



Newsletter



Headteacher's Message



Dear Kestrel House Families,

We have had a positive start to the academic year. With so many new staff joining the Kestrel House community we have continued our learning journey at pace. Our new staff have been fabulous. They have worked continuously hard as a team to support our learners to engage in the new Kestrel Nest to Flight Curriculum. Under the leadership of our new Head of Education, Sam Knight, our curriculum, and the learning experiences within it have been so well matched to our learners. I am proud to see how well our learners have engaged, and how staff have worked so well with them to support them in achieving the best outcomes.

You will read about the many highlights in each class, and how your child has been learning new skills. I will leave that to the Class Community Leads to share. Thank you all for your continued support. I was so pleased to see you all at the Progress Review and would personally love to see you coming to join in with your child's class activities.

May I take this opportunity of wishing you all the best for the holiday period and see you all in 2022.

Lorna



Angel class

During autumn term, we have been exploring the theme 'My World' through an interactive, sensory, creative all personalised to EHCP outcomes. Activities included: science experiments, sensory stories, songs, and creative art activities.

We celebrated Black History month through listening to celebratory song and watching cultural videos. We learnt about African prints, and we created our own. We learnt about different African and Caribbean flags and painted our own flags. We also joined Victoria class to celebrate by creating necklaces using different materials



In literacy we have been reading the story 'The Hungry Caterpillar'. We enjoyed feeding the caterpillar in our sensory story. We tasted different fruits and talked about if we liked or disliked them, using a communication board. Our maths had the colours and quantity of the fruit the hungry caterpillar ate.





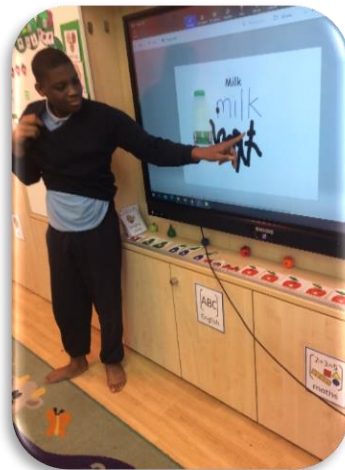
Hampstead class

Hampstead class this term we have been working hard and having lots of fun.

In Numeracy this term, we have been learning numbers 1-5 and the quantity of each amount. We have also been practising our number formations. We have been going on weekly outings to the shop to put our skills into practise when buying milk and fruit.



In Literacy, we have been studying The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle. We have been using our interactive whiteboard to remember parts of this sensory story including the day of the week, the fruit and how many of each fruit the caterpillar ate. We have also been writing "milk" for our shopping list and making sentences about the things we like.



In Science, we have been running 4 different experiments during the Autumn Term. We have made homes for worms, we have made rainbows using Skittles, we have compared what can sink and float and finally we have blown up balloons without using our mouths.





Paddington Class

Paddington class have been working hard this term. This term our topic has been 'Our World'

For creativity we have been making our own worlds out of paper mache and have been using different materials and patterns from our culture to dress our paper people.



We have also been looking at food from around the world and following a recipe to make a simple meal



Every week this term we have been visiting our local shop to buy ingredients for our English and maths lessons. This term Paddington class have been working on following a shopping list and using their transaction skills using money. We have also been taking the bus and using our oyster cards.





During science we have enjoyed a range of different experiments



Each week we explore a new country in our class, we have celebrated Nigeria, Sri Lanka and China. The people thought in food and clothing to share with their friends.



We had fun carving our pumpkin and making cookies for our pumpkin party





Victoria Class

Victoria class have been working hard on our topic 'Our World'

In literacy we have been listening to the story 'leaf man who turns into 'stick man'. We made our own leaf mer and stick men



Ibrahim's mum brought in some Portuguese food.



Buddy's mum brought in some Jamaican food.



Lordette made Congolese for Joshua

We had some of our parents come in to share some food from their culture.

In Math's we have been learning about shapes and colours. We cut and matched shapes out of cake, we looked for shapes outside of the school and we also made our own class rainbow.





