



Headteacher Message



Dear Kestrel House Families,

Kestrel House always makes me so proud. Our journey just seems to get better. In September, we celebrated the new staff joining the school, so the team has continued to grow from strength to strength as we continue into the spring term.

We are pleased with the work that we have done in raising the profile of our planning so that it is even more personalised to every learner. This has been enriched by the many trips and visits each class has made to the local community and beyond. There are so many fabulous pictures throughout the newsletter, which shows that.

World Autism Awareness is always a highlight. This year, our learners have been on trips to the London Aquarium and, for the first time, The London Eye.

So many of our Londoners don't get to have such a fantastic opportunity to visit world-famous attractions however, Kestrel House did!

So now that the clocks have gone forward, we can welcome brighter and warmer weather. This is where even more fun starts.

I look forward to seeing you in the summer term, and for those of you who will be sending your child to the Easter Camp on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th of April, thank you! They will have so much fun.

A huge thank you finally to all of the Kestrel House Team. You continue to be fabulous. You have been brilliant and worked incredibly hard throughout our OFSTED inspection. Well done!

To everyone, have a wonderful break, and of course, stay safe!

PS; I welcome Easter eggs of any variety!



Angel class

Throughout spring term, we have been exploring the theme 'grow, grow, grow' across the curriculum. We have been focusing on changes to our bodies as we grow older, changes to animals, and even the growth of plants.

We have been learning about the animal life cycle, matching visuals of baby animals and adult animals.



During PSHE, we have been learning and labelling our body parts as well as discussing what 'private areas' are. Children are beginning to learn how they can safely protect themselves and their bodies.



We have been making the most of our community and have been taking learning outside. We have engaged in number and phonics finding activities in relation to our classroom activity. Throughout our community walks, we have focused to road safety and will continue to do this throughout summer term.



in science we have been reading the sensory story 'A Tiny Seed' by Eric Carle. We then planted our own seed and watched it grow.



Victoria Class

This term Victoria class have had lots of fun, engaging and exploring different foods, textures and letter sounds including sss, aaa, ttt,



In literacy we have been reading lots of different books as a class and 1:1 and we have been starting to explore phonics



In maths we have been recognising numbers and matching amounts, using different materials.

We even went on a walk to find numbers in the community.



In science we have been learning how to plant seeds. We planted cress seeds and have enjoyed watching them grow.



We have especially enjoyed our trips to the park.



Pimlico class

The theme this term was 'grow, grow, grow'. In Pimlico class we have been celebrating this theme in different ways.



In science we have been learning all about planting and what helps seeds to grow.



Our art and bucket time sessions have included lots of artwork around flowers and collages with natural materials we have picked up on our weekly community walks.



In numeracy we have been looking at the story '10 little friends' to help us learn and recognise numbers 1-10. We have also been doing some numeracy activities around the theme of 'grow, grow, grow'.



we have been focusing a lot on reading this term, we have created a cosy corner within our classroom with beanbags and blankets for our learners to engage with books in.

Westminster class

Westminster Class have been working hard this term on our topic 'Grow, Grow, Grow'



During literacy lessons, we have been reading sensory stories such as 'The Leaf Man' and 'Dora Explorer'. We like sensory stories because there are things we can touch and listen to. We also have lots of opportunities to read in our reading corner, where we can develop and improve skills such as comprehension, attention and interaction with adults and learners.



We have been enjoying Bucket Time in all different parts of the school.



In PSHE lessons we have been doing activities like cooking, where we can practice chopping, mixing, and following a recipe. We enjoy the activity 'washing the baby', where we can practice cleaning with water and soap and brushing the baby's teeth. We really like outings in the community especially playing on the park.





In Science and art, we have been doing activities like painting flowers and learning how to grow a plant by filling a plant pot with soil, a seed and use a watering can feed the plant. It has been exciting to watch our seed sprout and grow.



We have been working on our sensory regulation. We are practicing requesting different tools to help us get ready to learn and stay calm. We enjoy using the foot spa, trampoline, yoga balls, fidget toys, massages with oil and deep pressure as well as sessions like TACPAC and Soft Play Therapy.



We are always exposed to ways we can communicate such as symbols, PECs book, core communication mat and timetables. We practice using these every day. This gives us the opportunity to be more independent.



