

## Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the winter break, I want to thank you for your support, I truly feel welcomed into the Kestrel House team!

Thank you for your involvement in what has been a busy and rewarding term. The events, such as Parents McMillan coffee morning, the workshop on toileting and sleep, and our Progress Review Day, have been a true reflection of the strong sense of community we share. Your participation and enthusiasm have made these moments even more memorable for everyone.

I have truly enjoyed getting to know the pupils and enjoying shared events whether they be in the classrooms, or whole school events, such as the Carnival day celebrating Black History month.

We have had to say a few sad goodbyes, and as we come to the end of the first term, we do have to say goodbye to a few members of staff, who are off to their next adventures:

Simon – Westminster

Moona – Angel

Ayhan – Waterloo

Molly – Clinical team

Goodbye and good luck! Thank you for all of the hard work you have put into supporting the children at Kestrel House!

We have some new recruits and have successfully hired a Clinical/Speech and Language therapist, who will be starting with us shortly.

Now, as we step into the holiday season, I hope you find time to enjoy a well-deserved rest, relax, and spend quality time with loved ones. Let's take this opportunity to recharge and look forward to another exciting term in the New Year. Wishing you a joyful and restful holiday.

**Giovanna**

# Angel Class

## Literacy

In Literacy this term, Angel class have been reading lots of sensory stories such as the Halloween story, Christmas story, Aquarium story and the Where are you from story. Each story has different sensory inputs for touch, sound and sight allowing the pupils to improve on their sensory processing. We have also been practicing phonics, writing and fine motor skills.



## Numeracy

During Numeracy lessons, Angel class have been discovering numbers and different sizes. We have been learning this through more sensory stories such as Goldilocks and the three bears and the Hungry caterpillar story, as well as during cooking lessons.



## Science

In Science we have been learning about different groups of animals. We have been exploring this through bucket activities, creativity and art.



## Trips Out

Angel class have taken many different trips out this term, helping to develop the pupils social and emotional health. We have visited places like the park, tennis, the farm and the aquarium.



# Victoria Class

Within **Literacy**, pupils developed key literacy skills by interacting and engaging with stories such as *A Squash and a Squeeze*, *Farmer Duck* and *Kipper's Snow Day*.

Through sensory exploration and hands-on activities,



pupils engaged with the characters, settings, and events, building their understanding through repetition, visual cues, and actions.



The focus was on creating meaningful interactions with the texts, fostering early literacy skills such as listening, comprehension, mark making, tracing and communication in a supportive and engaging environment.



**Numeracy** stories have played a pivotal role in introducing early numeracy skills to pupils throughout the autumn term, particularly in helping them develop counting skills up to 5. Through engaging stories, pupils were encouraged to count objects and characters, reinforcing their understanding of numbers in a fun and contextual way.

This learning was further supported through Attention Autism sessions, which used visual and interactive activities to capture pupils' attention and promote active participation in counting and number recognition.

Additionally, various craft activities, such as creating number-based art and craft projects, provided a hands-on approach to numeracy, allowing pupils to explore numbers in a creative and meaningful context, strengthening their counting skills and number comprehension.







Pupils deepened their understanding of farms and animals in **science** through a variety of engaging, sensory-rich activities. They explored different animals, using sensory experiences such as touching animal textures, listening to animal sounds, and observing visual aids to help them connect with the creatures they studied.

Crafts provided an additional hands-on approach, allowing pupils to create animal models and farm scenes, reinforcing their learning in a fun and interactive way.

Attention Autism sessions further supported this exploration by using focused activities that captured the pupils' attention and encouraged participation, enabling them to learn about farm animals in an engaging and immersive environment.

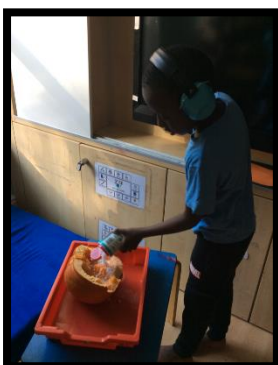


Pupils explored a variety of seasonal celebrations, including Halloween, Black History Month, Remembrance Day, and Christmas. These events provided rich opportunities for learning about different cultures, traditions, and historical significance.



