

W/C Monday 5th June 2023

Walthamstow Montessori School

Newsletter

Fatimah's Plant

We were delighted to receive a photograph of these plants grown at home by Fatimah. Fatimah planted a seed in Miss Florence's class last term and has been caring for it daily, giving it plenty of water and sunlight. The plant grew so big they needed to separate it into three pots! Caring for plants or flowers is a wonderful way of developing a love and respect for plants in your child. In a Montessori classroom, we have materials for introducing plants and parts of plants, to assist children in understanding the world around them. Offering this to the child at a young age nurtures an appreciation of nature that they will carry through life.

"In the end, we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand and we will understand only what we are taught." – Baba Dioum



Important Diary Dates

- Beech Class Library Trip – Thursday 22nd June 2023

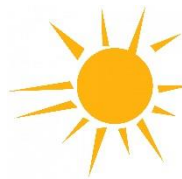
We break up for the summer holidays on Thursday 20th July 2023. Please note school closes at 12.30pm on this day and your child will not need a packed lunch.

Beech Class Display

We would like to share with you the display board that has been created by Miss Florence and the children and parents of Beech Class. This term we have been learning about continents of the world. Beech class have created a display to celebrate the heritage of each of the children from various continents across the world. Parents have contributed some beautiful photographs, items and facts about their places of origin. The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about each continent, and the different countries, cultures and customs of their friends.



Warmer Weather



We have been promised some warm weather this week. It is essential your child attends school with a **named sun hat** and suncream applied. We will be ensuring children have access and are encouraged to drink plenty of water.

Summer Holiday Club



Invoices and confirmation letters will be issued this week. If you returned a booking form before the deadline and do not receive confirmation of your child's place, please contact the office. Please note places for our summer holiday club are now full and we cannot accommodate any further places requested after the deadline.

Parents' Corner

The borough has issued a 'Best Start in Life' timetable. The timetable provides details of all services available to you and your family, including free play activities for your child, a range of health services and family support, workshops and information about infant feeding, healthy eating, supporting positive behaviour, money, benefits and lots more. You can find a copy in libraries and Family Hubs.



Class Information: Children's House

Welcome back to this half of the term and hope you all had a restful break. Before we broke up for the break, we were learning about Antarctica. We reminded ourselves that Antarctica is in the Polar Region. The children were able to describe the climate and list lots of animals that lived in that region for example the orca, penguins, seals, polar bears, walrus, and whales. The children were introduced to other animals like albatross, Antarctic krill, and squid. During our group we also discussed if it was possible for people to live in Antarctica. Most children felt it would be too cold and only a scientist would go to Antarctica.



The children enjoyed exploring the Montessori Parts of a Penguin cards where they learnt about the different parts of a penguin. They were introduced to new terminology such as flipper and webbed feet. The children worked together to match the labels to the respective parts.

In Literacy, the children have been working with the Large Movable Alphabet to further develop their phonetic skills while some have been writing/copywriting phrases or sentences about the Antarctica using picture prompts.



In Mathematics, we worked with 2D shapes and the concept of more, less or equal. Using two different shapes the children compared how many penguins would fit on a given shape. Before placing the penguins they made estimations. The children then

compared how many penguins there were. Some used terminology such as twice the number whilst others would count how many additional penguins there were. The children enjoyed working collaboratively with their friend comparing whose shape had more penguins.

Our 'out and about' session was enjoyed by all. We created icebergs on our tuft trays and the children worked together to "rescue the animals that were stuck in the iceberg". The children were given salt, sugar, vinegar and warm water to work out the quickest way to melt the ice. During our session we also explored whether ice sinks or floats. Before making their predictions the children felt how heavy the ice was. Some of the children were surprised to see that ice floated even though it was a heavy block of ice. They even tried pushing down the ice to see if it would sink. Through this experiment the children discovered that water is heavier than ice.



For Art, Miss Alex and the children made a large landscape of icebergs. They worked with a variety of fabrics and paper to create a beautiful collage.



The children are enjoying their tennis sessions with Miss Hilary. They have been practising their racquet skill – particularly forehand.



We ended the week with baking iceberg flapjacks, which I am sure the children thoroughly enjoyed and so did us teachers!

This week we will be learning about Australia. We will locate Australia and New Zealand on the World Map and learn about the country's landscape climate, temperature, wildlife and culture. We will also be exploring aboriginal art. If you have any artifacts from those countries, please bring it for the children to explore. Our phonetic sound of the week will be 'd'.

Kindergarten - Elm Class

I hope you all had a restful half term and I look forward to continuing our learning about continents for the remainder of this term. For the last week of the half term children enjoyed learning about the continent of Antarctica. Using our problem-solving skills by comparing the sizes from the continent puzzle map we were able to see that Antarctica is the smallest continent. We talked about what we would wear if we ever visited this continent and how we think we would feel living on this cold continent. We carried out an experiment showing how the liquid form of water is frozen when it is put in the freezer. The children were invited to place small object penguins into the water and used their prediction skills to see whether they would sink or float.

