



Newsletter



Headteacher's Message



Dear Kestrel House Families,

I absolutely love the spring term! The spring term for me always means more learning opportunities outside of the classroom, lots of animals popping in to visit the children (including pigs, ducks, lambs and hamsters,) 'World Book Day', 'Sports Relief' and most importantly 'Autism Acceptance Week.'

It always gives me so much pleasure seeing our learners engaging in such a wide range of activities.

You will see from the news items that every class has gone the extra mile to continue to bring so much fun into learning. As you know, we are so well known in our local community and this is what we want to achieve for our learners – the knowledge that they will become more and more independent as they learn new skills and adapt to the different learning environments.

I am particularly impressed by how confident our learners have become in the water during their weekly swimming session and climbing. Of course there are those that thrive in the water and who absolutely love to climb. I look forward to even more sunshine as we move into the summer term.

A huge 'thankyou' to my team as usual for their dedication to our children. I know that some of our children will be coming to our 2nd Easter Camp. It is fantastic to see that the number of children attending this year has almost doubled! Thank you families!

Thank you, Sam Winter our Enrichment Coordinator, for organising the camp and the many activities and trips that the children will take part in. The families really appreciate the work that you and the Easter Camp team will be doing after the term has finished. Once again, 'Well done' to everyone at Kestrel House School!



Angel Class

During Spring Term, we have been delving into the theme 'An Inspector Calls' through interactive, sensory and creative based activities. We took part in science experiments, nature walks, songs and sensory play.

In Science we have been investigating the cause and effect of mixing different materials together. One of our experiments included: baking soda, vinegar and food colouring. The learners used the green and red strip to complete the experiment. We started by adding baking soda to a tray, then we mixed food colouring and vinegar into a bowl, we used syringes to add the food colouring and vinegar to the baking soda. The learners were fascinated by hearing the fizzing sound.



We have been having fun doing sensory and creativity play. In our Inspectors topic, we got to paint our hands and feet to make prints.



We had loads of fun in messy play exploring different materials. We choose our own materials and mixed them together. We were able to see and feel the changes in the materials, like when we mixed the foam and water with cotton wool.





In literacy, learners have enjoyed reading The Three Little Pigs sensory story we did role-play and explore the different materials that were used to build the three houses. Children were also able to explore their forces by 'blowing' down the houses and exploring why some materials were stronger than others.



We would also like to welcome Abby to Angel Class.





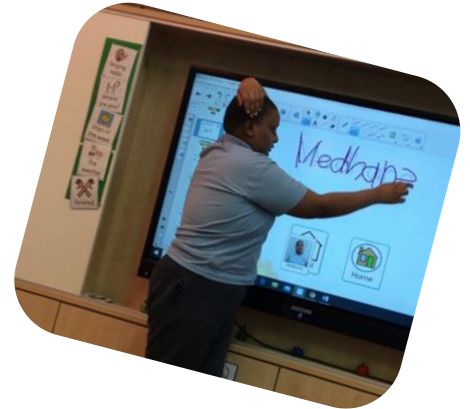
Hampstead class

Hampstead class have been working really hard this term and most importantly having lots of fun!

In Numeracy this term, we have been learning about our numbers 1-10 and the quantity of each amount



In Literacy, we have been studying *The Tiger Who Came to Tea* by Judith Kerr. We have been using our interactive whiteboard to remember parts of the story including verbs. We have also been writing our names and shopping list items like "milk" and "juice" and "walk".



In Science, we have been investigating using a straw for the technique of sucking and blowing. We have used a straw to suck up drinks like water, milk or fruit juice and we have blown cotton across our table.





Paddington Class

Paddington class have been working hard this term. This term our topic has been ' An Inspector Calls'

In Literacy we have been using our detective skills and magnifying glasses to find objects around School



For creativity we have been making our own habitats out of boxes, paint, and different materials such as cotton wool, leaves and glitter. We have also been watching videos about different animals and the habitats they live in.



This term Paddington have been going rock climbing at the Castle to work on our mobility skills and to also introduce a new activity in PE. Paddington have enjoyed exploring the castle, looking at the different colourful rock designs, and climbing to the top and swinging down.



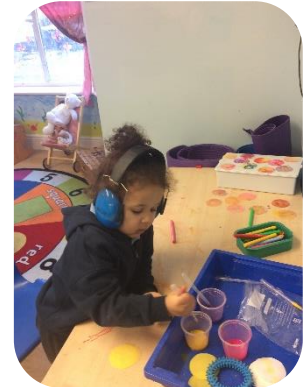


Victoria Class

Victoria class have been having lots of fun this term being detectives. We have been working on being more independent. We have been exploring and investigating different objects and materials through our lessons.