For Black History Month, pupils participated in a music

and dance celebration, where they accessed and engaged with cultural expressions through movement, fostering a deeper understanding of Black heritage.



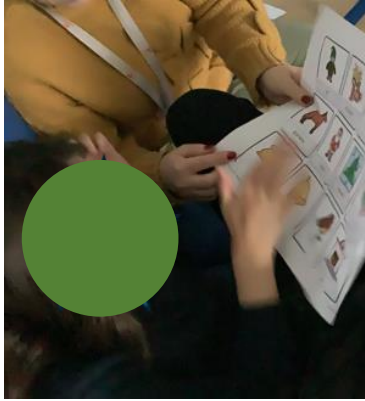
During Halloween, pupils enjoyed sensory activities, crafts, and storytelling. As Christmas approached, pupils engaged in festive crafts and songs, further enhancing their understanding of the season's traditions. These

celebrations allowed pupils to connect with a range of cultural and historical topics in an interactive and meaningful way.

# Pimlico Class

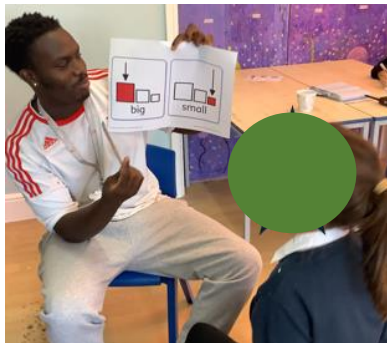
## Literacy/phonics

This term Pimlico class have been learning several new sounds in phonics. The class have been enjoying the Christmas themed phonics.



## Numeracy

This term Pimlico have been recognising the difference between big and small! The class has also learnt to recognise full and empty and one and many objects!



## Art

This term Pimlico have been doing themed Halloween, Bon-fire night and Christmas decorating! The have been taking part in small scale independent work and larger group projects!



## PE

This term Pimlico we have been working on our balance and coordination, our hand and eye coordination through throwing. We have also tried to work on sharing and playing together through games such as: chase. This term the learners have progressed with these activities and have shown more of an interest and increased their participation.



## SMSC

We celebrated the birthday of our learners in Pimlico this term. The learners really enjoyed celebrating with their friends and dancing and singing to party music!

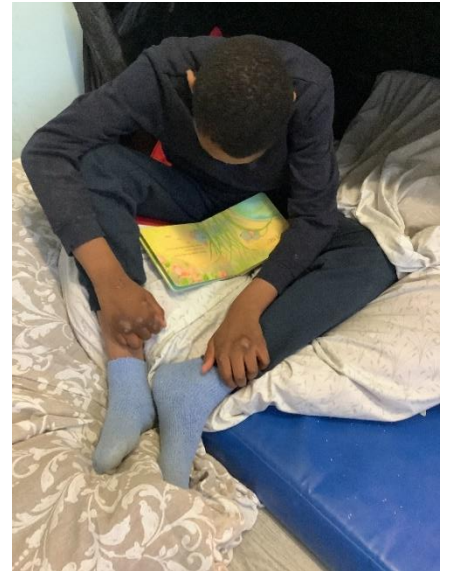




# Westminster Class



This term in Westminster Class, we've been learning about farm animals and enjoying our sensory story *A Squash and A Squeeze* by Julia Donaldson. We've also been creating our own music sessions, which everyone has been enjoying. Most recently, we've been busy making Christmas cards for every classroom in the school.





# Paddington Class

Paddington Class has had a fantastic Autumn Term filled with exciting learning experiences and meaningful activities. Our students have worked incredibly hard, developing their skills, achieving their targets, earning AQA awards. Highlights of their term include weekly cooking sessions, where we prepared delicious healthy recipes, and our community walks, which helped us practice numeracy skills in real world settings like local shops. Fridays are always a treat with our games club, cinema time, offering opportunities for relaxation, fun, and social interaction. Alongside these activities, we celebrated birthdays and special events, it has been a joyful and productive term for everyone in Paddington Class.

