



Newsletter



Kestrel House
School



Head teacher's Message

Kestrel House School has been an extremely busy school this term. Although most schools went back into lockdown, Kestrel House remained open to ensure that there was no disruption to learning. I was so pleased to see so many children return and in a way it was business as usual. I am so proud of my team for the way that they kept learning going for those children at home. It was wonderful to see 'Circle Time' and 'Attention Autism' delivered in such a way that even the families could join in.

From March 8th 2021, we had every learner back at school. I really believe that a school is not a school until you have the hustle and bustle, the screams and the laughter of the children enjoying learning. It was fantastic to see the children getting off the buses and hearing the cheers from the staff.

Now that we are back on track, can I just praise the efforts of all of the staff for 'World Book Day'. Have you seen the school windows?? Every window has been painted with book characters and superheroes. Kestrel House really stands out as one of the most exciting buildings in Crouch End.

Then we had the day itself. So many costumes. Every member of staff dressed up in costumes which told the stories of 'Sleeping Beauty, Jack and the Beanstalk, The Three Little Pigs, Moana, Room on the Broom, Alice in Wonderland.' We even spotted Wally and Maleficent lurking in the offices. Thanks to Ruta for making such a fabulous cake!

Next we had Comic Relief. Thanks to the fundraising events by each class, we raised over £500. We even had donations from passers-by as they watched us signing and singing 'Don't Stop the Feeling' by Justin Timberlake. Thank you Simon for all of your hard work in pulling this together. The video will soon be on our website.

Now that the weather is getting brighter and warmer, we will start taking the children out on more trips including Alexandra Palace, Hampstead Heath and London Zoo.

Thank you to everyone who attended the Progress Review Day and I am so pleased with the fabulous feedback that you give to us at Kestrel.

I look forward to seeing you again soon and don't forget to look out for our video.

Best

Lorna Davies-Bailey
Head Teacher

Angel class

This spring term was full of excitement for Angel Class. We enjoyed our walks, the changes in the weather, getting lost in fairy tales, learning about the animals and their habitats, and enjoying the company of our friends.



We explored frozen fruits and made some healthy food choices, making ourselves a strawberry and banana smoothie, adding some maths to it too, yum!!!!



The children built their Straw, Stick, and Brick houses just like the Three Little pigs and then blew all them down except one!



We definitely enjoyed the change of weather and made sure we explored the snow, the sun, and the rain as best as we could (which included jumping in puddles and eating the snow, of course)!



Animals too like different weather and live in different places, so we thought we should pay them a "visit" and help them find their habitats!!!





'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' is a fairy tale that taught us about big and small, soft and hard, and most of all, not to eat from other people's bowls!

Saber is pointing to the big bear



Isaiah is making sure each bear has the right size bed, bowl and chair



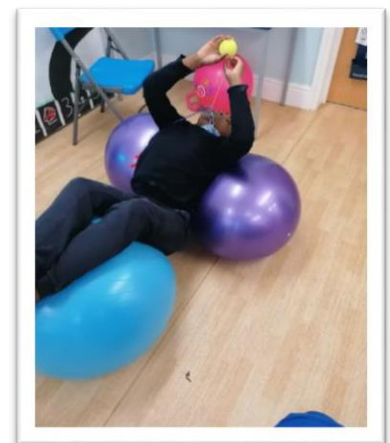
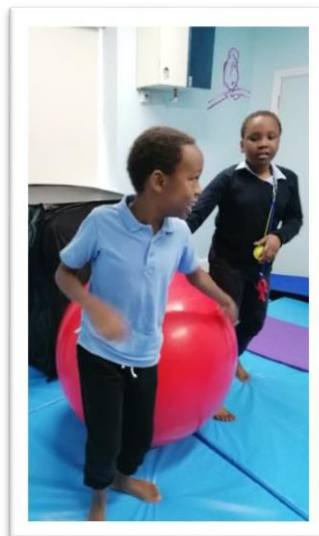
International Woman's Day and Chinese New Year was celebrated with our arts and crafts!



Oh, and we also love to clean up our room!!!!



However, most of all, we love to enjoy ourselves and just sit back and relax!



