

Head Teacher Message



Dear Parent/Carer

We have come to the end of another fantastic year at Kestrel. From where we started in January, the school has undergone a period of transformation.

We could not have done this without our fabulous staff. This term, we have had so many new faces join the Kestrel Family, and those who are with us have supported us in delivering positive outcomes for every single learner. You have been true advocates for autism, and I am proud of what we have achieved since September.

This newsletter will show you how much we have managed to pack in this term. Where do I start? I will leave you to find out from your class news items.

This is just the beginning. Next year we look forward to celebrating Chines New Year, Valentine's Day and World Book Day to name but a few.

I am so proud of what our learners have achieved and look forward to seeing them continue with their journey.

I would like to wish you all a wonderful break and see you all on 4th January 2023!

Best

Lorna



Angel class

We have been having lots of fun this term in Angel class



Angel and Victoria Class went on the boat trip at Paddington. They explored nature, the movement of the boat and seeing the public. The trip not only did bring such positivity, but the children showed interest and anticipation towards the whole trip.



During wild science, Angel class were happy to see different and extraordinary animals from chinchillas, snakes and beyond. The children were showing excitement, happiness, and delight throughout the Wild Science. This activity allowed children to touch the animals and their textures. Some of them held the animals, which brought joy to the activity.



Angel class went on a trip to Priory Park we took the bus and learnt about using oyster cards to pay for the journey. But most of all we had lots of fun in the park.



We ended the term with a trip to London Zoo with Victoria Class. Although it was a bit cold, we had lots of fun looking at all the different animals





Victoria Class

Victoria class have been doing lots of learning, exploring and most of all having fun.

In literacy we have had fun with our sensory story about farm animals. We made our own farm display in creativity as well

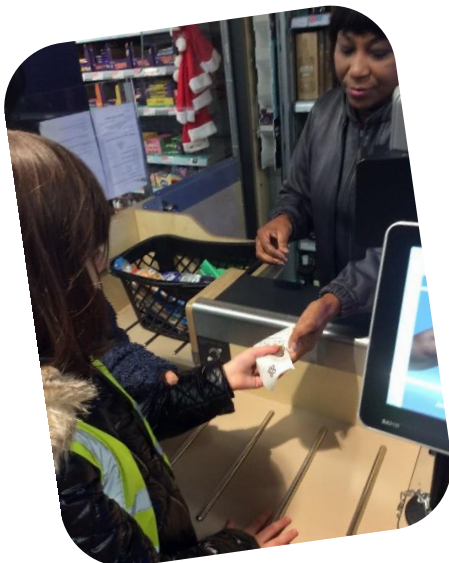


We have been going on lots of different trips using different methods of transport such as walking, cabs, busses, and trains. We went to the Farm, London Zoo, to the shops and to the park.



Victoria class have been doing food exploration. We have been exploring different healthy foods.

We go to the shop to buy our healthy snack, following our green and red strip, finding our food, and paying for our shopping.





Pimlico class

The theme this term was 'Proud to be me' and in Pimlico class we have built our lessons around this. In Literacy we have learnt about likes and dislikes during the sensory story and explored our own tastes too, with things such as grapes, vinegar, and crackers



We have also created lots of artworks during the Topic and Art lessons which celebrate being proud of ourselves. We have created rainbow art and collages as well as a big sunshine window painting in the classroom.



In numeracy we have learnt about coins and values and have visited the shops to practice using coins outside of the school. In science we have been trying out different experiments around colours, making playdough and more.



We have also been on some trips to the park this term as well as many walks in the community. Pimlico Class have also enjoyed celebrating Jeans for Genes Day, Black History Month, Children in need and Diwali.





