

W/C Monday 22nd May 2023

Walthamstow Montessori School

Newsletter



School Photographs

Last week the children at Penrhyn had their school photographs taken and this was a great success, they did very well! Soon you will receive a 'photo card' which will have a unique link and code to access your child's school photographs. You can purchase your photographs via the link, and they will then be delivered to WMS and distributed from here. Reminder that the Children's House are having their photographs taken this **Wednesday 24th May** and must be in full school uniform or WMS smock.

Summer Term Events

Sports Day – this will now be a 'Sports Week'. Every class will have a day, during that week, which will offer the children the chance to engage more fully in sports activities and to learn new skills. In the morning there will be mini team/group games and obstacle courses, at lunchtime there will be a teddy bear's picnic, and in the afternoon some races. This will all take place within the grounds of our school buildings and for only the children and their teachers.

Summer Concert – The children have been busy already learning the songs for our summer production this year, 'Chicken Licken'. Each class will have a time slot where parents are invited to come to the garden of their school building, to watch the children perform their songs for you. **Timings and dates will be confirmed and shared with you soon.**

Important Diary Dates

- Children's House School Photos – Wednesday 24th May 2023
- Beech Class Library Trip – Thursday 22nd June 2023

Reminder

Please be reminded that children should not bring any toys or small personal items to school, unless for the purposes of Show and Tell in Kindergarten. These prove a huge distraction in class, they get lost, and cause upset during garden play.

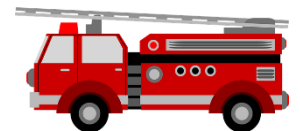
Inside the Montessori Classroom

Here a child works with the Montessori Sandpaper Letter 'a'. In the Montessori classroom, after a child has been introduced to a phonetic sound, they learn the corresponding letter symbol by gaining a visual and tactile impression of it through tracing the Sandpaper Letter. The multi-sensory experience of feeling the letter as well as seeing it and hearing the phonetic sound helps the child to absorb the letter and its formation, as well as preparing the hand and wrist for the motion of writing. We always use the phonetic sound, rather than the name of the letter, as this prepares the child for future reading and writing where they see that words are made up of sounds, represented by letter symbols. Playing 'I Spy' games with your child using phonetic sounds can help to reinforce this learning at home.



The Sandpaper Letters also introduce a child to digraphs. Here an older child writes the digraph 'sh' into their literacy book.

We break up for the half-term on Friday 26th May 2023 (Tea Timers as usual). School resumes on Monday 5th June 2023.



Fire Drill

Today the children in both buildings had fire drills. The children exited the building extremely calmly and safely over to our evacuation point in good time. Back in the classroom with their teachers the children had a circle time to discuss why we have fire drills and fire safety.

School Reports

At WMS we provide you with updates on your child's progress through Parent-Teacher meetings in the Autumn and Spring terms. At the end of the Summer Term, you will be emailed a full end of year school report with your child's progress and next steps.



Summer Holiday Club

Reminder that your booking form must be returned before 9.30am tomorrow, **Tuesday 23rd May**, to request a place in the club. After this time, we will not be able to offer further places.

WMS Birthday Walks

We would like to wish Dexter a very happy fourth birthday!

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.

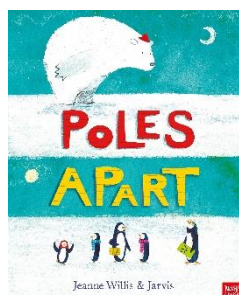


Parents' Corner

Waltham Forest now have 9 Dental surgeries accepting new NHS patients. Please find the Dental list attached to the newsletter email for this week, and in our Penrhyn noticeboard.

Book of the Week

Poles Apart
By
Jeanne Willis & Jarvis



Class Information: Children's House

Last week we learnt about Asia. The children were able to locate Asia on the Puzzle Map and also describe it as being the largest continent in the World. We looked at the different types of animals and landmarks that are found in Asia. They were introduced to animals such as the Cloudy Leopard, Malayan Tapir, Bengal Tiger, Komodo Dragon, Giant Panda to name a few. We also talked about the countries or regions these animals were found in. The children were also introduced to some of the Asian flags i.e.

India, China and Japan and we matched the landmarks such as the Great Wall of China, Taj Mahal and Mount Fuji to their respective country flags. Alanna recognised "Fuji Mountain" and told us about her recent trip to Japan. We also looked at some of the food that originates from these countries. Thank you Fran for bringing in an Indian Tunic and a book about Chinese New Year for Show and Tell.



In Maths, the children were introduced to the Geometric Solids – specifically the sphere, cone, cube and cylinder. We looked at some of the landmarks like the Petronas Tower in Malaysia and Aaron noticed that we would need 3 cylinders and a cone on each side to create the tower. Working with these materials help the children become more aware of how shapes form the basis of everyday objects.

The children have been working with a variety of literacy related activities. They have been matching some of the Asian Animals to their initial phonetic sounds, copywriting a list of animal names, working with the large movable alphabets and some have also been writing a sentence relating to a picture in their books.



For Art, Miss Alex showed the children how to create a Cherry Blossom Tree. Against a blue background the children used long strokes to create branches. They then used foil prints to create the blossom. Miss Alex showed the children how to mix colours to create colours like brown and pink.

We continued creating Cherry Blossom Trees during our Out and About Session. We collected branches to create the tree and the children took turns to place their tissue blossom on the tree.



We ended our week with a scavenger hunt of Asian Animals, which the children thoroughly enjoyed.

