



NEWSLETTER



Headteacher's Message



Wow, what a term we have had at Kestrel House School! Firstly, I would like to say a massive thank you to all the staff who supported our learners at our Easter Camp, it continues to grow from strength to strength every year.

Towards the very end of the Spring Term we finally received a long awaited inspection from Ofsted. I am so proud to say that Ofsted were hugely impressed with everything that we do at Kestrel House School, and we were rated as an 'Outstanding' school. I want to thank every member of our staff team for their dedicated hard work, it is our teamwork and shared vision for our learners that have led us to this outcome.

This term, our theme has been: 'Kestrelville', where our classes have been learning about different jobs and careers, in school and in our local community. You will see how much fun the classes have had learning about this topic through sensory and motivating activities. One of our strengths as a school is developing our learner's independence in the local community.

As the weather warmed up, the paddling pools came out. Classes splashed and cooled themselves down with lots of laughter. Classes celebrated Ramadan and Pride this term, to show how diverse our society is, and how we at Kestrel House School celebrate everyone. We had our annual Summer Fayre, where there were lots to do and eat. It was great to see families, friends and neighbours enjoy themselves, and the weather was on our side too. It has been a fun filled end of the year with lots of trips out to Willow's Activity Farm, The London Eye, Sweet Tree Farm, and many more.

It is always an emotional time when we have to say goodbye to some of our learners who will be transitioning to new schools. The learners that are leaving us will be missed, we will always be so proud of them, and they have all made amazing progress.

Unfortunately, we will also be saying goodbye to some of our fabulous staff, who are moving on to pastures new this term:

Sam Winter – SMSC and Enrichment Lead / Pupil Admin, will be leaving us after the amazing work he has done at Kestrel House School ensuring all our learners have access to a wide breadth of experiences. Sam is generally the first point of contact for our families and has done this with a big smile on his face. We wish him all the best in his new job.

Bosco Gonzales Perez – Victoria Class Community Lead. Bosco has been an asset leading Victoria Class for the past two years. He is passionate and cares so much about the learners. We wish him all the best in his new school.

Jennifer Mutumba – LSA. Jennifer joined us from an agency this year. Her calming approach and passion shined through, and she will be missed by the learners and the school community. She will be leaving us to study at university.

Sofia Spartaco – Autism Practitioner. Sofia has been at Kestrel House for over a year in Westminster Class. This is not a goodbye but a 'see you later' as she will be going on maternity leave.

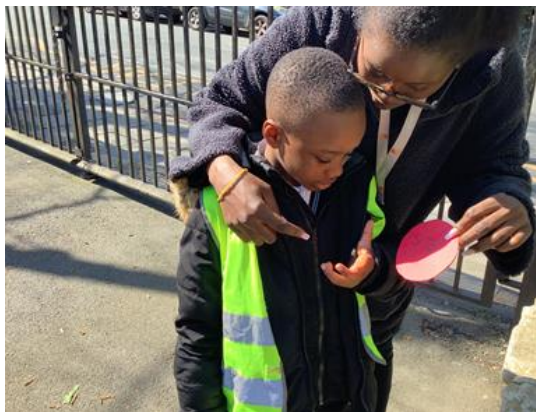
Finally, all that is left for me to say is to wish you all a great summer break! See you all on Monday 4th September 2023.

Angel Class

Throughout this term, Angel Class has been exploring and participating in the 'Kestrelville' theme, where they have been learning about an array of different roles and professions, all of which reflected their strengths and passions, whilst also teaching them key skills.



One job Angel Class explored was: Lollypop person (or School Crossing Operative). Through exploring this profession, Angel Class were able to continue learning about road safety, which they started last term. The children created their own stop and go signs which they took out on their walks into the community. Before each crossing, Angel Class practiced 'waiting, watching and walking' and used their newly made signs to safely cross the road. Angel Class enjoyed exploring old and new routes whilst also demonstrating their newfound experience in road safety.



