

Headteacher's Message

Dear Families

It has been a complete joy, and I do mean JOY to have so many children return to school. They have brought with them their energy, their humour, their curiosity, their wonder, their chatter, their questions, their uniqueness.....themselves. I so wish we were in a position to welcome all our children back to Kestrel. It certainly has been an unusual but very busy term and everyone has been working very hard but also having fun in school, which is equally important as they continue to adjust to working in their class bubbles ensuring that we follow government guidelines.

We have all had very different experiences during the Covid 19 lockdown and I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge 'thank you' for the tremendous work that you have done to continue to work with the school and your child to keep the learning a priority. I have seen so many videos and pictures of what that learning has looked like during the lockdown and all I can say is 'Wow!' I have been blown away by the examples of PECS and Makaton being used as well as visual time tables and choice boards. I am also aware that the pupils who are still learning from home are working equally as hard and continue to access the work provided for you by your class teachers. I hear such positive comments by the class teachers regarding the efforts being made to complete the home learning activities and I would like to reiterate our thanks for all your support with this.

I am sorry to say that there will be a few members of staff leaving us this term.



Hamed Salari – Pimlico Class, will be leaving us to take up a new teaching post in Dorset. Hamed has been a wonderful teacher at Kestrel House and I know that he will be greatly missed.



Marcelina Zastawina- Hampstead Class, will also be leaving us to take up a new teaching post in an SEN school in Haringey. Her creative flare and displays have been inspirational.



We will also be losing 2 fabulous LSAs who joined us last year from New Zealand – Kelsey Howells and Liam Aston. They will be returning back to New Zealand.

Let me take this opportunity of thanking all of you for your commitment and dedication to the wider school community. You will really be missed by everyone. I wish you all the best.

So on to September. I look forward to seeing you all next term. Stay safe and enjoy the summer break. You all deserve it.

Lorna Davies-Bailey



Class articles

Angel Class

This term Angel Class have been exploring a new area in our classroom; the cosy-corner. Here we have lots of soft pillows, blankets and comfy beanbags. We are learning to use this space when we feel anxious or angry, to help us calm down and stay happy!

During our calm time here we enjoy playing instruments and listening to each other. It helps us to stay in the green zone for as much of the day as possible so we are always ready to learn!

Angel Class have been practising taking turns using the Explosion activity. Here we fill up a big bottle full of water and soap, and then squeeze it really, really fast to create a big explosion!



Here we have Isaiah preparing the bottle by pouring the water in it at the sink. To help the learners communicate what they need to get ready for this activity we use Subject-Verb-Object mats so they can request for each ingredient to create our **MASSIVE EXPLOSION!**

This activity has helped all the learners be motivated to use the SVO mats and is great for practising their communication.

During being at school while the world has been struggling with the corona virus, we have been practising washing our hands regularly. We need to make sure we wash them thoroughly to prevent us and our friends getting sick!



We had such nice weather we did lots of water play outside.



We also went out in our community every day to get exercise and to see all the nature around us.



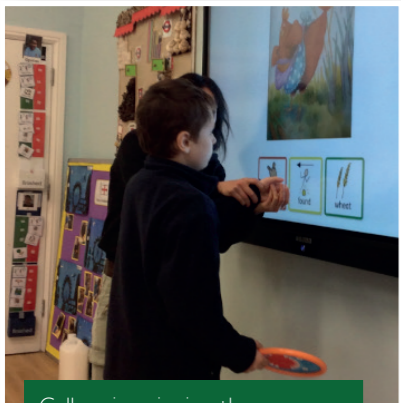
Hampstead Class

Hampstead class have still been learning and having fun over the Covid-19 lockdown.

We have been playing games, going out for a walk and creating some great Art.



To help keep the class sizes small we had two students from another class join us.



Callum is enjoying the sensory story on the interactive board. He is also creating a beautiful little hen.



Samika likes to learn new things. Her favourite one is making sentences using colourful semantics.



Yodi is practising his reading skills and creating a piece of Art. Great job Yodi!