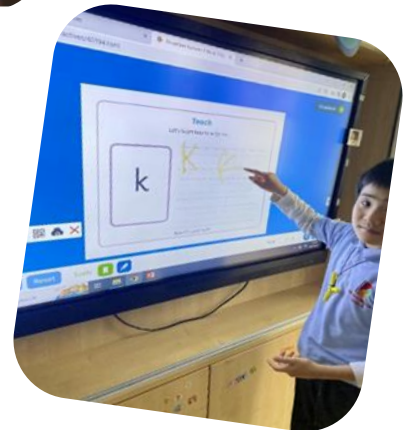
Paddington Class

Paddington class have been working hard this term. Our topic has been 'Grow, Grow, Grow'.

Paddington class have been doing lots of experiments in science and learning about how plants and humans grow. Here we are creating a mini eco system in a bottle, changing the colour of flowers by putting food colouring in the water, and ordering the life cycle of a plant. It has



In Literacy we have been reading a new poem called "Five Little Flowers" and working hard in our phonics lessons. Here we are reading our class poem and finding the missing words. We have also had lots of fun trips to the library to read and explore the sensory room. We have been working hard on our writing and typing skills.



In Maths we have been focusing on number, understanding more and less, doing lots of addition and subtraction and ordering numbers. Here we are using money at our 'Paddington Shop'.





In RSE we have been doing lots of important learning about our bodies, boundaries, how to keep safe, and who is a safe adult. It's very important that we learn about these things as we grow.



In Art we have been making lots of wonderful things and have sold some of these things around school. We celebrated Ghanaian Independence Day by creating our own Kente clothing and pictures that we sold at our 'Paddington Shop'.

We have also made different habitats in art, here we are making an underwater habitat. It has been lots of fun!

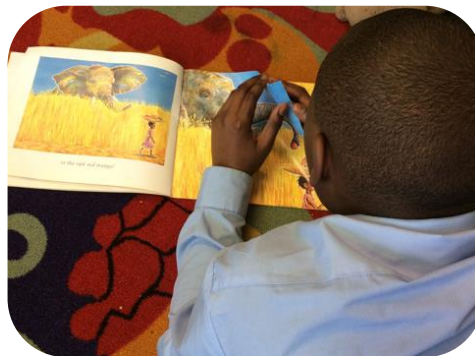


Hampstead class

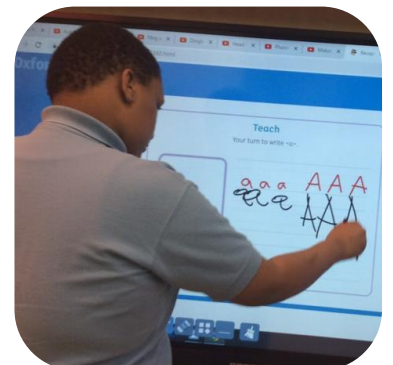
We have been working hard this term in Hampstead Class.



In Numeracy this term, we have continued to look at the numbers 1-10. Enjoying lots of activities at the whiteboard and our desks. We have used different resources to help.

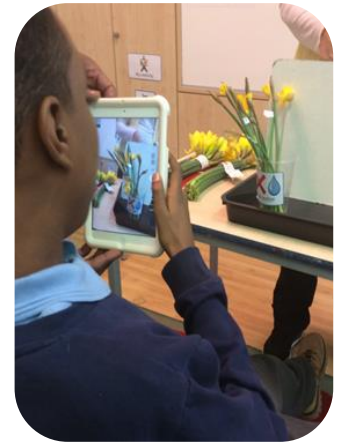


In Literacy, we have worked with two sensory stories this term. A story based on The Little Red Hen and Meg's Veg. We have started to read more, and we have also practiced pen grip and handwriting control as we write sentences from our stories or storybooks. We have started phonics lessons too. So far, we have looked at the sounds sss, aaa, ttt, ppp.





In Science, we have been investigating growing cress, growing daffodil flowers in different water mixture, and growing gummy bears in different water mixture. We have also made noisy balloons grow blowing them up with a coin inside.



We have been showing how we are growing each day with our learning achievements.

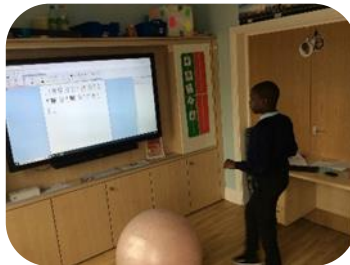
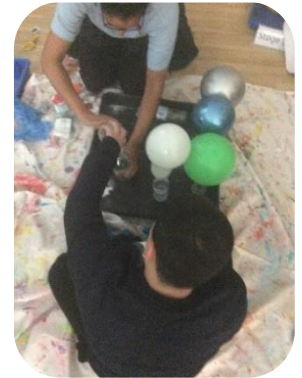


Waterloo Class

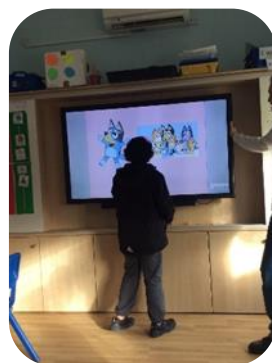
This term the theme has been Grow, Grow, Grow. In Waterloo class we have incorporated this by learning about the different shapes, sizes and how things change over time.