The road safety skills Angel Class practiced were again used on their trip to the London Eye. Using public transport, Angel Class were excited to get on board the bus and train, and had a great time using Oyster Cards independently. Upon arrival at the London Eye, Angel Class were ready to adopt their new role as photographers and explore the skills needed to do so. Although nervous at first, the children were excited when they were in their own pods, and once comfortable, they began taking their masterpieces from the best vantage point.

Victoria Class

During this term Victoria Class has been focused on careers. The children have been learning about different jobs and professions that are around us, while they have been working on their Literacy, Numeracy and Science.



We have become Post Office Workers! Making sure that no one misses their letters in our neighbourhood. We have been Chefs, creating our own special recipes, and Gardeners exploring different kinds of flowers and plants during our trips, and also planting our own seeds!



And, we cannot forget that Victoria Class were Photographers; going all around London taking amazing photos, and tested their photography skills while going on the London Eye! So, we packed our backpacks, packed our cameras and we travelled all the way, using public transport (London buses and the London Underground). We learnt a lot about how to be safe on public transport.

We have had so much fun!

Pimlico Class

In Pimlico Class we have made sure to get out and about to enjoy the sunshine! We took the London Overground to Kentish Town City Farm, we saw lots of animals and had so much fun on the train journey. We have had lots of fun trips to the park with: a picnic in Alexandra Palace, playing in the priory park paddling pool and celebrating a birthday in the park!

We had a visit from the local Police; we enjoyed trying on their uniforms and sitting in the Police car. We have been learning about life cycles in Science; how a caterpillar turns into a butterfly, we have also been learning about the life cycle of bees and looking at bees up close.



In Numeracy, we've been learning about 'Shape, Space and Measure'. This has involved learning about: height, weight, length, quantities, and distance. In Literacy, we've been working hard with Phonics; learning letter sounds, and matching them with words and objects.



Well done Pimlico Class!!

Westminster Class

During Literacy lessons, Westminster Class have been successfully engaging with Sensory Stories such as: 'Going on the Bus', 'The Farm Story' and 'Summer Holidays', where they can interact and explore different sensory inputs (e.g. textures, sounds). Also, an opportunity for reading is made available to them in the Reading Corner, where they can develop and improve skills such as comprehension, attention and interaction with adults and other learners.



In Westminster we have been exploring Numeracy through Attention Autism Bucket Time, where our learners are exposed to Numeracy based activities every day. All of our learners have been able to focus during these moments because we have based the activities on their strengths and interests. Our learners also love to access specific Numeracy songs and videos, and Art activities.





In Science lessons, Westminster Class have engaged in creative activities such as: making Sensory Bottles. We have also been working on Gardening; learning how to grow a plant, filling plant pots with soil, using a watering can, as well as watching the progress of sprouting seeds. In every Science lesson our learners have been able to focus on and interact with a variety of different experiments, objects and activities.



This year in Westminster Class, the learners have been working on Sensory Regulation. We have been learning how to make use of, or to request, various tools and strategies that promote self-regulation and can maintain a 'ready to learn' state. The learners have been using: the foot spa, trampoline, yoga balls, fidget toys, massages with oil, deep pressure on different parts of the body, as well as specific therapy sessions: TACPAC and Soft Play Therapy.

Paddington Class

This term in Paddington Class, we have been working really hard and focusing on the “Kestrelville” theme! We have been Builders and Footballers in Numeracy lessons, Astronauts and Gardeners in Science lessons, Police Officers and Firefighters in Literacy, and Chefs in Life Skills!