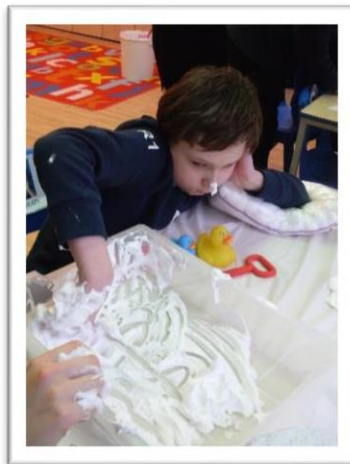
Hampstead class

What an interesting term it has been for Hampstead Class! Firstly, I would like to say welcome back to all the children and thank you to the families who would took the time to join in with our Good Morning virtual calls. It was a pleasure to see those who were learning from home.

In class, we used the ever-changing weather to guide our Literacy learning and explored mark making with different implements and sensory strategies. Here you can see us painting rainbows and using foam as snow to make horizontal and vertical marks.



We have been using Jack and the Beanstalk as our inspiration for Science and Numeracy and have been trying to grow our own beanstalks; we counted from one to five adding beans to our makeshift plant pots and have been watching them grow, never forgetting to water them. We also counted to five on our fingers while making hand pictures for our class displays.



We have been taking weekly trips to Stationers Park, which all the learners look forward to, and we hope to go more once the weather picks up.

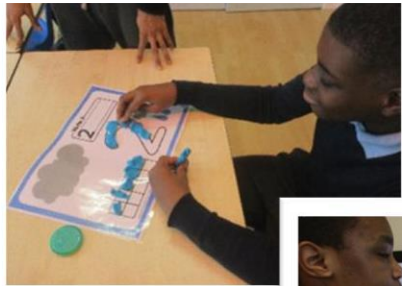
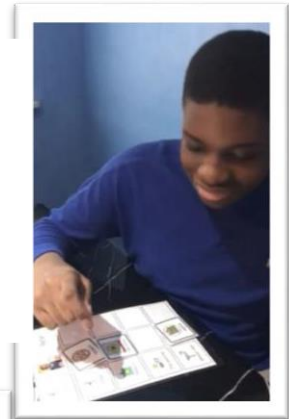
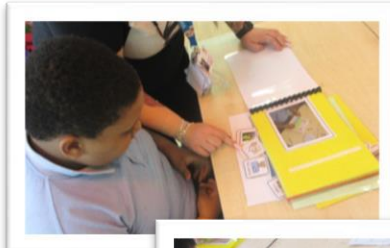


Paddington Class

We have been missing our learners here at Kestrel and we are pleased to have a full class again. We are so proud of our learners doing their work at home.

In Literacy we have been reading stories that relate with our term topic 'Once Upon A Time' and we have been creating story books based on Paddington class which include our team going on trips and photo albums of the learners to recognise each other and the activities they are doing.

In Maths we have been counting raindrops, practising writing numbers, and using play dough to recognise the shapes of numbers and counting.



In Science, we have been doing puzzles to stick and copy pictures. All learners really enjoyed this and did it independently.



Pancake Day was fun! We made pancakes and sold them to the Kestrel house family.

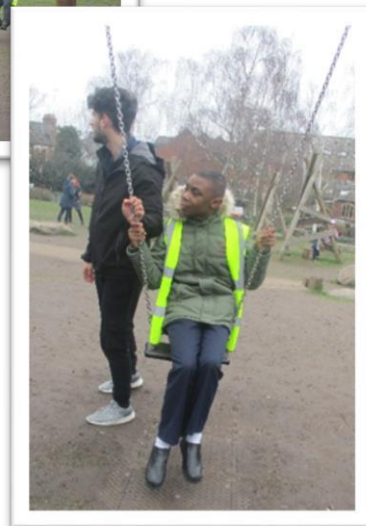


We have been to Stationers Park and had lots of fun on the swings, slides and roundabouts! So lovely to see all of Paddington class together and enjoying the outdoors.

