

W/C Monday 23 January 2023

Walthamstow Montessori School

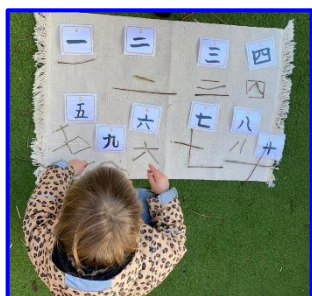
Newsletter

Chinese New Year

The children enjoyed celebrating the Lunar New Year last week. On Wednesday, the children were invited to wear red and enjoyed preparing and eating noodles and vegetables! Our Children's House enjoyed chopping and grating the vegetables and laying their table in preparation for their exciting meal.



The children extended their learning around the new year by forming Chinese numerals in from 1-10 using twigs found in our garden, as well as practicing counting from 1-10 in Mandarin. The children enjoyed searching for the correct size twigs and using the control cards to replicate the numeral.



The children across the school took part in lots of arts and crafts to celebrate the new year. The children made fans and used various mediums to make rabbits as they learned that the Lunar New Year marked the turn of the Year of the Rabbit.



Alongside these craft activities and celebrations, the children expanded their geographical knowledge by learning what continent the Lunar New Year is celebrated in and were able to locate China on the puzzle map.

RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch

The children at WMS will be enjoying our annual participation in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch. Throughout this week, the children will be 'bird spotting' as part of this annual Birdwatch. Tomorrow, **Tuesday 24th January**, the Children's House are taking a trip to Lloyd Park to take part in a Birdwatching workshop with the park's educational team. Please ensure you have returned your permission slips.



Environmental Health Inspection

After a full, unannounced inspection by environmental health, we are delighted to report that WMS was awarded a 5* rating.



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

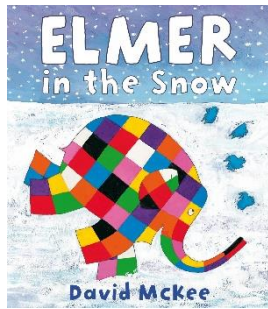
Flower Monitor

Thank you Adam for bringing in a beautiful bouquet of tulips and arranging them so beautifully. Having fresh flowers in the classroom adds to the beauty of the Montessori environment, as well as providing the children with a Practical Life activity in arranging and caring for them. Each week a different child is the flower monitor for each class and children enjoy this role and presentation.



Book of the Week

Elmer in the Snow
By
David McKee



Birthday Walks

We would like to wish a very 4th happy birthday to both Ava-Lily and Theo! The children had lots of fun celebrating both of their birthdays with our WMS Birthday Walks.



At Walthamstow Montessori School, we like to celebrate birthdays in a very special way which allows the children to have a greater understanding of the passage of time.

If your child is celebrating a birthday, please let your child's teacher know so that we can arrange one of our birthday walk celebrations.

Class Information: Children's House



Throughout the week the children have been learning about Chinese New Year. We sang our favourite song 'Show Me the Continents', located Asia on the Continent Globe and identified China on the Puzzle Map. We watched a video of the dragon dance and looked at pictures of how Chinese New Year

is celebrated.

The children enjoyed exploring the Culture table where they were able to feel and look at a cheongsam dress, smell Jasmine Tea leaves and try their hand at using chopsticks.

On Wednesday, we celebrated Chinese New Year by having a 'reunion dinner'. The children wore red – an auspicious colour and enjoyed preparing Oriental Rainbow Noodles, which they all thoroughly enjoyed.



The children also made some lovely Chinese New Year related crafts. To mark the Year of the Rabbit, they created a silhouette of a Rabbit using sponge technique. They also made paper Fans and created their cherry blossoms by using the pointillism technique.



We have also been looking at Chinese numerals. The children had a go at counting to ten in Mandarin. For our out and about session, we continued our learning by using twigs to recreate numbers one to ten in Chinese.

Last week we also celebrated Ava-Lily' and Theo's 4th Birthdays. They both shared some lovely pictures and the children enjoyed singing the birthday song while they did their birthday walk.

The children have also been very busy exploring a range of activities either independently or with a friend.



Starla practising her name on the chalkboard

Vivienne and Aaron exploring the Geometric Solids





*Roman
categorising odd
and even numbers*



*Theo building words
with our Large
Movable Alphabet*

This week we will be learning more about Climates in Europe. We will be looking at the five main climates and identifying areas in Europe that are warmer and colder. Our phonetic sound for the week is 'b'.

We will also be visiting Lloyds Park tomorrow (Tuesday 24th January) for our "Big Park Bird Watch". Please remember to be at The Children's House for 9.20am.

Kindergarten - Elm Class

A lovely week in Elm class last week learning all about China and Chinese New Year. The class enjoyed the topic table and were able to explore and try on traditional costume as well as experiment with Chinese writing.

We extended our learning looking at the continents puzzle map and in particular Asia. The children were presented with this Montessori material to gain a deeper understanding of how continents fit together and their relative sizes. We noticed that Asia is the largest continent and we used our pencil to draw around the continent and colour it in yellow to represent Asia.



Children enjoyed noodles as their snack in celebration of the Lunar New Year, and used their fine motor skills to engage in the activity of cutting the vegetables to prepare with their rice noodles. Giving a child the

opportunity to understand and engage in the process of preparing food is an important Montessori practice.

For our art session this week the children learnt about silhouette's. The children used sponge painting to create their rabbit silhouette to bring home, to mark the Year of the Rabbit.



