

Elementary News

March 2021

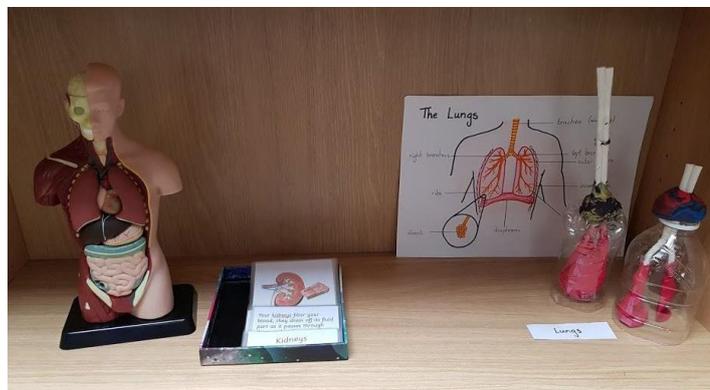
It has been such a delight to return to the classroom to be able to work with our beautiful Montessori materials again! The bead chains are a current favourite. They allow students to see – and feel – the patterns of multiples, including how they relate to squared and cubed numbers. One of the great benefits of Montessori education is that a concept can be explored in several different ways so that learners can truly make connections. Since returning to the class, we have explored multiplication through skip counting with the bead chains, looking at number patterns by laying out multiples on the hundred board and multiplying large numbers (up to 9 digits!) on the checkerboard.

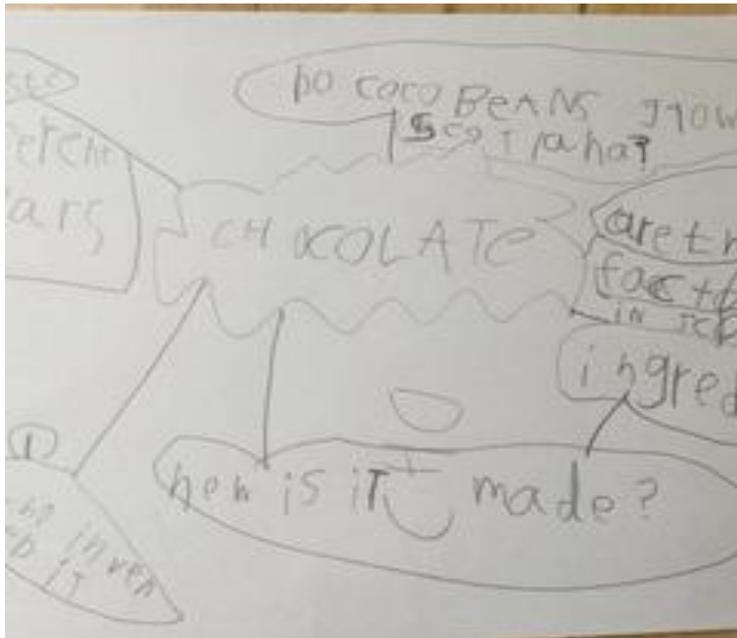


Our focus for cultural work has been human anatomy. This followed on from the Third Great Lesson – The Story of Human Evolution – but it proved to be a great topic since we were working from home and could use ourselves as specimens to study! We monitored our heart rates after different activities and found that meditation brings our heart rates down to below our normal resting pulse.



When we returned to the classroom, we continued to explore different body systems, making models of the lungs in class and the digestive system in creative learning. We looked at how the human form has been represented in art too, as we took a closer look at some of the statues at the Gallery of Modern Art.





In language we are learning research skills. Each child was invited to choose a topic of interest, mind map areas within this that they could explore then think about how to find the information.