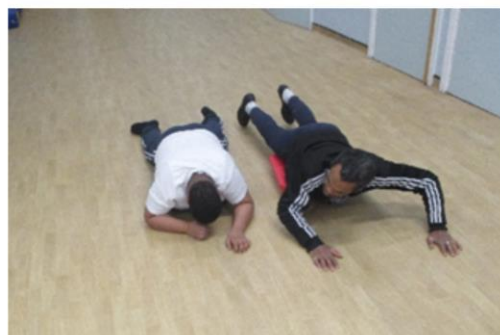


Mark and Medhane enjoyed playing on the swings.

While it was the lockdown, we had great independent trips to the post office, to send work home for our learners who were learning from home. Mark and Medhane became the best postmen that Crouch End has ever seen! We have also been to the shops to buy groceries and our ingredients for cooking. Using their PECS to pick the groceries from the list.



Paddington class have been working really hard and engaging well in PE. Seeing a lot of improvement in strength and engagement in PE. Paddington class has also been doing yoga sessions each morning. It has been lovely to see the learners relaxed and progressing in their yoga poses.



Victoria Class

During this different spring term, in Victoria Class we stayed safe and we did really fun activities.

In Victoria Class, we had spring bucket, it was really interesting. We were really focused and we enjoyed the third stage the most where we got to have a go and take turns!



We loved the P.E games, mainly "Olly, Olly Octopus". We ran and chased our friends. It was really funny to wear the octopus costume!



Hezron watering seeds to grow plants during Bucket

In Numeracy, we worked in sizes and measures. We enjoyed identifying the sizes on daily objects and toys, such as Legos, plates and cups.



Hezron identifying "same and different" objects and tiny, small, big and huge



We celebrated the "World Book Day" on the 4th of March. We wore costumes related to our sensory stories. Our parents cooked a lovely book cake and we celebrated a party in our classroom.

In Science, we have been working on animals through sensory stories, such as "The Lion King". Now, we are familiar with nature, wildlife, and animal habitats.



Westminster class

Westminster class have been working hard this term. This term our topic has been 'Once upon a time'.

We have been using our creative skills to make a mask for our sensory story. We have been looking at the 'The Three little pigs'

After we read our sensory story about the 'The Three little pigs' we have been using our PECS and colourful semantics to comprehend what is happening in the photo and story.



Sabir and Yuki are decorating paper plates to make pigs for The Three little pig story.



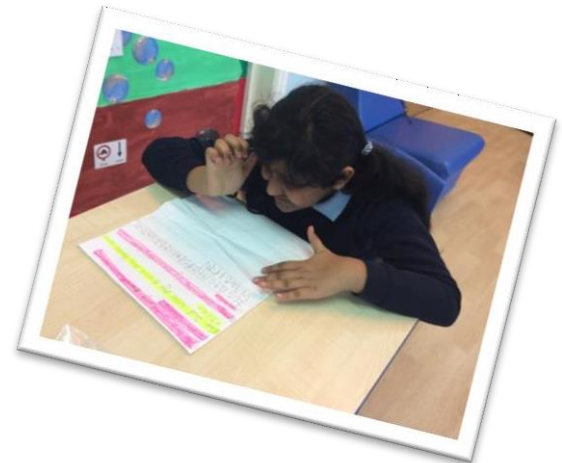
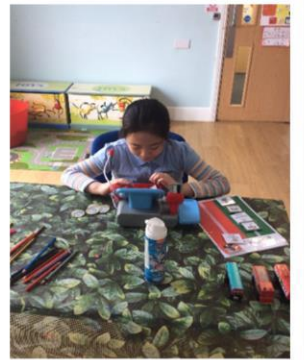
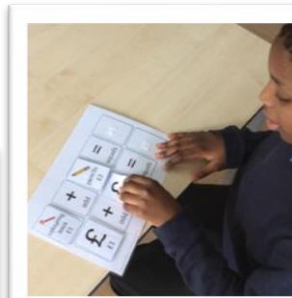
Yuki has been exploring the story of 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' he has also been practicing his life and independent skills by washing the dishes and chopping fruit for his porridge.



For world book day we dressed up as our favourite Disney characters from Moana. The children also joined in too. Leading up to world book day we also decorated headbands to wear.

