

W/C Monday 17th October 2022

Walthamstow Montessori School

Newsletter

Black History Month

The children have been learning about the significant contribution of black individuals as October marks Black History Month. In particular, they have focused on the first African American to be launched into space, Guion Bluford, and also Mae Jemison, the first black woman to travel into space.



We were also grateful to receive some information from a parent of a child, whose great, great... grandfather was a slave in North America. They fought in the American civil war and then campaigned with the British for land for ex-slaves. He was subsequently one of the founders of Freetown. Thank you very much for sharing this story. [Here's a link to more information.](#)

Important Diary Dates

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

Signs of Autumn

Your child will be sent home this week with one of our 'Autumn bags', 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!



End of Term celebrations

On Thursday 20th October, the children and staff are invited to come to school dressed down for the end of term.

There will be lots of Autumn and Halloween-related activities going on at school throughout the day, finishing with a disco in the afternoon.

Please note our Autumn half-term dates school finishes on Thursday 20th October and resumes on Monday 31st October

We wish you all a lovely and restful half term break!

Tea Towels Fundraiser

We will be taking part in our annual Tea Towel fundraiser again this year. Some of you may already be familiar with the tea towel fundraiser whereby each individual child in WMS will draw a self-portrait of him/herself and they will all be printed onto a tea towel.



You will be able to purchase these tea towels, which would make a lovely Christmas present or a treasured keepsake. Miss Jessica will be emailing parents at a later date with details on how to pre-order your tea towels.

Composer of the Week

Robert Schumann (1810-1856) was a German composer who began by studying law, following his family's wishes. He played the piano as a young boy and began composing music. In 1830 he heard the famous violinist Paganini play and



was so impressed that he returned to music. One of Schumann's most famous sets of piano pieces is Papillons (butterflies).

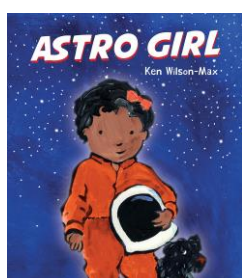
Parent's Corner

It may be worth noting that HENRY updates a list of dentists taking new NHS patients in the borough every 6-8 weeks. You can access HENRY here: [HENRY in Waltham Forest](#) | [HENRY](#)



Class Information

Book of the week:



Astro Girl
By
Ken Wilson-Max

Children's House

Last week was filled with lots of learning. We began our week by celebrating World Mental Health Day. We discussed what mental health meant and talked about the different types of emotions we have. The children took turns to tell each other what they liked doing and what made them feel better. As a group, we created a positivity jar with some special messages.

Our learning was centred on planet Mercury. The planet song, that the children thoroughly enjoy singing, has helped in introducing them to some basic facts about each planet. This is often used as an initial basis for our discussion during circle time. Two of the books that the children enjoyed looking at this week were "The Solar System" and "My First Book of Planets" where we gathered more insight on Mercury's surface, its atmosphere and how the impact craters on Mercury are formed. We also looked photograph of Mercury taken by the MESSENGER probe in 2008. The children were intrigued by the colourful image of what the spacecraft captured as we normally see it as grey in pictures.



We looked at the first syllable sounds in Mercury and the children were introduced to digraph 'er'. The children were presented with words ending

with 'er'. In the garden, some of the children recalled these words and added more to the list.

The children were introduced to the concept of temperature using our Montessori Thermic Bottles, an activity that helps in refining their thermic sense and memory. Each pair of cylinders is filled with water of different temperature: cold, cool, warm and hot and the child has to find the matching pairs or grade them by carefully feeling the different temperatures of the bottles. To extend their learning, the children were also introduced to various types of thermometers. We discussed the function of each thermometer and how it is used. The thermometer was then placed into the different cylinders and the children observed the rising and falling depending on the temperature. Some of the children also made effort to read the temperature.



