is 6th from the sun and it is made from a ball of gas with a ring made of rock and ice. We all made our own Saturn planets using sponges to mark make our paper plates, which were then carefully cut to represent the outer ring. We have also been working with the numeral 6 and practised forming the number following the correct formation.

We really enjoyed our harvest festival coming together as a whole school. The children particularly enjoyed two of the songs we sang altogether which were 'Mr Scarecrow' and 'Big Red Combine Harvester'. As a class we sang a song called 'Ready for the Harvest' beautifully. We made Harvest jars by covering jars with leaves and each child said what they were thankful for. Theo said he was thankful for hugs and Isabella said she was thankful for mermaids.



The class joined with the Children's House for our 'Out and About' session where we are creating a sun burst weaving craft. Children enjoy weaving and this improves their fine motor skills and eye-hand coordination. This activity is being continued in class and we will show you the finished article

once it is done.

This week we will be looking at the planet Mercury. We will learn that it is the smallest planet in our solar

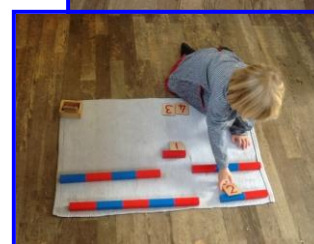
system, but it is the closest planet to the sun. We will look at a thermometer and about temperature.

We will also be celebrating Black History Month and will look at some famous people including Guion Bluford who was selected to become a NASA in January 1978.

Our phonetic sound of the week will be 'b'. The children are really enjoying show and tell on a Wednesday and I can really see their confidence growing. I'd also like to say a huge thank you for the surprise drawings, cards and gifts on International Teacher's Day - it really made my week.

Kindergarten - Elm Class

Throughout last week we have been very busy exploring our various Space and Montessori materials. These materials have supported the children's numeracy skills and they have continued to demonstrate great interest working independently.



During our science session, the children were engaged in the sink and float activity, they also took turns and explored each object. This activity enables the child to promote scientific thinking and they were able to sort the objects into two piles of sink and float.

In addition, we explored the sixth planet from the sun, Saturn and the children experimented with how Saturn's rings were formed using some sand, paper, coloured circles and glue. We discussed what makes the planet unique and compared it with other planets.

We really enjoyed our Harvest Assembly. The children made harvest sacks and we then chose different vegetables to place inside. Thank you to all our dressed-up



farmers! We remembered our farmers and showed gratitude by singing "It's Harvest Time" alongside other harvest songs. Afterwards, we explored being creative with the vegetables using them to make different prints. The children also identified all the vegetables used as well as their shapes.

We have continued to name and practice sequencing the planets from first to eighth, with the sun the centre of our solar system and learning that its gravity holds



the solar system together. Everything in our solar system revolves around it – the planets, asteroids, comets, and tiny bits of

space debris.

During P.E, the children enjoyed their obstacle course activity. They tried balancing on the beam, climbing and jumping off the frame, going up and down the slide and finally crawling under the tunnel. The children continued the activity for a long time, "Miss Florence, this is very exciting!" said Jasper whilst balancing on the beam.



Thank you to Fran, Penny and Rhea for bringing in items for all of us to explore. It was an interactive session as the children took turns and explored all items.

This week we will continue to learn more about space and our focus will be on the smallest planet called Mercury. Our phonetic sound for the week is 'm' in Mercury.

Sycamore Class

We had another exciting week in Sycamore class last week, learning all about Saturn. We discussed why is Saturn so unique and different from other planets. The



children really enjoyed having discussions and learning about the beauty of Saturn. Most of the children are now very familiar with the phonetic sound "s" and they are also able to name the planets in our solar

system thanks to our "Eight Planets" song!

We enjoyed sponge painting where we created Saturn using mixed colours. This was a great opportunity for exercising and developing our fine motor skills. We also looked at the number 6, as planet Saturn is the sixth planet from the sun.

We had amazing Harvest Festival assembly that we ended with vegetable printing where we discussed patterns, colours and shapes.

In our classroom we are continuing to have daily Grace and Courtesy lessons which are an important part of the Montessori approach. Children are really enjoying engaging with our sensorial materials. These activities encourage them to plan, make decisions, take turns, and share ideas and thoughts.



This week we will be learning about Mercury. Our phonetic sound of the week will be letter "m"

Nursery – Acorn and Seedlings

It has been an exciting and explorative week in our Nursery classes. The children are enthusiastic about learning to identify the planets from the solar system. We enjoyed watching an educational video about the solar system and focused on learning about the planet Saturn this week. As part of the learning process, the children participated in an art activity of painting the planet of Saturn using sponges and a template. We were experimental in mixing colours to replicate the way Saturn looks. The children enjoyed learning that Saturn has a ring around itself made of rock and ice. They enjoyed sticking lots of paper cut-outs to create the rings around their sponge-painted Saturn.



Last week we also had our Harvest Festival. We had a great celebration and felt grateful for all the food we have and spoke of how important it is to share food with people who do not have enough. We created our Harvest fruits and vegetables baskets and sang our favourite Harvest songs doing the actions and dancing to them which was a lot of fun.

This week we will continue to learn about the Solar System, this time with the focus on the planet Mercury. We will also celebrate Black History Month.

Best wishes, WMS Admin



Important Numbers

To contact the school office dial:

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