Thank you to Talia for your show and tell this week. The class really enjoyed your carnival book with patterns. Talia told her friends that her auntie got her the book when she was in America.

This week we will be concentrating on climates. This will run alongside the national bird watching week. We will talk about differing climates across the continents and include lots of rich language including Mediterranean, Oceanic, energy. We will talk about different birds that we see around our own environment and name them as well as looking at more rarer birds further afield. It would be nice for you to engage with your child this week asking your child to observe birds that they can see but also hear. In an open space ask your child to close their eyes and listen carefully and try to guess where the sounds are coming from. Explain the your child to focus on staying still and look for the movement of the birds in the trees. Let the children discuss and share how many birds they can spot and are all birds the same or did they have different qualities.

We will all be making an ice tree feeder for the birds in our garden here at school for our out and about session.

Sound of the week will be 'b' for bird.

Kindergarten - Beech Class

Last week has been an interesting week learning about Chinese New Year. We looked at the Continent Globe and the World Continents Puzzle Map to identify where Asia is located and discussed that China is in Asia. We further looked at the Chinese



culture and discussed that culture is the way people live, the food they eat, the clothes they wear, languages they speak as well as celebrations such as the Chinese New Year. We looked at all these areas using picture cards and story books which the children enjoyed learning from, we then made a Chinese hand fan out of paper plates.



During our “Out and About” session, we looked at one of the Chinese traditions – The Wishing Trees. We realised that during Chinese New Year, people travel to Hong Kong to see the very old trees and to leave their wishes there. Thereafter, we all took turns to make our wishes and tied it on our garden tree. Manon said she wishes for a “unicorn” while Dexter said he wishes for a “slide” in his house.



Furthermore, we practised the dragon dance to move our body which was great at reinforcing our body balance, control and coordination skills which is a good physical fitness.

The children learnt to count and brilliantly identify Chinese numerals 1-3, they also practised writing the numbers in their numeracy books. To further support the children’s understanding of Chinese New Year, we read the story “Dragons in the City” and then sat together to enjoy a Chinese meal.



During Show and Tell, Beckett and Ella took turns to show the class their treasured items. Beckett was very excited to show his camera. He demonstrated how it can be turned on and off.

“This is my camera, my daddy gave it to me and it’s very delicate...I can take pictures, just like this!” said Beckett.



Ella also was enthusiastic to show her friends her rainbow pillow as well as her soft pompom. She cuddled her pillow and said she likes “holding it tight...and giving it cuddles.”

During our phonics sessions, we focused on the sound ‘n’ in new year, notebook, narwhal, necklace, noise, neck, nose, and the number nine. Using the sand tray, we took turns to trace the letter ‘n’. The Sand Tray activity supports early mark making, creative work and early writing skills. In addition, it helps to develop co-ordination, fine motor skills and concentration.

On Friday, the children enjoyed a very lovely music session with Miss Lidija where they all explored various musical instruments and their sounds. They felt relaxed as they listened to the Chinese musical instrument called Xiao Chinese bamboo flute.

This week, we will be learning about Climates in Europe, and we will also have our bird watch week. We will also look at what climate zone the UK is in.

Our phonetic sound of the week is ‘c’ in climate. You can help support the children’s learning by sending in a safe object beginning with the phonic 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, where we were celebrating Chinese New Year.



Our week started by looking at all of the continents of the world and comparing their sizes. All children could point at the largest continent, Asia. We looked closely at China and explained how Chinese New Year is celebrated. Most of the children were able to recall how they celebrated New Year 2023, and the highlight of our discussion was talking about fireworks.



We learned how to say hello in Mandarin, and compared differences in our lettering and that in Chinese. All children tried to trace Chinese numerals and compared them to ours. We made Chinese Dragons using colourful shapes and explained that the Chinese New Year celebrations end with the 'dance of the dragon'. We listened to Chinese music and explored musical instruments. We sat down to enjoy a delicious rice noodle snack with peppers and spring onions.



We continue using practical life activities in the classroom. The aim of these is to promote independence, responsibility, coordination, concentration, respect for one's self, others and their environment. They provide child with the opportunity to develop their identity as a contributing citizen of their

community.

This week we will be learning about climates and birds. We will be looking about different body parts for birds and making our own binoculars for birdwatching in our out and about session. We will look at different types of birds and listen to them with our eyes closed. Who will be able to spot a bird in the garden? Our phonetic sound of the week is letter "c" for climate.

Nursery – Acorn and Seedlings



The nursery children really enjoyed our week of Lunar New Year celebrations. We sang the song "Show me the continents" and identified Asia on the Montessori Continents Globe, as well as China on the puzzlemap. The children were engaged and enjoyed listening to Chinese music, looking at photos and

videos of the dragon dance and also identifying all the animals from the Chinese horoscope signs.

On Wednesday we enjoyed rice noodles with red peppers and spring onions for snack and the children loved it. It was also a lot of fun creating lanterns and dragons during our art activities.



On Friday during our music lesson, we listened to some traditional Chinese music played on a bamboo flute called a Xiao.

This week we are going to talk about different climates and explore how people and animals live in different weather conditions. We are also going to look for birds in the garden as part of the RSBP Birdwatch, using binoculars and try to identify them. We would love if you did some birdwatching at home and shared your findings with us!



Best wishes, WMS Admin

Important Numbers



**To contact the school office dial:
0208 523 2968**

Email:

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