Waterloo Class

This Term, Waterloo class have been learning more about different Festivals that occur, In particular, they have enjoyed learning about: Black History Month, Halloween, Remembrance Day, Diwali and Hanukkah. The learners have been reading, participating in Sensory Stories, and making a wide variety of Artwork which reflect their learning.



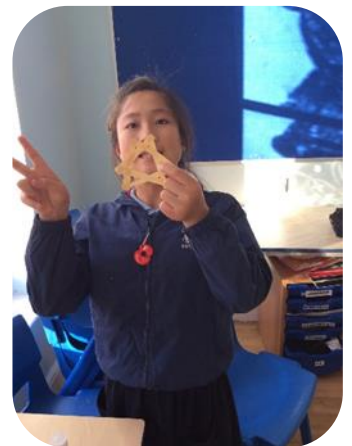
The learners have been making African inspired jewelry during Black History Month



The learners have been learning about the meanings behind Dewali and have been making Diwali lanterns



We made Minora's and the Star of David for Hanukkah





Christmas Shop Project

In the lead up to Christmas this year Waterloo class have been helping to set up their very own shop. While they have been attempting to learn more about the value of money in Numeracy, they have also been attempting to participate in a school wide Enterprise project, that we are calling the Waterloo Christmas Shop. The learners have chosen 5 different Christmas crafts to make, and have been manufacturing items to sell around the school on Fridays.





Westminster class

In Literacy we have been doing different sensory stories using colourful semantics, 'Welcome back to school', 'Let's go to the shop' and 'Halloween story'. These stories help the learners to understand about different situations in their life, new vocabulary and be motivated and happy in the school.



In Science and Creativity, we have been doing different art activities exploring materials and expressing themselves. We have done a creative tree using paint and colourful paper, our world using blue paint and cotton and hedgehogs using leaves that we were collecting from the park in our trips around the community.



Every week, we go to the park all together, exploring the nature, walking independently with the support of the adults in Westminster class. We really love and enjoy when we go out in the community.

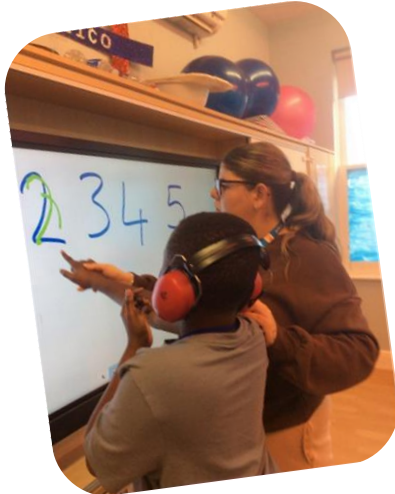




Pimlico class



In literacy Pimlico class have been learning how to order the letters in their name and have been reading our sensory story, featuring Eli the puppet who goes around Africa visiting our friends.



In Numeracy we have been learning all about money and tracing numbers up to 10. We have enjoyed matching coins and making money up to £1



We have had so much fun this term; we celebrated a birthday in Pimlico class. In science we made fake snow to show the different seasons and how cold the winter can get!





Events

Pumpkin Party

What a way to end the first half of Autumn Term! With help from the Admin team and our generous parents we were able to hold a huge pumpkin themed party for our learners. Throughout the day our children carved pumpkins and created decorations for the party to get themselves in the spirit. Then with the help of Waterloo Class we set the hall up and got the music playing.



The learners were encouraged to request the cakes and treats that they wanted and then sat down at the table to enjoy their food. We even had a learners help pour out the juice for anyone that wanted it! Our learners loved every minute of it, with some even busting out some choreographed dance routines that they had learnt in class!





