

W/C Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022

# Walthamstow Montessori School

## Newsletter



**Welcome** back to the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the Autumn term. We hope you all had a lovely break and ready for the festive fun ahead!

We are welcoming 7 new families to the school over the next few days so please give them a warm and friendly WMS welcome!

### Diwali

The children thoroughly enjoyed celebrating and learning about Diwali before the half-term. The children learned that this celebration is also called the Festival of Lights. They made their own Diya's using clay and decorated these beautifully. We also discussed the significance of the Rangoli pattern, and children were introduced to the story of Rama and Sita. Happy Diwali to all those who celebrated.



### Important Diary Dates

- **Whole School Assembly** - Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November
- **Children in Need** - Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November
- **Decorate the Christmas Tree Day** - Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December

- **Christmas Jumper Day** - Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December.
- **Christmas Carol Service** - off site at St John's Church - date to be conf.
- **Christmas Concert** - Date to be confirmed

### Tea Towels Fundraiser

We are very excited to be doing our annual tea towel fundraiser again this year. An example from last year will be placed in the noticeboard and more information on how to order these lovely keepsakes will be emailed shortly.



**We break up for the Christmas Holidays on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 12.30pm and school resumes on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

### Children in Need

Our fundraising day for this important charity will be on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2022.



More information about the day's event will be available shortly.

### Parents Corner

HENRY have a **free Online Healthy Families Right from the Start Group Programme** coming up in November which will run on Thursday mornings. The programme runs for 8 weeks and covers topics such as parenting confidence, emotional wellbeing, being active, family routines and eating well as a family. Families are eligible if they are a Waltham Forest resident and have

a child in the family under 5. You can self-refer by contacting [wfsupport@henry.org.uk](mailto:wfsupport@henry.org.uk)

## Class Information

### Book of the week:

Look Up  
by  
Nathan Byron



## Children's House

During our last week before the half-term we were learning about Uranus. The children remembered that Uranus is an ice giant and has 27 moons. We continued to look at our Solar System books to learn more about Uranus. The children discovered that Uranus gets its blue green colour from a gas called methane. They also learned that it is known as a "sideway planet."

The children were introduced to the Montessori smelling bottles, an activity that helps to refine a child's olfactory sense. Each pair of bottles is filled with a scent and the child must find the matching pair by carefully smelling the different bottles. The children were able to associate and guess some of the scents like strawberry and lemon. Further in the week, we also had children smelling spices that were used in Indian cooking.



In Maths, we worked on our counting and addition skills. Some of the children were introduced to the Short Bead Stair where they

did simple additions whilst others worked with The Stamp Game to create large numbers and practise more complex additions.

Our phonetic sounds for the week were 'u' and 'ee'. The children were able to name several objects that had the 'ee' sound. Some of the things that the children

came up with that had the 'ee' sounds were 'sleep', 'wheel' and 'feet'.

The children like collecting leaves from the garden and have been talking about the colours of autumn leaves. In art, the children created hedgehogs using the leaves they had collected. Their learning was extended by discussing hibernation whilst they created their art.

For our 'out and about' session, we continued to follow the theme of autumn and created a tree depicting the changes the season brings. The children picked their leaves from the garden and used them to create their own tree.



We also learned about the important Hindu Festival of Diwali, which is also known as the Festival of Lights. We



talked about what Diwali is, how it originated and who celebrates the festival. We used the puzzle map to locate India. The children were also told a story of Rama and Sita and how it related to the celebration of Diwali. Nirvana who was dressed in a beautiful traditional outfit shared how

Diwali was celebrated in her home. She told everyone how her family lights up the entire house with Diya's. She brought in a Diya to show everybody which we had lit up. Apart from adorning houses with diyas, we also learned that Rangolis were created at the entrance of homes to welcome Goddess Lakshmi. As a class, we created our own Rangoli using rice, pulses and lentil.

We hope you all have had a lovely and restful half term break. This week we will be learning about Mars. Our phonetic sound for the week is 'p'. We will also be working with digraph 'ar' throughout the week.

## Kindergarten – Oak Class

Welcome back from the half-term, I hope you all had a restful break.

For the last week of term, we started the week by making our own star shaped flapjacks. Cooking activities for children help to develop motor skills by strengthening their fingers and developing co-ordination. It also develops mathematic vocabulary in discussing



quantities and helps them to become aware of hazards in the kitchen.