Forest School

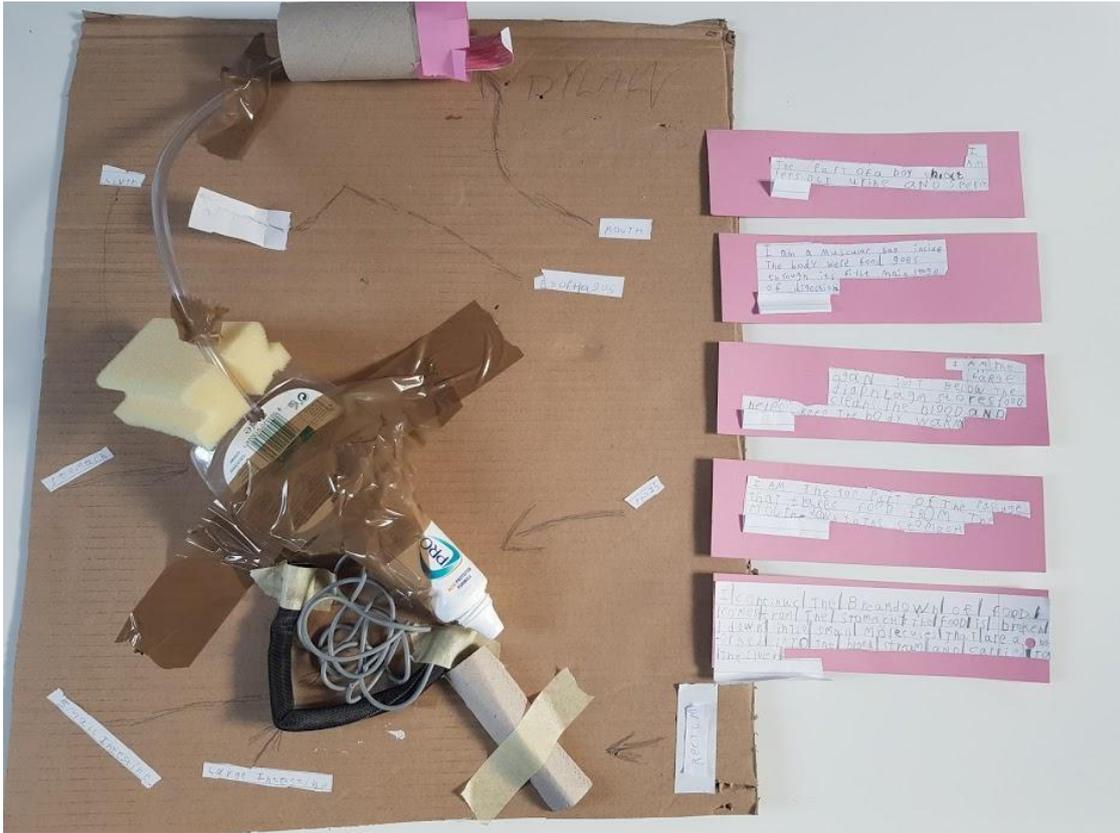
We were all glad that one of the topics chosen was pizza; it gave us the perfect reason to forage for wild garlic then make our own pesto to top the flatbread pizza we made on the campfire at forest school. Yummy!



Creative Learning in the Montessori Classroom

The Spring Term delivered a wealth of problem-solving opportunities and invitations to think creatively. The children proved themselves to be adaptable, resilient and full of grace when we had to move our learning online for the first half term, but our return to the classroom was joyous and very welcome. The challenge of working together on zoom gave us the chance to explore the space in a new way. Our screen became a window, a stage, a way to focus on details and a way to share process slowly and carefully.

The children were able to use recycled and up cycled materials to create projects that supported their learning with Anna, and our Friday sessions allowed us to play with performance, character development and costume design from the comfort of our own homes.



We became very proficient at online learning, but what a joy it was to see each other in real life again! The second half term saw the children embrace their new classroom, new projects and each other. They arrived full of energy and enthusiasm for the story of humans, which inspired several creative projects on the systems of the body.

Sticking with our sustainable principles, we created models of neurons, mapped the parts of the brain in plasticine, built a model of the digestive system and made our own stop-motion film of a thrilling adventure which takes place inside the human body.

This mini movie has a working title of 'Body storm' and will be hitting your screens later this spring. We look forward to continuing our creative journey in the summer term and doing even more of our making, exploring and learning outside.

Spanish with Haizea

In January, the children said goodbye to Naizary who has enrolled in an elementary level course to supplement her existing Montessori qualifications, and welcomed Haizea as their Montessori trained Spanish teacher.

During the Spanish class, we have been learning parts of the body.



We made different posters to learn and review the vocabulary.



We even created monsters by telling each other how we wanted them to look, e.g., colour, size, how many eyes, etc.

We also started focusing on healthy food, where we have been studying different fruit and phrases such as *me gusta/no me gusta...* (I like /I don't like).