In our out and about session, we conducted a thermometer science experiment to get them thinking about liquids and heat and how they can be measured. The children were shown how to create a makeshift thermometer which was then dipped into a bottle with coloured water. Based on their learning in the week, they made predictions on what would happen if the bottle was put into boiling water. We had various predictions, for example, the water in the straw would shoot up, it might explode, or nothing would happen. The children observed that when the thermometer was put in hot water, it heated up the coloured water contained in the glass and forced it to rise-up the straw and when it was put in ice water, the water in the straw went down. Some of the children also asked why play-dough was used to cover the bottle.



In art, we created a backdrop of our solar system. The children looked at the different colours of each planet and worked independently on their

planet. They used the sponging method that they were introduced to in the previous week.

We also celebrated Black History Month. Interrelating with our Space topic, the children were introduced to Guion Bluford, the first African American in Space in 1983 and Mae Jemison, the first African American woman in space in 1992. We talked about their educational background and achievements as well as their age when they went on their first mission!

This week we will be learning about planet Uranus. Our phonetic sound for the week is 'u'. We will also be working with digraph 'ee' throughout the week. Our week will end with the end of term disco, which we are all looking forward to!

Kindergarten - Oak Class

Last week Oak class were learning about the planet Mercury. We remembered lots of facts, such as that Mercury is the closest planet to the sun. As a class, we used the metal inset to draw a circle for the Sun, then added a smaller circle to represent Mercury in relation to it. The metal inset is a crucial material in the Montessori classroom; by tracing around the inset they are preparing their muscles and motor skills for writing. We have also talked about Mercury in terms of temperature. The children explored a room thermometer and we looked at how on different days the Mercury line was different.



For our out and about session we talked about the properties of Mercury and that its core is a solid ball of iron. We then used our listening skills and followed actions for different planets. We jumped when the planet Mars was said, clapped when the word sun was said, spun around once for Saturn and pretended we were cold for Uranus.

We have also talked about Black History Month and linked this in with our topic of space by talking about one of the first black men to enter Space, Guion Bluford. We also had some lovely information around a child in Oak class and his ancestry. His great, great... grandfather was a slave in North America, who fought in the civil war, then campaigned with the



British for land for ex-slaves. He was subsequently one of the founders of Freetown. Thank you for sharing this with us and Oak class.

For the last week of term, we will be learning about the planet Uranus. Our phonetic sound of the week will 'u'. Please remember Thursday is our last day of term. Wishing you all a restful half term break. Next term we will continue our learning around the planets as well as preparing for Christmas and our topic assembly on 17th November!

Kindergarten - Elm Class

Elm class has had another busy week. We have been learning about the Solar System and in particular, Mercury. During our 'out and about' session this week, we focused on exploring the planet and discussing its uniqueness from other planets. Excitingly, we looked at some facts about Mercury such as it being the smallest planet in the solar system, and slightly bigger than our Moon. Another fact that we discussed was that mercury doesn't have air (atmosphere) we then compared this to Planet Earth which does. Afterwards, we all took turns to name our favourite planets and the reason. "My favourite planet is Earth because it's where we live, and we can breathe." said Felix.



Furthermore, during our circle time, the children were encouraged to think about what makes them special; these were then written on star shapes. Most of the children were able to cut out their stars independently or with some support.

The children explored different objects during our phonics session and were able to relate the phonetic sounds to objects brought from home. They have also continued to explore their environment working with the Montessori activities. Using the sandpaper letters to reinforce our weekly phonetic sound, the

children are making great effort to trace this letter in the sand tray and relating the phonic sound to things they've learnt so far in Space and other home items brought in this week. This was evident when Ananya said 'm' in moon, Johan said 'm' in mercury and Fran related this to an item from home 'm' in Merry-go-round. We also



reinforced other phonetic sounds introduced since the beginning of this term.