Paddington class

Motivation, decision-making, organization, independent living and academic skills are among the most-important life skills. Life skills are abilities that help our children succeed in personal, educational, professional and social experiences.

Paddington class loves cooking and clearing up after themselves. It's a skill that our children will use for the rest of their life and has many other benefits too. It helps them understand food, nutrition and the benefits of a healthy diet.

We focus on safety and practice; we might just have a master chef junior on our hands



Learning through Lockdown

While Mark was at home during the lockdown, he put all his life skills into good use and made some yummy cakes for his family

Pimlico Class

Some families have decided to keep the children at home due to their worries about COVID-19. The Pimlico class team have been supporting the families by sending work home in liaison with our Speech and Language Therapist Olivia.

Through weekly discussions with the family, they have informed the school that children have engaged with the work. They have enjoyed reading various sensory stories, which we had learned during this year, as well as completing online Literacy and Numeracy exercises.

Most Pimlico Children have been attending school on a part-time basis after the summer half-term break. We have enjoyed the good weather in the playground and have done many water play activities while working on our communication targets. We also did some Artwork making masks and headbands as well as making a papier-mâché castle.



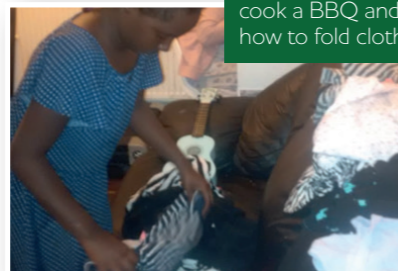
Learning through Lockdown



Saroya and Darius are doing work on the interactive whiteboard.



During the Lockdown Saroya learned lots of life skills. She helped cook a BBQ and learnt how to fold clothes.



Somika worked hard on her handwriting and enjoyed doing arts and crafts at home.



Victoria class

During this different summer term, in Victoria Class we stayed safe and we also had really fun activities in the school.

Our children have been using their PECS for balloons and water games. We really enjoyed playing outside on sunny days.

We travelled to the Carnival through our sensory stories, we ate popcorn, danced and played 'beanbag throw'. It was wonderful!

In Victoria Class, we had the summer bucket and it was really interesting. We were really focused and we enjoyed the third stage the most where we were taking turns!



In Science, Meer was watering the plants in the garden. We learnt that it is really important to care for nature!



We learnt that washing your hands is one of the easiest ways to protect ourselves and others.

Waterloo Class

This term has been a particularly difficult one for many of us; especially our learners and their families. What has encouraged me most as a teacher is Waterloo class have been able to continue to learn and make progress, under such circumstances.

Unfortunately, not all of our learners have been able to access school, so they have been working their way through home packs that have been prepared by Waterloo class staff and their own preferred learning activities at home.

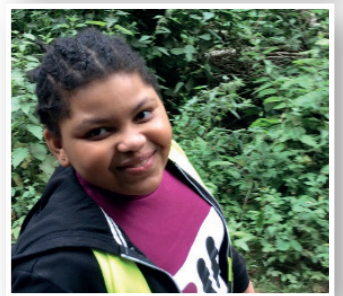
We have had some of our learners return to school; they have had to learn to work to a much altered timetable, cope with all of the staff wearing face coverings and having severely limited opportunities to spend time with their peers. They have all coped admirably, whether they have been able to access school or not and we are all so proud of them.



Regulation in Lockdown

In Waterloo class we spend a great deal of our time working on regulation; we use The Zones of the Regulation programme to help our learners to understand and ultimately gain more control over their emotions. This term we have had a unique opportunity to spend more time helping and guiding parents with this process at home and we have been able to work more intensively with those learners who have been able to access school.

We have taken advantage of the beautiful weather over the past three months to ensure that we go for two nature walks per week with the learners in Crouch End.



Waterloo class have also recently started specialist Yoga sessions with our new Occupational Therapist. Their first sessions have started brilliantly; the learners have been able to use the time to feel comfortable in their bodies and to explore meaningful activities that aim to help them to feel calm and more grounded.

