

W/C Monday 16th January 2023

Walthamstow Montessori School

Newsletter

Chinese New Year



The children have already been learning lots about Chinese New Year in preparation for the festival that takes place this weekend. They have been learning that it will be the Year of the Rabbit, as well as

identifying where China is on the puzzle map and where Asia is on the Montessori continents globe. They have been exploring different items and clothing specific to China and discussing how this special festival is celebrated.

To celebrate the Year of the Rabbit, the children will be helping to prepare vegetables and noodles for a special meal on Wednesday 18th January. On this day, all children are invited to wear red in celebration of Chinese New Year.



RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch

The children at WMS will be enjoying our annual participation in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch. Throughout the week commencing **23rd January**, the children will be 'bird spotting' as part of this annual Birdwatch – keep an eye out for more information on how they will be getting involved! Following this at the weekend, you could continue your bird spotting at home or in Lloyd Park, and share your photos or findings with us!

Our Children's House

The beauty of the environment is of great importance in a Montessori classroom. Our Children's House is a beautiful space that encourages calmness and focus amongst the children. The environment is perfectly prepared for the children each morning before they arrive. The children particularly enjoy their special reading corner, where they can peacefully enjoy a book or two.



TfL STARS – Silver Award!

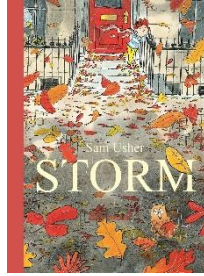
We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded the 'Silver Award' for the TFL STARS community project, for the second year running. This award is in recognition of achievement in active and safer travel initiatives.



We break up for the half-term on Friday 10th February 2023 (Tea Timers as usual). School resumes on Monday 20th February 2023.

Book of the Week

Storm
By
Sam Usher



Composer of the Week

Richard Wagner (1813-1883) was born in Leipzig Germany. He learned the piano as a child but wanted to be an author. He wrote his first play when he was 13 but decided to turn it into an opera and began studying composition. Wagner had an opera house built at Bayreuth, Germany, where his operas were performed, at a festival every year.

Class Information: Children's House

We've had a busy week in Children's House exploring Weather as well as engaging with the Montessori activities. We have been revisiting some of the grace and courtesy activities to help the children familiarise themselves with the classroom routine and boundaries. They were also introduced to our fire bell. We discussed what was expected when they heard the bell. We had a fire drill and the children were able to calmly and quickly line up and walk to the exit.

Thank you Maxwell for bringing in a lovely bouquet of flowers and arranging them so beautifully.



Kian celebrated his 6th birthday last week. He shared some lovely pictures of himself and family and the children enjoyed singing the birthday song while he did his Birthday Walk!

Last week we learned about the four seasons. We discussed the characteristics of each season, types of weather associated with the season, when each season starts/ends, how long each season last and seasonal colours.

The children were introduced to two sensorial materials – Colour Box 3 and an extension activity with The Red Rods. The



Montessori Colour box 3 is a wooden box in our sensorial area that contains 63 colour tablets. The children were shown how to grade the colour tablets from darkest to the lightest shade. They took turns to grade seasonal colours such as orange, yellow, brown and green.



The concept of length was explored using the Red Rods – a series of ten rods that increase in length by increments of 10 cm. We built a winding path using the shortest rods first and then the longest rod for the exterior. Once completed the children took turns to walk inside the

maze taking careful steps to ensure the rod did not move out of place.



The children have also been busy exploring the weather shelf. We keep adding more sensorial activities so that the children are constantly making new discoveries. We often see them exploring these activities with friends, giving them an opportunity for them to develop their confidence as they share their knowledge and learning with others.

For our out and about session, we recreated seasonal trees using branches and twigs that were picked from our garden. They made leaf prints using broccoli florets.



In art, the children explored the concept of pointillism with Miss Alex. Using a cotton bud, they painted a four seasons tree. Working with cotton buds not only develops their pincer grip but also builds their fine motor art skills.

In Literacy we worked with phonetic sound 's' and digraph 'ee'. We used a range of activities which included Sandpaper Letters, Digraph Letters, Sight cards, Large Movable Alphabets and reading cards.

This week we will be celebrating Chinese New Year where the children will learn more about the festival, traditions and how it is celebrated. They will also have a go at writing symbols 1 to 5 in Chinese. Our phonetic sound for the week is 'n' and digraph 'ch'. It would be great if the children could bring in an object relating to a celebration for our 'show and tell' session.

Kindergarten - Elm Class

Elm class have had a busy week learning all about the seasons. We learnt about the changes by looking at a tree in the spring, summer, autumn, and winter and how the leaves change colour depending on which season. Children enjoyed making their own seasons control cards which I hope you will find useful at home.



Our out and about session saw us searching for sticks to make four trees to represent the seasons. We then thought and placed different colour leaves where we thought they should go.

We finished our display board 'hand in hand whatever the weather' which the children really enjoyed. Using different materials we created the sun, a rainbow, rain and thunder. Each child decorated their own image choosing from various materials to complete their raincoats.



