

W/C Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2023

# Walthamstow Montessori School

## Newsletter

[admin@walthamstowmontessori.com](mailto:admin@walthamstowmontessori.com) – Please put in the subject heading 'EASTER HOLIDAY CLUB'.

### Big Park Birdwatch

The Children's House enjoyed a trip to Lloyd Park on Tuesday to take part in a birdwatching workshop, complementing their work on the RSBP Birdwatch. The children were able to identify and mark off the birds they spotted, that they had been learning about in class last week.

Children took part in a nest-making activity, where they gathered leaves and twigs for their nest using tweezers to replicate the movement of a bird's beak. The children also learned that different birds have different wingspans and they saw this marked visually on a rope.



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

### Easter Holiday Club

We are planning, something to demand, to run our Easter Holiday Club during the Easter Break. Booking forms were sent today. Please ensure you return a booking form by this **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February** to request a place.



Confirmation letters and invoices will follow to confirm places.

Paper booking forms will be available at both school doors. Please send booking forms to

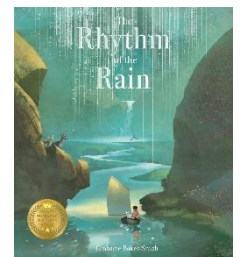
### Inside the Montessori Classroom

Here a child is taking part in the Practical Life activity of scrubbing a chair. Practical Life activities in the Montessori classroom not only allow a child to develop a purposeful skill but also enable a child to develop concentration, independence and co-ordination of movement. The activities are open-ended, allowing the child to repeat the cycle of activity for as long as they like, giving them time to develop their coordination of movement as well as extend their concentration. These activities also increase a child's confidence as they do purposeful work and are able to make a meaningful contribution to their classroom community.



### Book of the Week

The Rhythm of the Rain  
By  
Grahame Baker-Smith



### Class Information: Children's House

An exciting week for Children's House! We had our trip to Lloyd Park. The children enjoyed the Bird Watching Workshop despite the very cold weather! During the trip we learnt about the many birds that visit and live in Lloyd Park and some interesting facts about their

habitats. We also learnt that different birds have different birdsongs. The children worked together in their groups to spot birds and created nests using tweezers. We also learnt what a wingspan is and discovered that the wingspans of birds vary in size. Using a rope, the children were shown how long the wingspan of various birds like Robins, Starlings and Pigeons were.

The children engaged in lots of follow up activities. We saw them working with bird puzzles. Some children chose to build the puzzle outside the frame and draw the outline. Others chose to work with the garden birds classified cards and copy write the names of birds. We also had children writing the word 'bird' using a feather.



For our out and about session, we made bird feeders. **Please note – From this week, the children will be enjoying hot chocolate with marshmallow (vegan) during our out and about session. We are aware of the allergies and will be providing hot chocolate that will be suitable for all.**

Last week the children also learnt about climates. We discussed what climate means and how it differs from weather. The children were introduced to three types of climates– Polar, Temperate and Tropical and the type of seasonal weather each climate has. We discussed how climates differ across the continents and using our puzzle map, we identified the type of climate in some of the continents. We also looked at the types of animals that were found in those climates.



The children have been exploring a variety of sensorial activities. Two tactile activities that have been presented were the Thermic Tablets and the Baric Tablets. Both these activities require the child to be blindfolded

so that they are able to isolate their sense of sight and heighten the sense that they will be exploring



The Thermic Tablets consist of a wooden box containing pairs of tablets that are made up of different material. The children are shown how to use their thermic sense i.e. wrist to feel the temperature of the different materials and find the pairs of tablets.

The concept of weight was explored using the Baric Tables - a set of 3 boxes of 7 tablets all made of wood

varying in weight. Using blindfolds, the children carefully balance the tablets on their fingers, weighing it and sorting it based on heavier or lighter.



In art, Miss Alex explored patterns. She showed how simple repetitive patterns could be created using 2 primary colours – blue and yellow. The children were then shown how to create kites using their designs.



This week we will be learning more about how weather is predicted. We will be looking at what is a weather forecast, who predicts it and the methods used to make

these predictions. Our phonetic sound for the week is 'f'.

## Kindergarten - Elm Class

Lots of lovely learning in Elm class last week. Our learning around climates saw us looking at the world map. Using different colours we were able to differentiate the 4 climates of tropical, warm, temperate and cold. We learnt that Great Britain is located in a temperate climate. To extend our learning we also looked at



animals that live in differing climates including penguins, giraffes and lions. Alongside our topic we also took part in the RSBP birdwatch. In class we made our own bird feeders by placing grain into water. This was a fun way for children to explore and learn about the properties of water and ice and discover how ice changes from solid to liquid and vice versa. We placed the bird feeders around the garden in our out and about session. It was a lovely sight that two robins flew into the garden to investigate the feeders. Children were also invited to use the binoculars to look and identify and birds that they saw.





A new activity was introduced to the children this week which was flower threading. Using their fine motor skills the children were able to cut the stem on the flower and thread into the specific cut holes. Thank you to Penny for sharing her show and tell this

week. Penny dressed as Elsa and we joined her in singing 'let it go' from Frozen. Our weekly show and tell is a good way of building a child's confidence and social skills in speaking within a group.

This week we will be looking at weather prediction. We will carry out an experiment in a jar using shaving foam to represent clouds. Using a pipette the children will be invited to drop food colour onto the cloud. What do they predict will happen. We will look at weather forecasts and talk about the different method used by meteorologists to predict the weather. Children will also be asked to make a prediction of the weather for their coming birthday. The sound of the week will be 'p' for prediction. Please ask your child to think of words beginning with this sound.