For our out and about session we used the frozen penguins to see what would happen when it was left in the sun. The children then used scoops and spoons to dig them out. The children also independently prepared their polar bear prints by using a cut toilet roll to create a textured effect, adding eyes, ears and the mouth. We finished the week with a lovely music lesson where we are starting to practise for our summer concert 'Chicken Licken.' This week we will be learning about the continent of Australia. We will identify Australia on the Montessori Continents Globe and the map of the world. We will explore the landscape, climate including temperature of New Zealand. We will also talk about the culture, language, music and arts of the Native Aborigine. Our phonetic sound of the week will be 'n'. Please continue to work with your child with words beginning with this sound. Playing 'I Spy' games using the phonetic sound (and not the name of the letter) helps to reinforce the idea that words are made up of sounds, preparing your child for future reading and writing.

Kindergarten - Beech Class

Before the half term break, the children learnt about the continent, Antarctica. We identified its location on the map and looked at the temperatures and animals that can be found there. We linked our learning to solid and liquid where we turned liquid form into solid by freezing some water in the ice cube tray. We looked at pictures to support our learning in terms of cold, icy, or



freezing, to understand the temperature in Antarctica and why we can't live there. We supported our learning by looking at pictures of scientist and researchers that go to Antarctica and what they need to wear in order to survive.

During our "Out and About" session, we further explored Antarctica and its environment. We made our own experiment and called it "Antarctica on a plate" where the children placed some ice cubes on the plate and arranged some penguins and seals. Afterwards, we learnt what an igloo was and called it a "snow house". Beckett suggested we placed the penguins and seals in the igloo to keep them warm from the ice. The children all took turns to place the animals into the igloo. Using our penguin scale, we practised our counting skills and reinforced the word "more than", "less than" or "the same" by choosing and identifying a number and counting the number of penguins to find out if it is the same quantity or not.



During Show and Tell, Ronnie brought in his Star Wars Book and some characters, and he was able to confidently tell us their names and what they do. The children enjoyed looking at his book as well

as the characters.

Ciel also brought in an interesting and colourful illustrated book called "Grannysaurus" for her "Show and Tell". She read the story with the help of her teacher and the children listened carefully. They also enjoyed spotting different dinosaurs in this exciting story full of spectacular surprises!



Afterwards, the children engaged in physical activities as they took turns to play the ring toss game using colour cones and hoops. This game contributes to improving the children's motor skills, hand-eye coordination, and logical thinking skills.

They also played scooter obstacle course. This helps support the children's muscle strength and body awareness as they navigate through an obstacle course which develops their body balance and coordination.

This week, we look forward to continuing our learning on Continents with learning about Australia. We will locate Australia on the map. We will also focus our learning on the Aboriginal people of Australia who were the first people to live there. We will look at ways they communicated using the Aboriginal Dot Painting. We will explore this continent using stories, pictures and materials to support our learning.

The phonetic sound of the week is 'd'. To extend our learning, we will be thinking of other words beginning with 'd'.

Sycamore Class

I hope you all had a lovely half-term break. Before the break, we enjoyed learning about Antarctica. Most of the children were able to identify this continent on the Montessori Continents Globe. We discussed the cold climate and what could it be like to live here. The

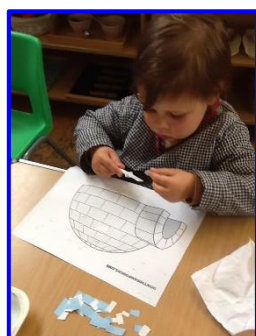


children were fascinated by igloos. We learned about why people build them and used our imagination to create igloo when gluing.

During our 'out and about' session we explored ice, animals that can survive in cold weather. We looked at different temperatures and explained the difference between cold and hot. The children enjoyed using ice and animal figurines, to explore creating scenarios of them living in Antarctica. We also used the scales to weigh ice and different objects from the tray.

There were lots of art activities where children were developing their creativity and fine motor skills.

We continue practicing and learning new phonetic sounds every day. All the children are making good



progress in identifying first phonetic sound of objects around the classroom.

After children has repeatedly played "Sound Games" they are introduced to the Montessori Sandpaper Letters. This material gives the children the symbol for the sounds they already know using their dominant index and middle finger to feel the letter in the way it is written.

We are also focusing on practical life activities like scrubbing tables or chairs, or cleaning and preparing the snack table. These are great exercises for children to develop their fine and gross motor skills and coordination, in preparation for writing.



This week we will be learning about Australia. Our letter of the week is letter "k" for kangaroo. We will be talking about life, animals, climate, and cultural traditions in Australia.

Nursery - Acorn and Seedlings

Welcome back to the second half of the summer term. The nursery children really enjoyed the topic for the last week of term. We talked about the continent of Antarctica and introduced the letter of the week "f" for freeze. The children were invited to point at Antarctica on the Montessori continents globe, and to recognize the colour white, which is the colour that represents Antarctica on the globe and map of the world.



We looked at pictures of animals that live in Antarctica, learning their names and some facts about them, and we followed this by creating some penguin and polar bear art! The children were involved in an exploration of ice and we had a discussion about how ice is formed.

For our 'out and about' session we had a sensorial exploration of an 'Antarctica' tray with ice cubes and igloos and polar animals trapped in icebergs that the children enjoyed excavating using spoons.

This week we are going to introduce the continent of Australia, and we will be discussing the Aboriginal Peoples and some animals that are native to Australia such as the kangaroo.

Best wishes, WMS Admin

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