We also continued our learning surrounding the Solar System and our focus for the week was Uranus. We learned that Uranus is an ice giant and that it spins in the opposite direction to Earth. To extend our learning, we completed a science experiment using the Montessori thermic bottles. This activity helps to refine a child's thermic sense. We used three of the bottles which were filled with varying temperatures of water. The child then feels the metal bottles to gain a sensorial impression of the differences in temperature, hot, warm and cold.



We also celebrated the Diwali and children learned that this festival is also known as the Festival of Light. The class enjoyed sculpting, painting and decorating their Diya lamps as well as learning about the Festival of Light.



We will continue with our Space topic for the remainder of the Autumn term. This week we will be focusing on Mars. It is the 4th planet from the Sun. Its outer crust contains ice, soil and rust which makes it look red. We will extend our using the Montessori colour box 3, which

consists of seven shades of red tablets. The children will then be able to visually discriminate the shades of the same colour from darkest to lightest. Our phonetic sound this week will be 'm'.

## Kindergarten - Elm Class

Before the half term break, Elm class continued to enjoy learning more about space, particularly focusing on Uranus. We compared Uranus to other planets using visual pictures and facts that had previously been discussed. The children did brilliantly in identifying comparisons between Uranus and other planets we have learned about this term. "Uranus is very cold and Venus is hot" said Ananya while Johan said "Jupiter is very big and Uranus is small". We



continue to practise ordering the planets using picture cards as well as mini planet replicas.



and gross motor skills.

Furthermore, we practised our understanding of the solar system by making our own using yarn. This is still an ongoing project and we can't wait to complete it soon! This activity has helped us practise our hand-eye coordination as well as fine

The children were very interested in one of our planet books in the classroom called "Hello Star". We reinforced our knowledge about the types of stars such as the Red Dwarf, Yellow Dwarf and the Supergiants.



Furthermore, using other space materials in our classroom such as the constellations activity, we learned about constellations.

We made our own playdough constellation and related this to the storybook. The children enjoyed making their playdough from scratch and choosing which constellation they would like to recreate using their imagination.



Elyas dressed up as an astronaut for his "Show and Tell". He was happy to be called Elm class Astronaut for the day. We pretended that he landed into our class using his space rocket. Elyas was confident showing and talking about his space rocket.

We also continued to practice counting above 10 using space items such as the planets, moon, stars, and rockets.

It was Earl's 4<sup>th</sup> trip around the sun! The children were happy to celebrate his birthday with him as they sang and wished him a happy birthday. Earl felt special and enjoyed walking around the sun during his birthday walk. During this walk, it helps the children to further understand the concept of time and the basics of astronomy in relation to our Space Topic.





This week, we will learn about planet Mars. As well as the phonetic sound 'm' for Mars, we will be focusing on the phonetic sound 't'.

## Sycamore Class

We had another exciting week where we continued discussing the solar system. Children are becoming familiar with names of all the planets and enjoying counting whilst learning how far each planet is from the sun.



Our 'out and about' session was very interesting for all the children. We had a special visitor puppet from another planet who was very shy and

children enjoyed helping him to feel more comfortable and familiar. We talked about our similarities and differences and enjoyed discussing colours of our eyes, hair, and our skin.

We also learned about Diwali. The lesson started by looking at the Montessori continents globe and naming continents of the world. We looked at India and then learned all about the celebration of Diwali. Children enjoyed creating diyas and decorating their own Diwali cards.



All children absolutely adored looking at different patterns of henna designs that are used to celebrate this special festival. We looked at different pictures of people celebrating Diwali, and shared information about their traditions.

This week will be looking at the planet Mars. Our phonetic sound for the week will be 'm'.

## Nursery – Acorn and Seedlings

The children were thrilled to return to Nursery after our half-term break and it has been lovely welcoming them back for the second part of the Autumn term.

Before the half term in our final week, we focused on the planet Uranus. The nursery children learned that Uranus is the coldest planet in our solar system and that it is made up of water and gas. They were happy to

discover that, like Saturn, Uranus also has a ring and that it has 27 moons orbiting around it.

We also celebrated and learned more about Diwali, the festival of light celebrated worldwide by our Hindu friends. Each of the children made a Diya using coloured card and decorated them with sequins. We also made some Diya's with clay and paint!



This week, we will continue our topic on space and focus on the planet Mars. Our phonetic sound of the week is "m". Please practice this sound with your child and see if you can spot some objects in your home or out and about that begin with this sound.

**Best wishes, WMS Admin**

**Important Numbers**



**To contact the school office dial:**

**020 8523 2968**

**Email:**

**[office@walthamstowmontessori.com](mailto:office@walthamstowmontessori.com)**

**Please also like and follow our Facebook and Instagram pages!**