Children in Need

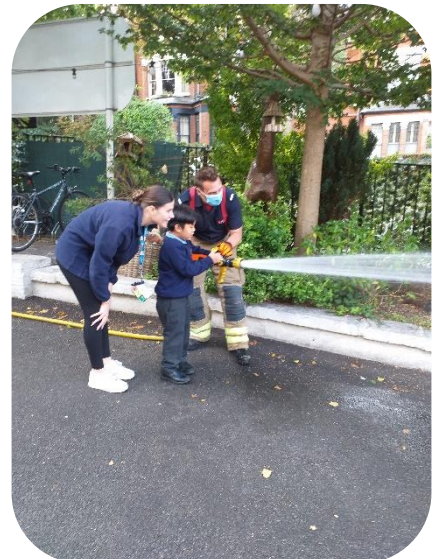
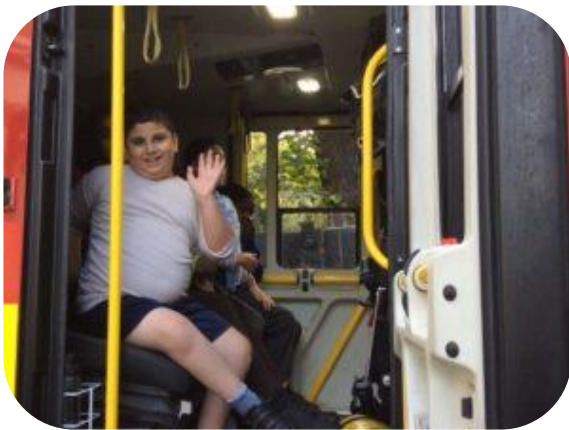
For children in need, we came to school in our pyjamas or we wore yellow. All the classes went out for a trip around the community. Victoria, Angel and Pimlico class went and had a picnic in the park. Thank you for all the donations. We raised £67





Fire Department

What an exciting way to kick off the new academic year. We arranged for the Hornsey Fire Department to come and visit our learners as part of our SMSC initiative. We used social stories and symbols to help teach our pupils that these were safe members of society who can help them when they are in danger. The Fire Department allowed our learners to climb into the truck and even use the fire hose, although we may have emptied the water tank! This was an invaluable experience for our learners here at Kestrel, even if it was interrupted by a quick departure halfway through to answer a call! Just like our Police visit, this will become a yearly visit for our learners so they can become accustomed to the fire department and understand their importance





School News



Helping our learners understand the ethics of fundraising and helping the community is a core part of Kestrel House School. We celebrate Macmillan every year and this year we decided to tag it along with Jeans for Genes. We not only created online links for people to donate money for each charity, but also held our own bake sale! With treats provided by local bakeries and even our own staff and parents we put on a spread fit for a king. Thank you to all the parents who sent in treats or came into school to help organise and sell! We managed to raise an astonishing £288.48 for our charities. We look forward to seeing you all next year for more baked good and treats!



Messy for Mind

For Mental health awareness week, we did 'Messy for Mind' Where staff volunteered to get things poured over them to give a visual to a hidden disability. The learners loved getting involved and getting the staff messy





Christmas



We were lucky to have a visit from Father Christmas again. We were all on the nice list and he gave us an early Christmas present.

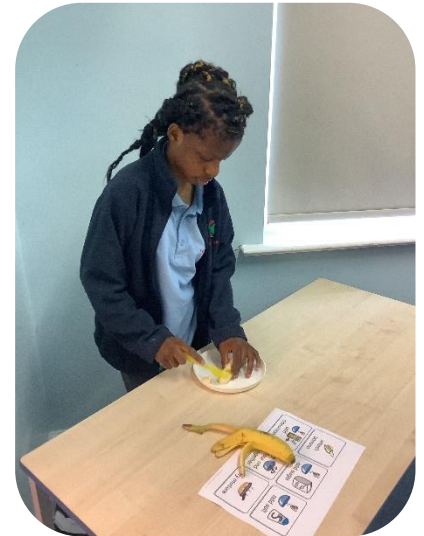




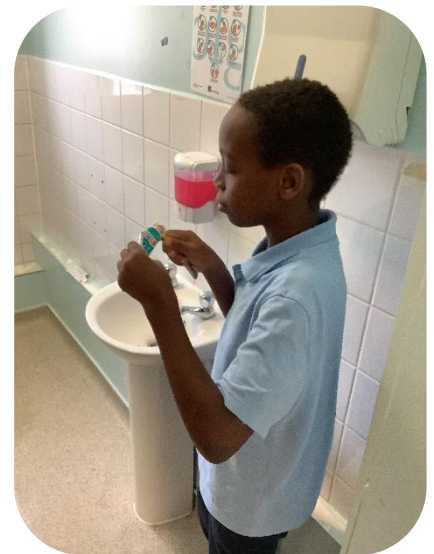
Life Skills

We have been working hard learning new skills in our life skills sessions.