Westminster class

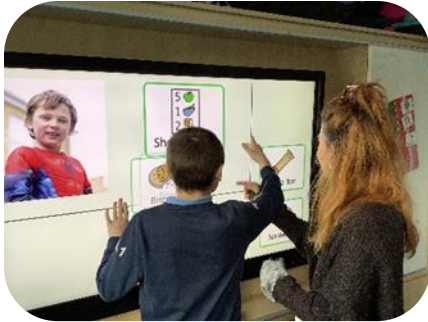
During Creativity lessons, the learners in Westminster class have done art activities, to celebrate different events across the term. Events such as “Black History Month”, “Jeans for Genes” and “Children in Need”. They really enjoyed and engaged in these sessions and participated actively.



During Numeracy lessons, the learners have enjoyed Attention Autism Activities, to improve their attention and anticipation when something familiar and exiting is going to happen. The learners love these group activities and can demonstrate that they can watch, be engaged and participate during the sessions.



The sensory stories in Westminster class during this term have been: "Welcome back to School", "Shopping Story", "Halloween Story", "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" and "Christmas Story". All learners in the class love the stories. They like to interact with the variety of sensory input and they feel very calm and relax, using those strategies which help them to regulate.



The favourite activity for the learners in Westminster class is always cooking. We have done a lot of recipes using healthy food this term. Cous cous, salads, cakes and pizza have been very popular. The learners had the opportunity to explore and develop their communication skills using their PECs, to request the ingredients they needed.





Paddington Class

Paddington class have been working hard this term. This term our topic has been 'Proud to be me'. We've done lots of exciting work in life skills, topic, science, and creativity!



Azaan decorated his world picture. Paddington have been learning about the different countries they are from.



Angel coloured in a flag as part of our Black History Month celebrations.



Najma made smoothies in life skills. In Paddington we are learning to make healthy choices.

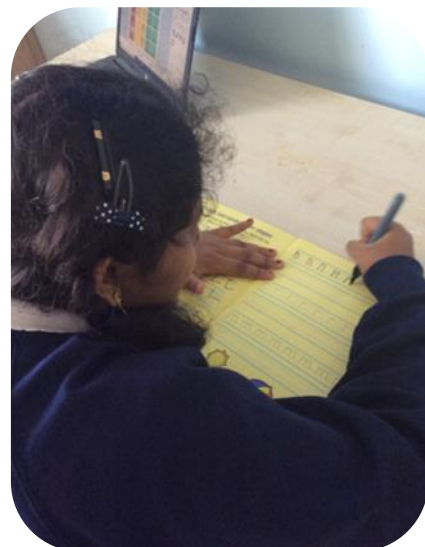
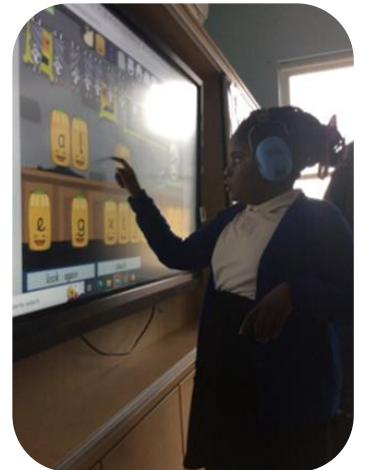


Somika sold biscuits and flags in our Black History Month bake sale.

This term in Numeracy Paddington class have been working hard on turn taking and addition and subtraction. We are proud of the progress everyone in Paddington has made in Numeracy this term.



Paddington class have been working on lots of different things in literacy this term. We've done lots of reading, writing, and typing and have been trying hard to increase our independence in Literacy.





Hampstead class

In Numeracy this term, we have been studying numbers 1-10 and enjoying lots of activities to play at the whiteboard or at our desks. We have used different resources to help us with our learning.



In Literacy, we have been studying Rosie's Walk by Pat Hutchins. We have been writing words from the story using pen and answering questions filling in the missing gaps about where Rosie or the fox are. We have also practiced pen grip and handwriting control.