We have been finding new ways to create art masterpieces. We don't just use paintbrushes in Victoria class for our art, we use sponges, elastic bands, pipettes and best of all our hands!



In maths we have been sorting and matching colours. We have also been exploring big and small using big and small pancakes.





To help with our independence we have been working on our self-care with some support from our adults and our green and red strips. We have been working on brushing our teeth, our toilet routine and keeping our environment clean.



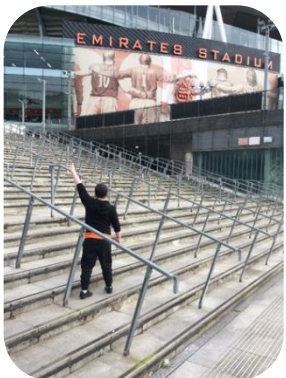


Waterloo Class

Throughout the spring term, Waterloo Class have opened a weekly shop; to make and sell small healthy snacks to the rest of the school on Friday afternoons. They have been making shopping lists, buying ingredients and following recipes for the different snacks. Some of the learners in Waterloo class have stated that they might like to work in a shop when they are older, so we see this as a great chance for them to engage in some simple work experience.



Waterloo Class have been trying lots of new things this term; we have been helping the learners to try new skills, helping them to tell us more about what they like and dislike, and giving them opportunities to have more unique experiences in the wider community. This term we have been visiting the Emirates Stadium. The learners really enjoyed using local buses on their journey, and exploring the grounds around the stadium.





Westminster class

Westminster class have been doing lots of exploring and investigating to go with our topic this term 'An Inspector Calls'



Westminster class have been doing lots of work inside and outside of the classroom. We used different parts of the school, and visited different parks in our local community.





School News



We have been getting creative. Made magnifying glasses to go with our topic. We also decorated Lanterns for Chinese New Year.



Westminster have been learning life skills and personal care. We have been practising washing our hands. We Made a shop to practice buying ingredients and we have been practicing our cutting skills.





Pimlico class

We have been doing lots of practical lessons this term which has been lots of fun.

Pimlico class have been practising life skills in the classroom and in our cooking sessions. We like to clean up using the broom, hoover and wiping the tables and the big white board.



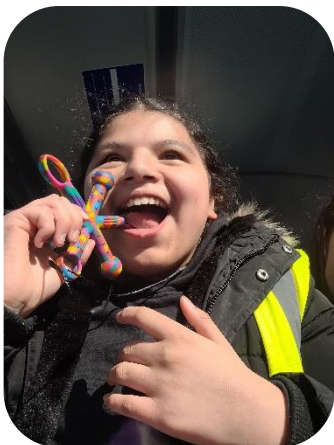
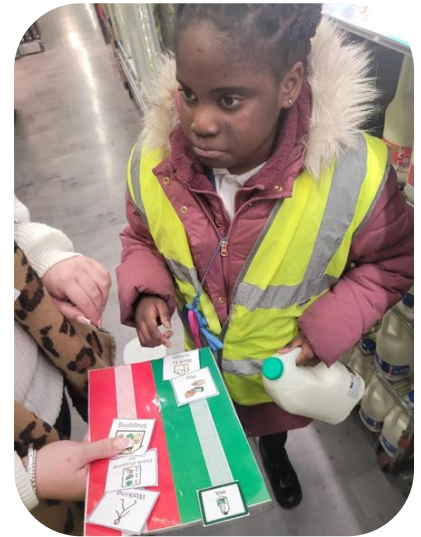
We have done lots of nice trips out in the community such as going on the bus, going to the park, and going to the shops.



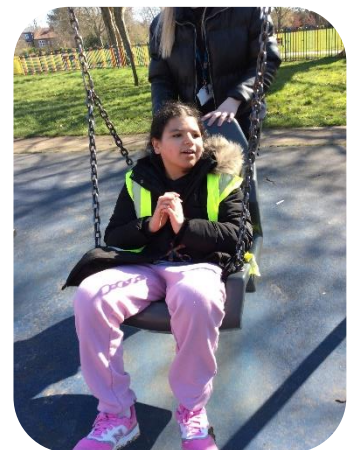


School News

We have been working on the value of money. we have been going the shops and we have been practising following our shopping list and paying for the items.



We would also like to welcome Basma to Pimlico class.