We have also drawn focus to the Montessori Colour Box 3. Children were able to use their visual discrimination to grade the colours green, pink, orange, and blue from darkest to lightest. We extended

this activity by finding objects within the class environment to match the colours linked to the seasons. This is something that you can also do at home. The class really enjoyed this activity.

Thank you to Felix for sharing his encyclopaedia for show and tell. There were lots of interesting facts and he particularly enjoyed showing his friends the page with lava!

This week will be dedicated to learning about Chinese New Year. We will be look at the Montessori continents globe to find Asia, where China is located. We will discuss the significance of this festival and children will learn that 2023 is the Year of the Rabbit. In addition, we will write some Chinese symbols as well as using our senses to smell jars with traditional herbs and spices. The phonetic sound of the week will be 'c.' Please encourage your child to think of as many words beginning with this sound as possible. This is a good activity for building your child's vocabulary and understanding of language.

Kindergarten - Beech Class

The children have continued to settle and explore their classroom environment. They have enjoyed various Montessori activities such as the Walking on the Line. Dr. Maria Montessori saw this as a natural extension of something children liked to do, for example, walking on curbs or tracks. From her observations, she developed the activity not only to help them control their body, develop balance and perfect equilibrium, but to strengthen the mind's control of its body's movements. The children also practised holding, walking, and passing scissors safely to each other.



We have been learning about seasons and seasonal changes using various materials to support our learning. The children were introduced to the Colour Box 3 and we identified colours and related it to the four seasons such as orange for Spring, yellow for Summer, brown for Autumn, blue for Winter. We graded the colours from darkest to lightest and identified the seasonal pictures to support this activity. We also reinforced our knowledge of number 4.





Using picture presentation, we discussed the weather changes through the four seasons and practised our language skills as we use descriptive language to describe how our tree changes through each of the seasons. We used words such as spring, summer, autumn, winter, windy, rainy, cold, snowy, sunny, cloudy, cold, thunderstorm to name a few. We supported our learning by reading a story called Seren's Season. This story supported the children's learning about weather and seasons. The story follows Seren throughout the year as she tries to make a snow girl. Finally, winter brings just the right weather. The story shows Seren playing in spring, summer, autumn and winter as she experiences sun, wind, rain and snow. We discussed the weather and the right clothing for each season and what it feels like when it rains. "It feels cold, just like today...it's cold outside but warm inside." said Fatimah. They also named their favourite season, "I like summer because I can go to the beach" said Ella while Beckett said he likes winter because we made snowmen in the garden!

The children also practised the phonic sound 's'. Ronnie linked this sound to 'space' and 'spider man' while Ciel linked it to 'sand'. The children did beautifully well tracing the sandpaper letter and later practising writing letter 's' in the sand tray.



This week, we will be focusing on Chinese culture and celebrating Chinese New Year. The phonetic sound of the week is 'n' in 'new year'. You can help support the children's learning by sending in a safe object beginning with the phonetic sound 'n' so we can link our classroom learning to objects from home. This can be brought in any day throughout the week.



Sycamore Class

We had another busy week full of fun activities. We learned about the four seasons of the year and played games to reinforce our recognition of number four. Some of the children started writing number 4 using

sandpaper numbers or sand tray. All children are becoming familiar with four seasons and their characteristics.

We learned about colours representing each season through painting activity. After this introduction children looked at different shades of colours and tried their best to order them from lightest to darkest colour.

We learned why the seasons change through the year, and had great discussion about our planet Earth. All children were fascinated when we discussed different continents of the world and participated in learning a song about them. We looked at different weathers that we experience in the United Kingdom, and compared it to other countries.



In our science lesson, we enjoyed snowstorm experiment where we mixed oil and water with white paint. This was a great opportunity to learn new word: blizzard. We listened to the sound of the blizzard and discussed how we might feel experiencing this.



This week we will continue with our weather topic. We will be looking at weather in Asia as we are learning about Chinese New Year and how it is celebrated. Our phonetic sound of the week is letter "n" for New Year. We will be learning how to write symbols 1-5 in Chinese as well as partaking in games and songs throughout the week.

Nursery - Acorn and Seedlings

It was a busy week in the nursery classroom environments last week! We welcomed lots of new friends to our school throughout the week and they are all settling in well. The children have enjoyed showing their new friends different aspects of the classroom and school life and have been very helpful in helping them to feel welcome.



Throughout last week the children were learning about the 4 seasons: spring, summer, autumn and winter. They have found out and discussed how the weather changes throughout the different seasons. We created a blizzard in a jar to spark discussions surrounding snow and wind. The children have also discovered how a tree changes with the change in seasons, for example, they learned how the leaves turn yellow and red for autumn and are a beautiful bright green in summer.

This week, the children will learn about Chinese culture. The focus will be on the Chinese New Year and how it is celebrated. They will be able to discover the different traditions and customs related to the Chinese spring festival and we will be reinforcing the knowledge that this year it will turn the Year of the Rabbit. This week we will also be practising the phonetic sound "n".

Best wishes, WMS Admin

Important Numbers



To contact the school office dial:

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