Here are some pictures of Waterloo learners completing numeracy and Attention Autism tasks at school and at home during lockdown.

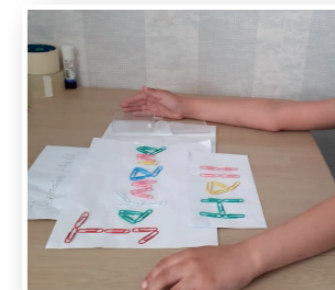
In Waterloo class we constantly strive to provide our learners with multisensory tasks that motivate and engage them in their work. During this time they have all managed to learn the basic principles of each task and have been able to complete them from start to finish, in some cases with complete independence. Many of our learners have taken huge strides towards fully achieving their learning targets, which is remarkable, especially at such a challenging time.



Learning during Lockdown

During the Lockdown Jermaine was working hard at home.

He practiced writing his full name using different materials and had fun building with building blocks.



Westminster Class

This term has been very different for us, but it has not stopped us learning and having fun!

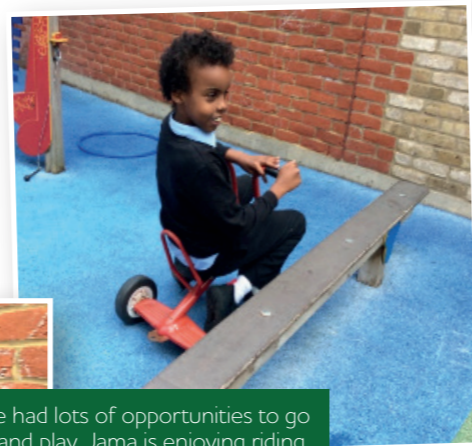
We have continued to read and take part in sensory stories! This one is about a bird named Blu who goes to a carnival. Jama is building a sentence using colourful semantics to explain the different things Blu did to get ready for the carnival.



Jama has been working on big and small in different ways; here he is ordering different puzzle pieces in size order and sorting objects into big and small.



We have had lots of opportunities to go outside and play. Jama is enjoying riding his bike here in the playground.



We love cooking in Westminster class, here is Jama making a pizza!

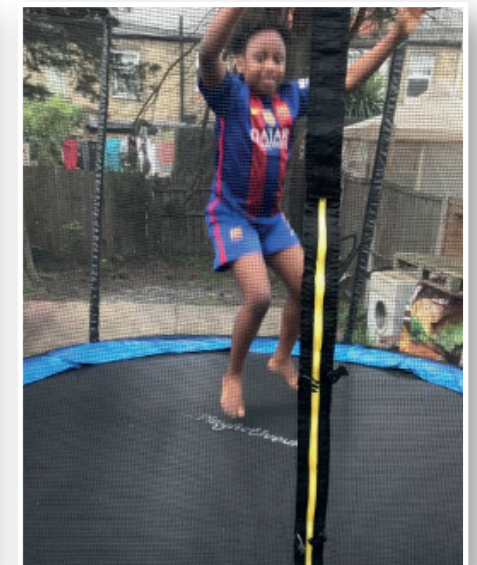
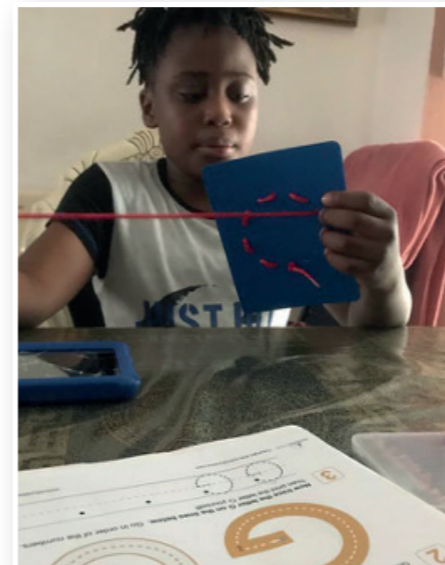
This term we have had some lovely weather! It has been great to go out for walks and learn about the outdoors.