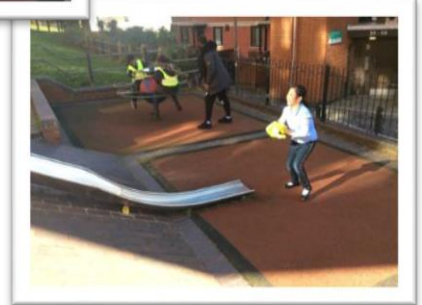
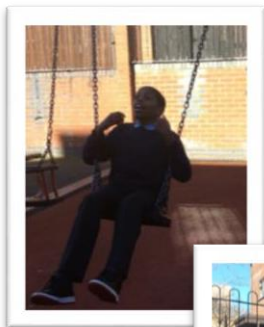
Pimlico class

In Numeracy this term, we have been learning all about money. We have been adding together different amounts as well as learning about exchange in a real life setting. We have our own shop in the classroom where we can role-play; as well as going on weekly outings to the shop to put our skills into practise.



In Literacy, we have been using colourful semantics to retell parts of different sensory stories. We have also been learning to write captions from stories as well as our names.

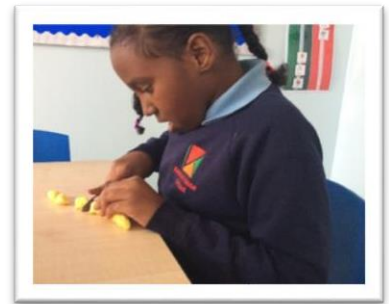
Now that the weather is getting nicer, we have loved going for walks and playing in the park! We love going on the swings and going down the slide.



In Science, we have been learning all about habitats and where different animals live. We have done this in a practical way as well as using paper and Velcro to help us show our understanding. We cannot wait for lockdown to be over so we can go and see some in real life!



This term we have been learning to use a knife and fork more efficiently! We use putty to help us practise, by rolling out the putty and then cutting it. We have also made toast and use our new skills then to help us.



We had great fun washing the cars while achieving one of our AQA awards!



Getting creative and ready for Easter and our visit from the chicks!



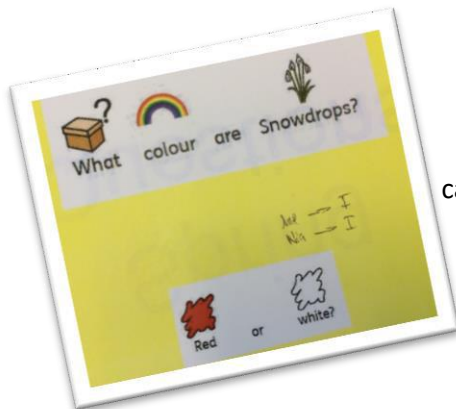
Waterloo Class

Waterloo class have been learning about all about spring season this term. Our learners have been able to grasp new vocabulary and they are able to relate spring to the other seasons in the year.



Waterloo class have been

conducting a Planting project; they chose to grow radishes, they potted seeds and watched them grow. They have also been learning about the lifecycle of plants; they have completed related sequencing and captioning exercises.



Waterloo class have also completed comprehension exercises in class, so that we can see how much they have learned. All of the learners were able to show us that they have developed a clear understanding of spring.



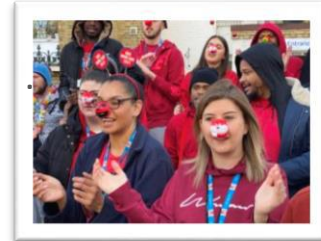
In Waterloo class, we had been reading 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. All the way through the spring term, the learners have enjoyed sensory stories, but their favourite has been 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. On World Book Day, the staff dressed as some of the characters from the story (including the Beanstalk itself) and the learners also helped, by acting out some of the characters. They have also been able to complete comprehension exercises, and have shown that they understand the story very well.



Events

Comic Relief 2021

What a spectacular day we had for Comic Relief 2021! We started the day off with our staff performing a Makaton version of 'Can't Stop The Feeling' by Justin Timberlake for passer-by's. The learners came in red to match the staff and we continued the celebrations with various fundraisers around the We raised over £500 during the day, the most Kestrel House School has ever made! Thank you all for making it such a special day.