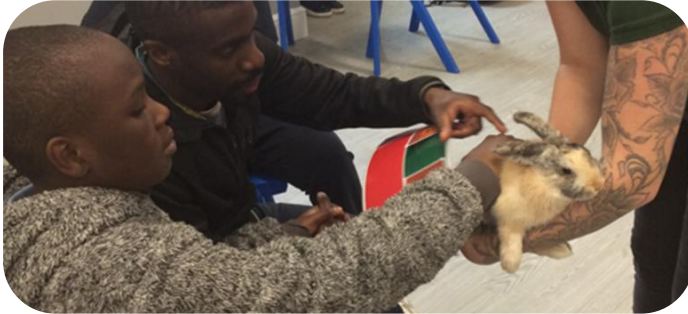


In Science, we have been investigating spaghetti structures and rocket mice! It has been fun building shapes and making rockets to fly. We shared our rockets in Assembly in front of other class communities.





We had great fun with visits from Wild Science and traditional African drumming.



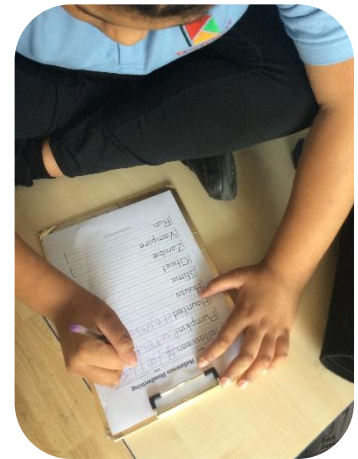
It was lovely to have the Fire Engine visiting Kestrel House again. We sat in the Fire Engine, and we used a water hose.





Waterloo Class

In Literacy this term we have been practicing our reading, writing and comprehension. We have read a range of stories about ourselves, our favourite things and what makes us all unique, as well as reading stories related to events such as our trip to the London Transport Museum, Black History Month, the World Cup and Christmas!



In Numeracy Waterloo Class have been learning about 3D shapes and their properties, patterns and have also been practicing our addition and subtraction through playing games with our friends using Lego. We also held a cake sale for MacMillan where some of us helped to serve the cakes and take money for charity!





In science we have taken part in a range of experiments to see what reactions may happen when we add different things too each other. Our favourite experiment was when we made Lemon Volcanoes using Baking Soda. The school also had a visit from *Wild Science* and we loved meeting and petting different animals.



We have worked on several class art projects over the term to create finished products as a class. We made a multisensory tree for our Autumn display which used lots of different textures and art materials. We also made Paper Mache world cups that we are excited to take home and show to our families.



We have loved all the different visitors that have come to the school this term, particularly the fire brigade and the African drumming workshop. We have also gone on some fun trips into our local community and to the park.





P.S.H.E

Our learners have been having so much fun in Physical Wellbeing since coming back to school in September! We're continuing to develop our fine motor skills using our sensory circuit in each lesson.

We've a range of new resources to keep our learners active, engaged and interested, such as a bubble machine, various sized hula hoops, and different sized and textured balls.

In lots of our Physical Wellbeing sessions, we are going on community walks to get our steps up and going to parks with equipment that the learners can enjoy whilst still being physically active.

Positive peer interaction is important in Kestrel house, so group games such as parachute, follow the leader and the games choosing mat are still being offered to learners.

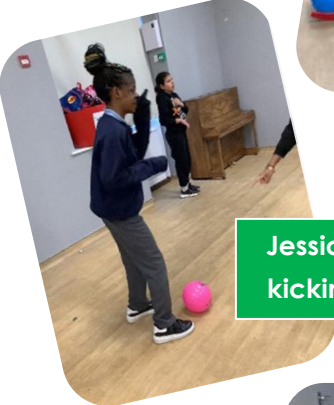
We've also now introduced a healthy snack time in our sessions, to help our learners make healthy choices and explore different foods.



Medhane choosing a healthy snack



Waterloo class playing 'find the colour' together.