Learning during Lockdown

Godwin has been doing lots of work at home.

He has been practicing his fine motor skills by doing sewing, recognising and colouring shapes and best of all jumping on his trampoline.



Wellbeing

Occupational Therapy

My name is Lucy and I am the new Occupational Therapist here at Kestrel House school! I have been here since June, and have spent this last month getting to know the wonderful learners and their families here at the school. We have lots of exciting plans already to develop the Kestrel Occupational Therapy service as an integrated part of the Well-Being team!

I will be working on ensuring that the school remains a sensory rich environment through a number of 'whole school approaches'. For each class group there will be a bespoke 'calm kit' which will include certain pieces of sensory equipment the learners in that group can choose from to support the development of their regulation skills.

I am also introducing 'OT TV' videos I have started developing – which will be a range of simple 5 minute movement breaks filmed to music for the children and staff to follow frequently as part of their lessons.

We have already started introducing 'tasters' to the children of some of these projects. We have also started trying out some 'Yoga' sessions too working further on our regulation skills through breathing, self-squeezes, deep relaxation and Yoga movements.

I am very excited for what September has in store for us all and will ensure that any school approaches are also supported for parents if you wish to embed them into your home routines too. I greatly look forward to working with you all!

Lucy



Family Liaison

This term we have been working really hard with supporting families by having regular contact via WhatsApp, phone calls and a Zoom meeting. Families have been sending pictures and videos of their children doing school work, cooking and going out for their daily exercises; all these amazing pictures can be seen on the class pages.

During our Zoom call, families spoke about starting a book club and wanting to do more Zoom calls in the future to share knowledge, information and to support each other. We will look into this next academic year.

While it has been a difficult time during this pandemic, it has been wonderful to see our learners really take this in their stride and adapt quickly to the new routine. I want to take this opportunity to say a massive thank you to all the families for their support.

Sharon



Speech and Language

This term the Speech and Language Therapist has been supporting the staff team to create resources for families to use at home with their children. We have particularly been focusing on creating communication resources for the children to make requests at home, follow instructions during activities and use colourful semantic resources to form phrases to comment on pictures from the children's favourite TV shows. In school we have been using videos to record the children using these resources and sharing these with their families in order to support them to further develop their communication at home.

We have also been making videos of the staff team using the resources to demonstrate new activities for our families.



Jose and Olivia demonstrating how to form subject verb attribute object phrases e.g. 'Olivia give me green bottle'.



Jose and Giulia demonstrating how to form 'Subject Verb Attribute Object' phrases with balloons e.g. 'Giulia blow green balloon'.

TERM DATES FOR PUPILS 2020-2021

Autumn Term 2020	Starts	Ends
1st Half Term	Monday 7th September	Friday 23rd October
Holiday	Monday 26th October	Friday 30th October
2nd Half Term	Monday 2nd November	Friday 18th December
Christmas Holiday	Monday 21st December	Monday 4th January

Spring Term 2021	Starts	Ends
1st Half Term	Monday 4th January	Friday 12th February
Holiday	Monday 15th February	Friday 19th February
2nd Half Term	Monday 22nd February	Thursday 1st April
Easter Holiday	Friday 2nd April	Tuesday 13th April

Summer Term 2021	Starts	Ends
1st Half Term	Wednesday 14th April	Friday 28th May
Holiday	Monday 31st May	Friday 4th June
2nd Half Term	Monday 7th June	Friday 16th July
Summer Holiday	Monday 19th July	Friday 3rd September

INSET Days 2020 / 2021
(school is closed to pupils):
Thursday 3rd September 2020
Friday 4th September 2020
Friday 8th January 2021

Bank Holidays 2020/2021
(school is closed to pupils):
Monday 3rd May 2021

Term dates for pupils and staff (updated 3rd September 2020)

How to get in touch

If you are interested in visiting Kestrel House School, or finding out more about the support we provide, please call **020 8348 8500** or e-mail admin@kestrelhouseschool.co.uk