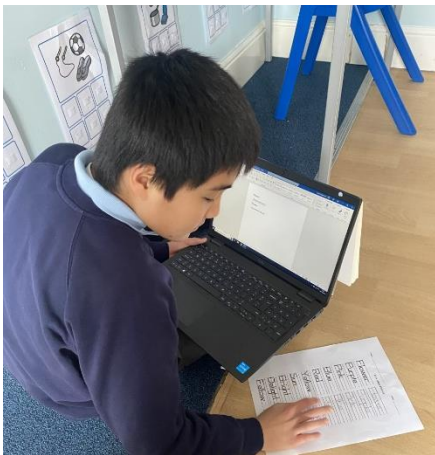
Paddington Class have also been enjoying the sun this term and have gone on lots of different trips, including weekly trips to the swimming pool and our end of year trip to Willow’s Activity Farm.



In Numeracy this term we have been working on measuring different sizes and quantities. All of the learners are able to measure items with a ruler and are able to differentiate between big/small, heavy/light, and tall/short. We have also been learning how to follow directions to get to places in the local community. Paddington Class have been able to follow directions to get to the park, the library, and the shops.



In Literacy this term we've been learning about all sorts of different careers and using our Literacy learning in Science and Creativity. Paddington Class have been working really hard on their reading and communication skills and have been doing great work with phonics!!



Well done Paddington Class!

Hampstead Class

In Numeracy this term, we have continued to look at the numbers 1-10. Enjoying activities at the whiteboard and at our desks using 1 pence pieces to buy cereal and healthy snacks for our lunches.



In Literacy, we have continued work on phonics and reading. We have written words and short sentences using the letters and sounds that we have learnt. We have also been learning about different careers and jobs in our local communities, and we have identified them in reading sessions.



In Science, we have enjoyed cause and effect experiments linked to Astronauts and space.



Everyone in Hampstead has been maintaining teeth brushing practice with 2D and 3D models and our own mouths.



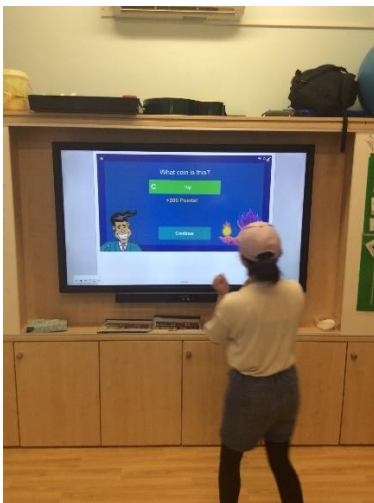
Excellent work Hampstead Class!

Waterloo Class

In Waterloo Class we have been learning about different careers and jobs. We enjoyed the trip to Sweet Tree Farm where we saw different animals and learnt more about them. We enjoyed feeding them and learning more about the job of working on a farm.



In Numeracy we have been exploring monetary values and working on our recognition of the different values of money. We have been trying to match these to the correct picture and go out into the community to the shops to practice. We have also worked on trying to tell the time.

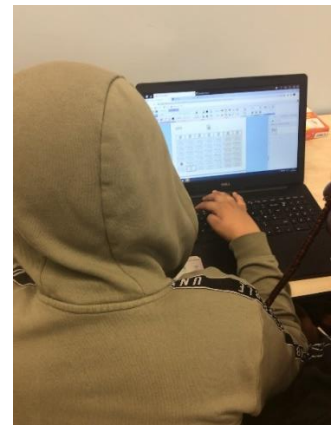
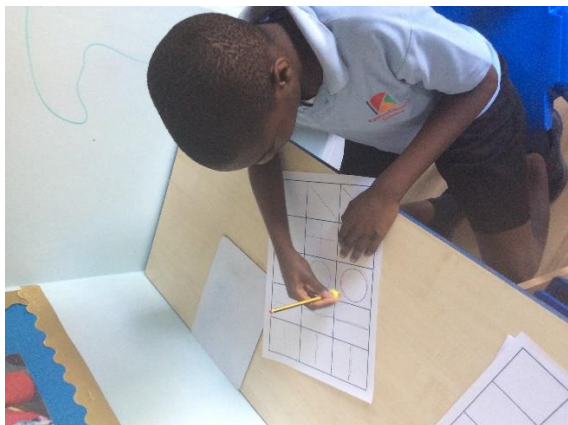




In Science we did a lot of walks to the park and explored the different forms of life we came across and the processes they go through, such as: a caterpillar turning to a butterfly, and we observed caterpillars making cocoons. We worked on plant structures and also watered the plants around the school.