Hampstead class created stickers for their fundraising efforts! Selling at 20p each. The learners could choose which colour they wanted using their PECs Symbols.



Angel class sold Ice Cream from out their playground doors
The learners could request what toppings they wanted using their PECs symbols and enjoyed the ice cream in the playground.



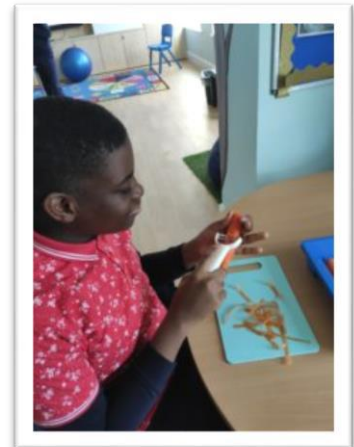
The learners in Pimlico Class became Car Washers for the afternoon! it was a joy to see them all playing with the soapy water and working as a team to get through the vehicles in the staff car.



Westminster class decorated their own Rich Tea biscuits to sell to the staff and other learners.



Paddington class blended up a storm by making fresh smoothies using produce donated by the local community.



Waterloo class hosted their own football match! Any learner and any member of staff could join in with the fun.

World Book Day 2021

World Book Day 2021 was a big day for us at Kestrel. Many of our favourite book characters visited us, including the witch and animals from 'Room on a Broom', Snow White, The Mad Hatter, Willy Wonka and the crew from Moana! The learners loved to see all the staff dressed up and made for an unforgettable day for everyone!



LGBTQ+ History Month

We believe that all of our learners deserve a right to express themselves however they want to and that they have a right to understand diversity and identity. We celebrated Pride month at Kestrel this term by creating pride flags for our displays and windows. Angel Class made a LGBTQ rainbow in Bucket time.



Family Liaison



This term has been very different as I am sure you will all agree, but it has been amazing to see our learners cope through these challenging times. I have been working on supporting families by looking into what is available in their areas for our learners to access while they are on school holidays for example play schemes.

I have been working on holding a Kestrel Family Nest meeting. This may have to be online through Microsoft teams. I am looking into holding meetings in smaller groups and within your areas.

I have also been working with Lorna on organising events to raise money for the school and to celebrate World Autism Awareness Week.

World Autism Awareness week is from Monday 29th March until Sunday 4th April. Classes will be doing activities in school but we are looking into doing an event when we get back in the first week of the summer term.

In the summer term we will be working towards the Summer Fair which will be on June 26th. I would like to get as many families involved from to help take part either by supporting with stalls on the day or coming up with ideas of what we can sell. If you have a craft you would like to show off like knitting, painting, cooking please let me know.

I do hope that we will have everyone taking part. We always have such a fun time at our events and all our learners and our families deserve some fun.

Please keep a look out on our School website's Fun Zone for videos of our Assistant Head,

Occupational Therapy

'During the pandemic we have continued to explore the use of Yoga with certain individuals as part of their OT provision at Kestrel House School. This is to help them to feel relaxed and regulated during school; learning meaningful new motor skills sequences and calming techniques through this powerful practice. This has been through 1:1 and group sessions led by the OT, and some of the teachers have also started to integrate Yoga practice into their timetables in the morning or throughout the day to promote a 'just right' level of arousal and a sense of well-being for the learners.

Next steps will include increasing the amount of groups the OT offers as part of the week; so that more learners who really benefit from Yoga can have access it. It will also include finding ways to embed breathing and yoga posture practice into the day with the teachers. Furthermore, the OT will be putting some helpful Yoga practice tutorials to follow at home on the school website under 'OT TV' so that parents can try out some of this at home!'



Speech and Language



This term the Speech and Language Therapist has been supporting the learners with understanding and learning new vocabulary relating to seasonal events e.g. Spring, Valentine's Day, Pancake Tuesday and Easter. The learners have been accessing stories which are broken down using colourful semantics to simplify the language and teach new characters, people's names, verbs and vocabulary.

The Speech and Language Therapist has also provided SCERTs training for the whole staff team over 6 sessions. The whole team has now received SCERTs training and participated in the relevant assessments throughout the course. We have started to make plans to further implement the SCERTs model throughout the school.