This week we will be learning about Antarctica. We will locate Antarctica on the Continent Globe and Map of the World. We will discuss the climate and temperature in Antarctica, the animals that are found in that region and the culture. We will also be looking at the properties of ice and discuss whether people and animals can live in such a climate. Our phonetic sound of the week will be 't' for temperature.

Kindergarten - Elm Class

Elm class are really enjoying our topic on continents. Last week was no exception as we revisited what we had already learnt about the continents of Europe and Africa and added the continent of Asia. I was really impressed by what the children already knew about Asia and Hadley shared with the class that he had seen that rhinos were an endangered species. The children learnt that this was the largest continent, and they were able to visually see that from working with the Montessori continents puzzle map.



We used our fine motor skills to practise a traditional craft of India which is weaving. Weaving has additional learning benefits such as promoting good

hand-eye co-ordination as well as problem solving skills. We practised our phonetic sound of the week 'p' as well as looking at the written letter. The children enjoyed creating their own panda and as Earl said 'I did it without an adult.' For 'out and about' the children learned about traditional clothes of India and were invited to try on the beautiful dress, scarf and many bangles. Miss Florine shared with us that in India all the ladies wear saris. On special occasions the ladies and in some regions of Asia the men wear Shalwar Kameez which is the beautiful traditional dresses. We also lit an incense stick (Agarbathi) and talked about how these are used in Indian temples. This was a lovely sensory experience for the children. We finished our week with a music lesson which incorporated the song 'down in the jungle' and children participated in this action song.

For our last week of this half term we will be learning about the continent of Antarctica. Our phonetic sound of the week will be 'a.'

Kindergarten - Beech Class

The children have continued to learn more about Continents where our focus was on Asia. They



identified Asia on the map and Dexter noticed it was the largest continent. We looked at India and supported our learning by looking at the culture, food, music, and art. We explored Asian weaving and practised weaving using some paper strips.

We also looked at some Indian outfits where the children tried on the sari and dupatta alongside some bangles.

The children used their olfactory sense to explore the Indian incense sticks called "Agarbatti". We learnt that Asia is home to the highest mountain called "Mount Everest".

Furthermore, we explored and looked at some animals that originated from Asia such as the panda, elephant and tiger and linked this to our phonetic sound of the week – 't'.

Alongside this, we continued our work on mathematics, looking at 3D shapes such as the cube, cone, sphere, cylinder, and cuboid. We used





the Montessori Geometric Solids to give the child a sensorial experience of the shapes and played games to help the children recall them.

We enjoyed several 'Show and Tell' groups last week. Beckett shared a book about North Carolina and told his friends

about his family who were visiting from there. We linked this to our learning about the continent of North America. Alba shared photographs of herself and her family and told her friends all about their camping trip and their allotment. Adam was excited to show everyone his soft toy camel and shared with us that it came all the way from Morocco!

Dexter's Birthday was celebrated with a lovely Montessori Birthday Walk. He walked around the sun 4 times while holding the continent globe as we sang "The earth goes round the sun", helping the children to understand the passage of time.

This week we continue our learning on Continents and our focus will be on Antarctica. The children will learn to locate Antarctica on the Montessori Continents Globe, and we will look at why Antarctica is the only continent where people do not live permanently. They will learn about the freezing temperatures, and that it is difficult for humans and most mammals to live there. We will also look at animals that live in Antarctica such as penguins, seals and whales and we will learn how these animals survive in extremely cold temperatures. The phonetic sound of the week is 'f' in freezing. To extend our learning, we will be thinking of other words beginning with 'f'.

Sycamore Class

We enjoyed learning about Asia, the largest continent of the world. We looked at a map and learned that there are 49 countries that make up the Asian continent.

On Monday we focused on China. Most of the children remembered celebrating Chinese New Year and shared their knowledge with others. We ended the lesson by painting a cherry blossom tree, as they are commonly found in East Asia including China.



Our 'out and about' session started with a scavenger hunt in the garden, where we looked for animals of Asia that had been plotted around the garden! This helped the children to recall the animals of Asia they had been learning about in a fun way.

After this we learned about Mount Everest. We discussed how some people climb on the top of this mountain and how they need to prepare for different conditions while completing this task. We used our new climbing frame to practice our climbing skills.

Later in the week we looked at some cultural traditions of India. We learned that men in India wear dhotis and women wear saris. We looked at different pictures of how people live, what transport they use, and we also discussed how Diwali is celebrated.



Last week we played lots of group games where children were introduced to different 3D shapes. They were all able to identify the shapes by the end of the week and compared them to some famous landmarks of the world.

This week we will be learning about Antarctica. We will be talking about climate and temperature in Antarctica. We will be asking questions such as "can people and animals live in the cold climate?"

We will be talking about culture, languages, music and animals in Antarctica.

Our phonetic sound of the week is "f" for freezing!

Nursery - Acorn and Seedlings

We enjoyed our focus last week on the continent of Asia. In the nursery, the children discussed the animals that are found specifically in Asia. They were enthusiastic to learn more about the peacock, an animal that was new to many of the children. The children were shown photographs of the Peacock and learned how the male peacock opens its tail and dances to attract the attention of the female peacock. We also discussed the Bengal tiger and panda bears. The nursery children



found out that there are also elephants in Asia, and they tried to spot the difference between them. They were able to notice and recall that African elephants have larger ears than the Asian Elephants.

In our art lessons, the children made beautiful peacocks using paper plates, paint and paper.



This week, we will be focusing on the continent of Antarctica. The children will be learning about the continent's climate and freezing temperatures. We will also learn about the animals that can be found in Antarctica.

Best wishes, WMS Admin

**Important Numbers
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Facebook and Instagram pages!**