For Black History Month we made banana fritters using visuals to guide us. We practiced our fine motor skills peeling the banana and practiced how to hold cutlery and use the oven safely.



We have been working on brushing our teeth trying to be as independent as possible.





Family Liaison

Jermaine and Nia both enjoyed playing a game of Snakes and Ladders taking turns helping each other out when they got stuck with not knowing the rules of the game and being happy for the other person who has won the game.



Speech and Language

'This term the SaLT has been supporting the new learners with setting up their communication systems since starting at KHS. Some of the learners have been supported to use Tupperware exchange to communicate what they want, while others have been using PECs and others have been using subject, verb, object and core pointing boards. We have been ensuring that these communication systems are in line with the SCERTs model and covers all three levels of communication partner from the early communicators at the social partner stage, to our conversational partners. This has supported the learners to develop their expressive communication to enable them to make choices and communicate using phrases which are supported by visuals.





Occupational Therapy

During this Autumn Term, the Occupational therapist (OT) has continued to deliver therapy at a specialist level (1:1 therapy sessions) Targeted level (individual programmes and small therapy groups) and a Universal level (whole school/class strategies and approaches). This has included specialist work with some of our newest learners, using our bolster swing!



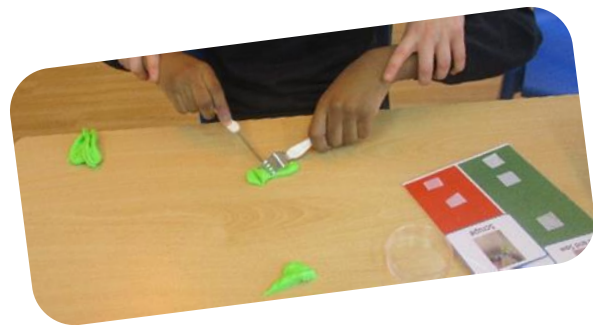
It has also included supporting teachers to ensure writing goals and other curriculum goals are as meaningful as possible. One of our learners has been learning to write her own Chinese name through specialist work with the OT and a programme to complete with her teachers!



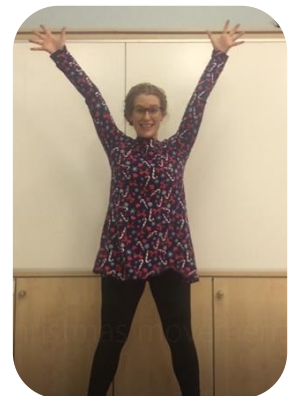
June is learning to write her name in Chinese



In our OT groups, we have continued work around self-care skills as part of the PSHE curriculum; with more of our learners working on their own meaningful goals around activities of daily living- such as working on their wiping skills, dressing, cutlery use and shoe lace tying



It has been both a spooky and festive season for our universal whole school approach of 'OT TV' (video modelling of different calming and movement activities). We have been doing lots of Halloween and Christmas themed movement breaks in class this term to help us achieve a 'ready to learn' state more easily! These can be found on our fun zone on the school website if you want to try some of these at home!





School News

P.E



This term Waterloo class have been going rock-climbing at the Castle rock-climbing centre where they have been learning with a group called Geckos. We will be continuing this activity for this class and other classes of Kestrel house school In the Spring term



Westminster class have been going on weekly walks and completing Their AQA, independent walking units as part of their PE lessons this has helped improve their fitness and overall motor skills whilst allowing them the opportunity to gain independence when out in the Local community.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE EVERY DAY