Life Skills

Our learners celebrated Chinese New Year by making pineapple tarts. Pineapple tarts are often served as a sweet dessert because it symbolises bringing a sweet life into the New Year. Some learners took part in a role-play shop and were encouraged to use money in a functional way by buying different ingredients. Other learners used their communication boards to request an item or ingredient. Learners were also able to develop their fine motor skills by taking part in different parts of the recipe such as chopping up pineapple, rolling out the dough, making small balls and placing the pineapple inside.





P.E

Waterloo class and Paddington class have not only been doing PE at school playing games such football but they have also been involved with enrichment activities, and have been having fun engaging in rock –climbing at the Castle Climbing Centre in Hackney, developing their confidence, their motor skills, whilst becoming a lot fitter. This is also giving the children the opportunity to engage in a sport they like.





Occupational Therapy

The Occupational Therapist (OT) has continued to deliver therapy at a Specialist level (1:1 therapy sessions) Enhanced level (individual programmes and small therapy groups) and a Universal level (whole school/class strategies and approaches)

Specialist Input:

This has continued to include specialist work using our school swing and soft play room. For some of our learners, swing sessions can provide important opportunities to bring the body into different positions, regulate the senses, engage in meaningful social interactions through games and songs and work on postural control and strength.



It has also included supporting teachers to ensure writing goals and other curriculum goals are as meaningful as possible

Enhanced Input:

In our OT/Education blended group learning sessions, we have continued work around self-care skills as part of the PSHE curriculum. We aim to ensure that this work is meaningful and motivating, with some of our learners following individual OT programmes to help them to brush and style their own hair in their favourite styles. We will also be learning about our friend Annie and how she dresses herself during future sessions in the Spring Term- through a series of stories.



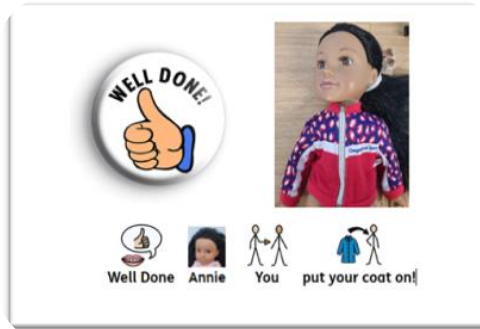
School News



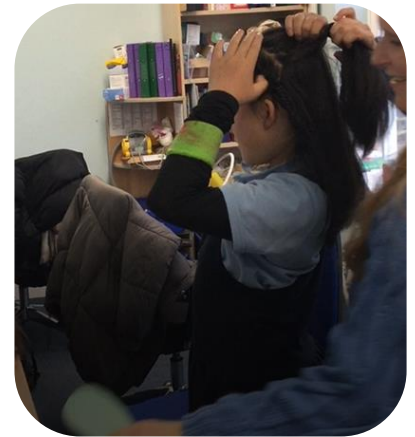
It is time for Annie to get ready for school



Then Annie puts her feet into the trouser holes



Well Done Annie You put your coat on!



Universal Input:

We have continued to learn new dances as part of our universal whole school approach of 'OT TV' (video modelling of different calming and movement activities). This term we have tried sleeping bunnies and freeze dance! We will be recording more Yoga videos and dances across the Spring Term!

OT TV - SLEEPING BUNNIES



Freeze Dance - OT TV

Events

This half term Kestrel house school has been very busy with different events going on.



Chinese New Year

Our learners were encouraged this year to participate in Chinese New Year! The learners decorated lanterns in their own unique styling as well as making use of various Year of the Tiger drawing and colouring in sheets. The day ended with a party in our school hall. We decided however to make this party a little different to our usual whole school parties. The learners came in groups and used premade PECs symbols to request the food that they wanted (some of which was kindly donated by our lovely parents) and they all sat around on tables colouring in and tracing over Chinese letters. Traditional music was played throughout the afternoon and learners were encouraged to try new foods from different cultures.





Wild Science

With school visits opening back up, we decided to bring back an old favourite, Wild Science! The visit allowed our students to interact with various animals over the course of the morning. The children loved stroking the animals and feeling the various textures that each animal had. The company brought a guinea pig, hamster, snake, land snail and millipede for our learners to look at and stroke. We provided PECs symbols for our learners so they were able to identify each animal and even request certain animals. It was invaluable experience for the learners and some pupils even found comfort in stroking the animals (even if the staff didn't). We can't wait to make this a recurring event here at Kestrel.