In Literacy we have worked a lot on phonics and improving our pronunciation and recognition of different letters and sounds. We are also working on improving our handwriting and letter formation. Waterloo Class have also been working on calendars, so that we can know what day and month it is, and what events are coming up.

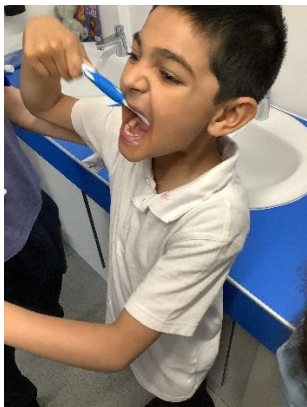


In Life skills we are exploring different foods and looking up what ingredients we need before going to the shops, buying ingredients, and coming back to prep. This has been extended by opening our own shop at school, and selling what we have made to the other classes, working as shop keepers in our own shop.



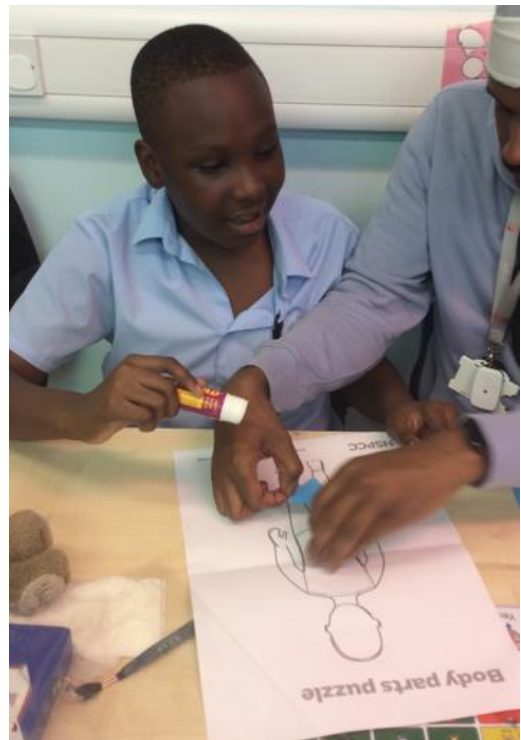
PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic education)

This term all of our learners have been able to pick up and develop personal care skills in our PSHE lessons. All classes have been supported by our Wellbeing team to deliver bespoke personal care activities: brushing teeth, independent cutlery use, dressing, and toileting/wiping skills.



RSE (Relationships and Sex education)

Since the start of the academic year in September, we have been creating more opportunities for our learners to access statutory RSE at school. For our learners this means that they have the chance to learn about: their bodies, how to be safe, how to develop positive relationships, and that we are all different.



Wellbeing Team

During the Summer Term of 2023, the Occupational therapist (OT), with the help of the Therapy Assistants, 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).



During this term, The Wellbeing Team held another workshop for the parents, as part of the Kestrel Family Nest. In this workshop, the Occupational Therapist shared simple relaxation techniques and yoga practices that the parents could do at home to support their autistic children.

At the end of the workshop, the Occupational Therapist also delivered a short calming yoga session for the parents and offered advice and calming strategies to use at home. These workshops will continue into the next school year!



After the successful 'Happy Brains singalong' during Children's Mental Health Week, the Wellbeing Team and our Music Therapist, delivered a 'Summer Singalong' assembly this term. This included summer songs with sensory elements (e.g., ribbons, bubbles, parachute, sun glasses, beach balls etc) and Makaton signing.