In addition, was the use of the Large Moveable Alphabet. This helps the child to put phonic sounds together to build words, to prepare the child for reading and writing, and in addition, it encourages the child's creative writing as the child begins to see the formation of each letter.

We carried on looking at a thermometer, what it is and what it does. We measured our classroom temperature, using the numbers on the thermometer. In addition to this, we learned how to combine two numbers to make a different number. For example, when we checked the thermometer in our classroom, we were able to see the number twenty-three. We learned that when 2 and 3 come together they make a different two-digit number, 23. We will continue to learn more about temperature using the Montessori Thermic Bottles which will help the children distinguish differences of temperature.

Another focus in our classroom last week was to be able to discriminate (this is the recognition and understanding of the difference between one thing and another). This skill helps us in comparing Mercury to other planets. We also worked with various Montessori



activities to help enhance this skill. Using the Montessori knobbed cylinder blocks helps teach the child to visually discriminate between dimensions.

During Show and Tell, Rhea dressed up as an Astronaut and showed us a picture of a moon called Rhea. Moon Rhea is the second-largest moon of Saturn and the ninth-largest moon in the Solar System. Rhea also told us that her favourite planet is Saturn!



We also celebrated Orla's birthday with the Montessori Birthday Walk. She was happy to get hugs from her classmates at the end!

This week we will continue to learn more about space and our focus will be on the seventh planet, Uranus. Our phonetic sound for the week is 'p' in planet. Please remember our last day is Thursday 20th October. I wish you all a restful half term break.

Sycamore Class

Last week started by celebrating World Mental Health Day. We began the lesson with the story called "Be Gentle" by Virginia Miller. After reading the book all children were able to answer questions about the story which prompted discussion surrounding different emotions and feelings. We shared what makes us feel happy or sad and the children successfully discussed respecting others and shared their thoughts. Following this we talked about what we can do if we are feeling sad. Some of us like to go for walk, or listen to our favourite song, paint, or draw, talk to others. We ended this lesson with yoga exercises where we imagined going on adventure to the space. All children enjoyed learning new postures and using breathing techniques that help us to stretch our bodies.



Our 'out and about' session was also about going into Space. We concentrated on balancing skills and practiced walking to our spaceship using balancing blocks. This exercise is helping the children to develop better coordination of movement and balance.

We continued our week discussing the planet Mercury. We learned that Mercury is the first planet from the Sun and it is also the smallest planet in our solar system.

All the children successfully recognise number one, and we practiced writing this number.

Most of the children are also familiar with the letter "m". Please feel free to continue and help your child become more familiar with phonic sounds by playing "I spy" games.



This week we are going to learn about Diwali: the most important and biggest holiday celebrated in India. We will look at India on the map, and we will talk about why this festival is celebrated. Our phonetic sound of the week will be "d" for Diwali. We will be making lots of art activities and listening to music related to this festival of lights. Wishing you all a lovely half-term and we will see you back in School on Monday 31st. October.

Nursery – Acorn and Seedlings



Last week in the nursery classes, we focused on the planet Mercury as we continued to explore the topic of Space. The children have learned lots of interesting facts about Mercury and we hope they have been sharing these with you at home.

They learned that Mercury is the smallest planet in our solar system, and that it is shrinking. The children were also able to recall that Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun. The nursery children were also fascinated to learn that two spacecraft were sent to study Mercury and that there is a piece of the planet here on Earth.

The nursery children are continuing to prepare for our assembly on the 17th November. Each day they have been thoroughly enjoying practicing their different songs. On a Friday afternoon when we have Music lessons, the children enjoy moving to different sounds and joining in with their voice and various instruments.

We are looking forward to our Autumn celebrations on Thursday to mark the end of the first half-term. The children have been creating some Autumnal and Halloween-related crafts.

Our focus this week is on the planet, Uranus. Our phonetic sound of the week is “u”.

Best wishes, WMS Admin

Important Numbers



**To contact the school office dial:
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Facebook and Instagram pages!**