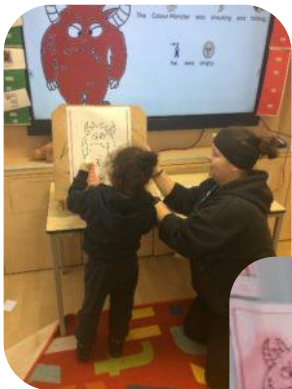


Children's Mental Health Week

For Children's mental health week Victoria class have been looking at keeping healthy both physically and mentally. We looked at our emotions by reading the colour monster.

We went for walks in the park and had nice relaxing sessions in the classroom.

We learnt about things that keep us healthy like eating fruit and drinking water, we enjoyed our waterplay.





LGBT+ Month

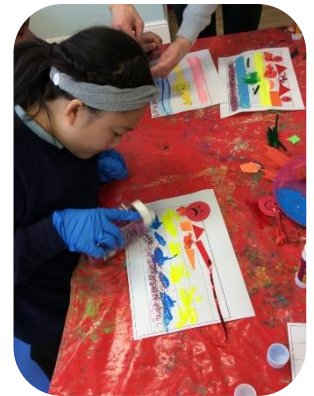


Teaching our learners about tolerance and acceptance is at the core of our SMSC policy. Both our student body and staff body are incredibly diverse and it is therefore imperative that we implement activities and events that reflect not only our own school community, but also the wider world. For LGBT+ History Month this year the students celebrated through their arts and crafts! Many learners created their own flags and rainbow's using a variety of crafty mediums whilst



watching child friendly LGBT+ inclusive videos/songs. Hampstead class created a fabulous LGBT+ display board in their classroom out of rainbow handprints along with pictures of the class staff and learners. Every classroom was full of colour and happiness during the month and our learners enjoyed exploring every colour of the rainbow

World Book Day



World Book Day 2022 was a fabulous day for us at Kestrel. Many of our favourite book characters visited us, including Queen of Hearts, Wally, Pikachu, Lara Croft and to fit in with the terms theme, Waterloo Class dressed up as detectives! The learners loved to see all the staff dressed up and made for an unforgettable day for everyone!





Performing Pets

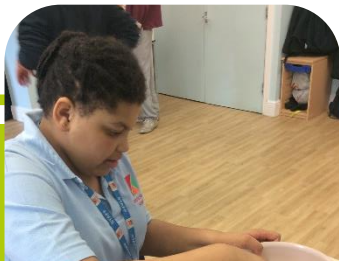
What an amazing day for our learners. Performing Pets, based in Enfield, came to the school and set up various areas for our learners to meet and greet their animals. The animals who are used to acting for screen and theatre were running around the playground as our learners petted them, fed them and sometimes chased! Our learners and staff alike found it an incredibly therapeutic experience, with some of our students singing Old Macdonald and Mary Had A Little Lamb. The staff from Performing Pets were incredibly helpful and attentive for our learners and even managed to convince some of our pupils to hold the budgies. We cannot wait to make this a yearly event here at Kestrel, we will hopefully get to meet more animals!

Careers Day

This year at Kestrel House we started a new school-wide activity called 'Career Day'. Each class decided on a career and spent the day doing activities to go with that career. We had lots of fun and we can't wait to do it again next year.



Waterloo Class became Top Chef's

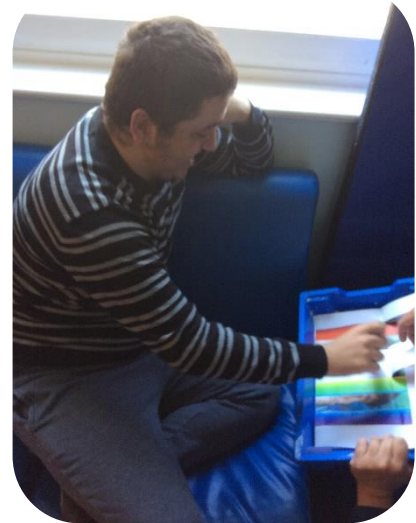




Autism Acceptance Day

Autism Acceptance Week was a very fun, busy week doing creative activities and then ending the week with our annual balloon release. We invited in two former Mayors of Haringey Mr Stephen and Jennifer Mann, Catherine West Labour MP and Rabbi David Mason who joined us on Friday 1st April to be with our learners and families to help us spread the word about Autism Acceptance

As you can see from the pictures all our learners had a great day with their staff and family and was happy to have music and bubbles while we released the balloons with our school details attached.





School News



We look forward to hearing where our bio-degradable balloons have landed.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE EVERY DAY