Jessica practising her kicking skills



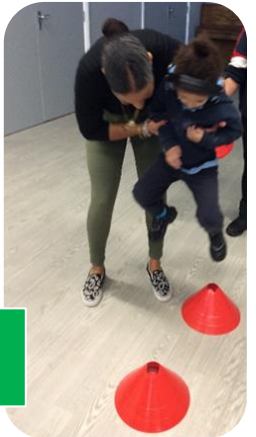
Azaan using a hockey stick to move a ball.



Yuki collecting balls that have been hung from different heights.



Abby doing feelings check in at the beginning of our lesson.



Buddy practising his jumping skills.

Life skills

This term in Life skills our learners have continued to focus on developing their self-help skills by following different recipes. We have focused on making healthy breakfast recipes such as fruit salad, porridge, oat biscuits and fruit/veg muffins.

During life skills learners were encouraged to develop a range of fine motor skills such as chopping, peeling, stirring, mashing and grating. Some learners also regularly took part in a role-play shop and were encouraged to use money in a functional way by buying different items and ingredients.



Najma paying for her ingredients



Azaan stirring the oat biscuit mixture

Medhane adding his chopped fruit to his porridge



Yuki peeling his carrot to make carrot muffins



Additionally, this term our learners have celebrated SMSC and cultural events such as Black History Month and Christmas by making recipes related to the event such as making jollof rice, plantain, and cinnamon rolls.

Arinze is spreading butter on bread and Meer is making the Sugar and cinnamon mix for the cinnamon rolls





Wellbeing

During the Autumn Term of 2022, the Occupational therapist (OT), with the help of the Therapies Assistants (TAs), continued 1:1 therapy sessions and small therapy group.

We have continued to provide structured and motivating physical play opportunities for the learners on the playground this term. This had been led by staff trained by the OT. A range of resources and structured activities are offered daily to the learners, to make playground use fun and promote learning opportunities and regulation (e.g., dancing, tag of war, calming time).



The OT continues to provide Yoga in school to some of the learners, to support their development of their regulation and motor skills. These sessions can help the learners to self-regulate and they can use their Yoga skills on the classroom as well.

We have been supporting the learners in working toward their self-care targets by setting up weekly groups and programmes they can carry on doing with their teachers throughout the school year. The groups/programmes may help to develop self-care skills such as shoe lacing, tooth brushing or engagement in personal hygiene routines



The OT is continuing to offer blocks of 1:1 sessions to specific learners who may require more support to explore and establish certain strategies. Alongside use of the sensory swing, the OT has been supporting learners and their teams in using a new vibrating plate in the soft playroom

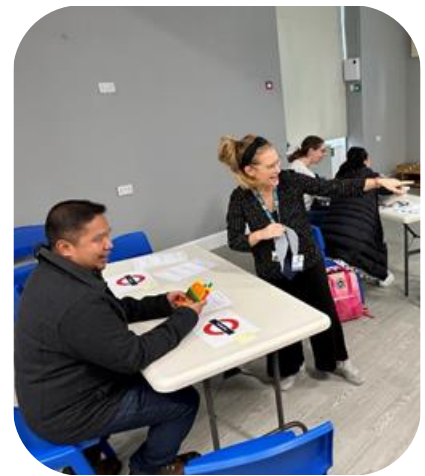
Family Nest

This term has been a very busy one and has been packed full of lots of fun activities. We have hosted our first Kestrel Family Nest since the beginning of lockdown 2020.

It was an amazing success and great to see so many familiar and new faces. We will be running every half-term so please keep a look out in the Home/School books for the letters.

These sessions are going to be focused on Occupational Therapy and Makaton, Speech, and Language & Social meet ups each session will be packed with vital information, so it is important that as many families/carers attend as possible.

In our first session we focused on Makaton and Occupational Therapy and have given us crucial feedback and what you would like us to focus on for the future sessions.





Events

We have been celebrating lots of different events this term including, Black History month, Jeans for Genes, Remembrance Day, Diwali and many more. We also had our annual visit from Father Christmas

Have a look at all the fun things we have done.





MAKING A DIFFERENCE EVERY DAY