## Kindergarten – Beech Class

Last week, the children were learning all about climates and discussed the main climates such as Artic, Temperate and Tropical. We looked at Britain's mild climate. It is in the temperate climatic zone as the sea affects our weather. We supported our learning by looking at picture books to explain UK's cool, wet winters, warm and hot weathers.

We realised that if an animal's natural habitat is no longer around for them to live in, that animal could become extinct. From our research, we realised that some animals such as the golden toad and dinosaurs have already become extinct. We also looked at where some animals naturally come from. Using the climate zones map worksheet, the children were able to place each animal in its natural home. For example, we realised that the giraffe, camel, elephant and lion naturally originated from Africa while giant panda is from Asia and kangaroo originated from Australia to name a few.

It was also RSBP Birdwatch week, we had an exciting "Out and About" session where we were birdwatching. We looked at various pictures of birds and listened to their lovely sounds. The children tried to identify which bird had a particular sound whilst we sat very quietly trying to listen to their sounds. During birdwatching, the children identified a few they have seen such as magpie, pigeon, and robin. They enjoyed learning more of other birds they're unfamiliar with too. They were fascinated using the binoculars to watch different birds. "I see a robin over there" said Beckett, while Fatimah sighted a blackbird and two Pigeons on a rooftop. The children made their binoculars to take home afterwards.

Furthermore, we spoke about how important it is to make the birds some birdfeeders in order for them to eat, we went back in the classroom and made birdfeeders. Most of the children decided to take their bird feeders home to place in their gardens so the birds can feed on them. "I don't have a garden; I have a balcony...but I can hang it on my balcony so the birds can still eat from it." said Manon.

During our phonics session, we looked at the phonetic sound of the week, 'c' in climate. The children thought of other words beginning with c such as, cooking, car, cat, clan, cake, cloud and cold to mention a few.

Happy 3<sup>rd</sup> Birthday to Adam and Millen. We enjoyed celebrating them both using the Montessori Birthday walk.



The children enjoyed the 'Sink and Float' experiment. This activity teaches the child the concept of buoyancy and density. "I think the sponge will sink" said Ronnie while Ella thought the car replica will float. Through their observations, they were able to

observe the sinking and floating objects. We briefly discussed density, depending on the object's density, the object can either float or sink.

The children have continued working with the Montessori activities. Ella chose to work with the cylinder blocks after having them presented to her. This activity is designed to assist children in making distinctions in their immediate environment. This activity requires Ella to use her visual discrimination to identify differences in



dimension. The cylinders are mathematically regular and indirectly prepare a child for further mathematics as well as writing as they are handled in such a way that strengthens the child's pincer grip.



Lily is working with the Number Rods. She understands that each rod represents a unique quantity and can discriminate the difference in each long rods. One of the

purposes of this activity is to develop the child's visual and muscular perception of length as well as preparation for further mathematics in understanding the regular unit of difference between each rod.



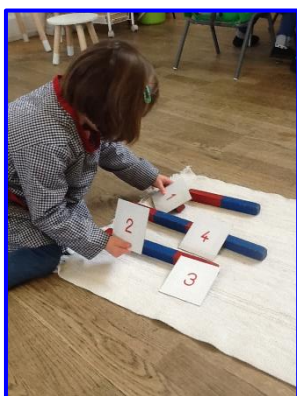
This week, we will learn about predicting weather. We will look at how weather can be predicted and who can predict weather. With the use of picture books and cards, we will discuss different methods used by

meteorologist to predict the weather.

Phonic sound of the week is 'p' in predicting. You can help support the children's learning by sending in a safe object beginning with the phonic sound 'p' 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 in Sycamore class, where we enjoyed learning about the climate. All the children enjoyed talking about how weather changes over the years and between seasons, as well as discussing the difference between weather and climate. Together we looked at weather in different countries and children enjoyed talking about countries in the world they'd like to visit. Some of the children were interested in hot countries, but there was also interest in cold countries where we don't have as much sun, like Antarctica. We learned the five main climate zones and explained what each zone means.



We also continue learning about different continents of the world. Some children can now name them with confidence and this week we also extended our knowledge about what animals can live in which climate.



We enjoyed a birdwatching session in the garden where we looked at parts of the birds and types of birds. We also talked about what the birds eat and how some of them fly to hot countries at winter times. Everyone enjoyed looking through binoculars and observed the birds quietly. At

the end of the lesson, we made amazing bird feeders to leave in our garden. We used oranges to squeeze the juice out. Of course everyone enjoyed tasting the orange juice! After this refreshment we filled the oranges with different seeds and hung them in the garden for the birds.

This week we will be learning about Meteorology and weather reports. We will be explaining different methods to predict the weather. There will be science experiments and lots of art activities to help children understand this topic.



We are going to continue using practical life activities like pouring, spooning, scrubbing the chairs as these are best for our hand and eye coordination. We are updating these activities according to children's abilities and interests. There are new skills introduces each week.

## Nursery - Acorn and Seedlings

Last week in the nursery, we continued to learn more about the weather and climate. The children discovered the five main types of climates: tropical, dry, temperate, continental and polar. We found out the United Kingdom has a temperate climate. The children also discussed the different weather using weather cards. During that week, the children also found out about the birds we can find in our garden.

During our out-and-about session, the children enjoyed listening to the birds and trying to identify them. The nursery children also enjoyed making bird food balls using seeds and vegetable suet. They then hung them on the trees outside in the garden for the birds to eat. It was a fun week at the nursery.



This week, the nursery will find out how meteorologists predict the weather, and we will be participating in an experiment to demonstrate how raindrops fall from clouds.

**Best wishes, WMS Admin**

**Important Numbers**



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**Email:**

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

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