During the Summer term, some female learners from different classes were invited to a weekly therapy group ran by the OT to work on developing specific self-care skills; to work toward their EHCP outcomes. They were also given opportunities to engage in enjoyable relaxation/self-care activities (e.g. period pad management, hair styling, nail painting salon, foot spa, dressing and styling dolls).



Being able to tolerate medical examinations and attend appointments is also a very important part of self-care, so that we can stay fit and healthy. During the summer term, the OT work with one specific learner who needed to begin to have his blood pressure monitored. This work involved a block of direct weekly sessions where a social story was read, the blood pressure monitor was modelled by OT/on a doll and then the learner would try to have his blood pressure taken himself.





Kestrel Family Nest

Sharon, our Family Liaison, has been working closely with families to engage in activities, such as: crochet, community projects, workshops and socialising. These initiatives help to get families together, to share their experiences of what it is like to care for an autistic child, for families to reach out and to support each other, and to build confidence by sharing and developing their own understanding of and approaches to autism.

The Kestrel Family Nest has developed and flourished recently; we have hosted more meetings and social events across the year and we hope to continue to expand, to build this into something very unique and special to Kestrel House School.



The Markfield Project

Sharon has also developed an opportunity for families to meet up at Markfield. Markfield is an inclusive community hub in Haringey where people can play, socialise and get information and support. If you would like to see what they do please head to their website: <https://markfield.org.uk/>

Some of our families arranged to meet at Markfield during an open day. The families had lots of fun, played in the ball pit, and in the enclosed outdoor play area.



Events

This Summer there have been a wide variety of cultural events taking place at Kestrel House School. All the learners have been able to access activities, experiences and trips that are all based on the various events.



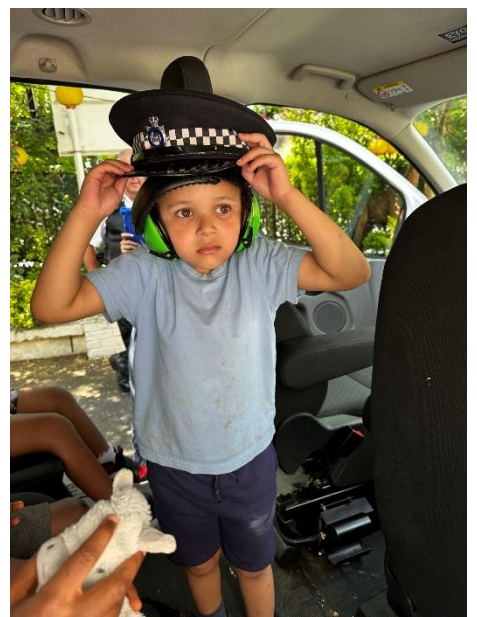
Celebrating the Coronation



End of year trip (Willow's Activity Farm)



Messy4Mind



Police Visit



Pride Month



Science Week



Sweet Tree Farm



Baton of Hope



We are so proud of Nikki, one of our Senior Autism Practitioners, who took part in the Baton of Hope tour in June. The Baton of Hope UK is a national Mental Health Charity, and represent a growing movement aspiring to a zero-suicide society. Nikki is also one of our Mental Health First Aiders at Kestrel House School, providing training and support for our growing and ever changing staff team. More information about Baton for Hope UK can be found here: <https://batonofhopeuk.org/the-tour/>

... and finally

Overall, we have had an incredible Summer Term at Kestrel House School. It is clear to all of us that our learners love coming to school every day, and that they have all been able to develop and make progress.

We are so proud of all of our learners and all of our staff who have all worked tirelessly to provide the learners with a safe, secure and welcoming environment every day for them to access their learning.

And once again, we are so happy to have been recognised as an Ofsted rated 'Outstanding' school; this has confirmed that everyone who works with us at Kestrel House School has been able to positively and proactively work together to develop the best possible learning environment for our learners.

Well done to everyone at Kestrel House School!



Acorn Education And Care
Options Autism