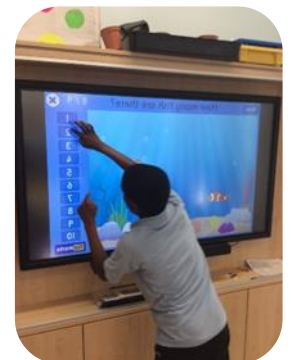
In Waterloo we have done experiments with vinegar and baking soda to see the reaction and how we use it to blow up balloons. The pupils have also deseeded a pepper, planted the seeds and watered them through the term and watched for any changes.



In Literacy the pupils have been reading the story "It starts with a seed", they have been doing this with support from an LSA. Some pupils have also been working on touch typing on the whiteboard and copying from a sheet to write a sentence. We have also been doing phonics and working on pronunciations.



In Numeracy we have mainly been focusing on more and less, We have been able to answer the questions of which has more or less.



P.S.H.E

The new year has started off well in Physical Wellbeing. The learners have started the year filled with curiosity and have been a lot more inquisitive during the P.E sessions. We are continuing where we left off last term and are continuing to develop our fine motor skills with various activities and the use of the sensory circuit in each lesson.



Azan is using the sensory circuit independently.



Yuki using the sensory circuit with support.



We also have been playing group games to help our learners learn how to have positive interactions with each other. We have been playing, football, throwing and catching, parachute and follow the leader. We have been practicing taking turns and cheering on our friends.



We use different equipment to continue to make progress with our fine and gross motor skills.



This term in Life skills our learners have continued to focus on developing their daily living skills taking part in food preparation and domestic skills. Our learners focused on making healthy lunch recipes this term such as making vegetable/meat kebab sticks, pizza roll ups, omelettes, and vegetable/meat wraps.

During life skills learners were encouraged to develop a range of fine motor skills such as chopping, mixing, stirring, grating, pinching, scooping, frying and rolling. Learners were also encouraged to take part in domestic up activities such as washing up, drying dishes, wiping surfaces such as tables and chairs and sweeping the floor. 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. Additionally, this term our learners have celebrated SMSC and cultural events such as pancake day and Easter by making pancakes and rocky road cakes.





Wellbeing

During this Spring Term, the Well-Being team continued delivering therapy at a specialist level (1:1 therapy sessions), enhanced level (individual programmes, equipment, or small therapy groups) and a universal level (whole school/class strategies and approaches).

Enhanced OT:

This Spring Term, we have continued to provide Yoga to certain learners, to support them to develop their regulation and motor skills. These sessions can help the learners to regulate themselves to be ready to learn and can be used in the classroom.



We have been working on several self-care tasks, including eating healthy, shoe lacing, zipping.

Specialist OT:

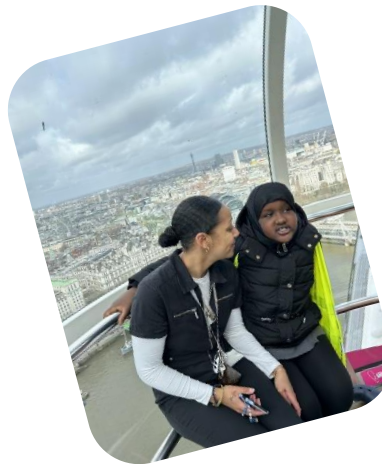
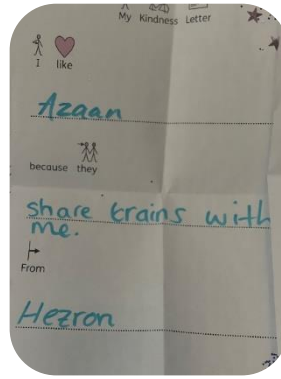
We continue to offer several blocks of 1:1 work to explore strategies to support the learners for example Swing sessions help our learners gain balance and control of their bodies. We have also been training members of staff to be able to use the swing as well so the learners can have use outside of their 1:1 session.



SMSC

We have been having lots of fun dressing up, having different people come to visit us, going on fun trips for Autism awareness week and celebrating all the different cultures we have at Kestrel House school. We also celebrated Children's Mental health awareness with a range of activities to promote regulation, well-being, and kindness.





MAKING A DIFFERENCE EVERY DAY