Well done to all!



In English, we have enjoyed exploring books such as “Where are you from?” and “Coming to England, which have sparked meaningful discussions and learning. Through comprehension and matching activities based on the books, the children have been developing their typing and writing skills. They have also learnt about their own likes and dislikes, the richness of their culture and embraced their own uniqueness like the characters in the stories we have read. We have also practiced tracing letters helping to improve fine motor skills and letter formation. Our morning phonics sessions have been great opportunity to build confidence and language skills. Each day, we go around the group and ask the children to say a word beginning with the phonetic letter we are learning that morning, which has been fun and interactive way to develop phonemic awareness. Group games and activities have been another highlight, allowing the children to engage in collaborative learning. Reading sessions have been both relaxing and interactive, with students enjoying stories and even participating interactive activities. It has been a wonderful to see progress in both literacy and their love for books.



In Maths, we have been engaging in a variety of fun and practical activities to develop key skills. The children have worked on weights, measuring and ordering different heights and lengths, as well as improving their counting abilities. Weekly trips to the shops have been a highlight, where the children practiced money skills by handing over cash to the cashier. Or assisting an adult at the self-service tills. They particularly enjoyed using their own shopping lists, finding items, and placing them in the basket, which helped build independence and confidence. In the classroom, we have focused on activities such as matching numbers with their corresponding visuals and words to strengthen recognition and understanding. It has been fantastic to see their skills and confidence grow through these interactive and meaningful maths activities.



In Science, we have been learning about lots of different things and doing lots of fun experiments and group work. We have been learning about different animals and habitats. We have also explored nature on science walks, collecting leaves for fun and educational projects. These activities have sparked curiosity, encouraged problem solving, and provided plenty of opportunities for the learners to engage in sensory and practical learning it has been a fantastic term full of discovery and exploration.



In Art, the children have had a creative and hands on term, exploring a variety of fun and meaningful projects. For Black History Month, we enjoyed a carnival workshop where the children expressed themselves through beautiful crafts, colourful clothing and dance. We baked cakes and made Pudsey Bear hats to share in our Paddington class Shop for Children In Need. The children also engaged in sensory storytelling and created spooky art for Halloween, which they thoroughly enjoyed and engaged in. We made colourful and vibrant Diyas for Diwali, and as the term has progressed, we embraced the festive spirit with beautiful winter crafts for Christmas.





During our RSE and PHSE sessions, we have been learning safe and unsafe people, body parts, emotions, understanding body boundaries, personal space, and safe touch. We have also explored topics like unsafe secrets while developing self-care, independence and life skills such as using deodorant and hairdressing. These lessons are reinforced daily through our interactions and familiar songs, helping students build confidence and integrate these concepts into their daily lives. We have been delighted to see the children identify their likes and dislikes, understand the difference between public and private spaces, and recognise who their safe people are at home and in the wider community.





# Hampstead Class

## Literacy

In literacy Hampstead class have been learning phonic sounds. We have been learning the sounds *S, A, T, P, I, N, M*.

We have also been enjoying reading time.



## Numeracy

In Numeracy we have been recognising numbers and looking at small, medium and large. We have enjoyed using the story of Goldilocks and the Three bears.

## PSHE

In PSHE we have been looking at recognising our feelings. We Use a feelings board to check in how we feel before the start of each lesson, and we have been matching and making facial expressions.

We have been learning about different careers and looking at how vets help animals.

In RSE We have also been learning about our private areas on our body being private, the changes in our body and staying safe.

# Waterloo Class

Waterloo class have had a brilliant term filled with lots of learning, exploration, and joyful moments. We have gotten to know each other better, formed new friendships, established our routines, and participated in many fun activities together. We hope everyone has a fantastic break during the holidays and we can't wait to welcome you back in January ready for lots more learning, excitement, and fun!



In literacy, Waterloo class have enjoyed developing their understanding of phonics through a range of activities which strengthen reading, writing, and comprehension skills.



In numeracy, Waterloo class have been focusing on mass and quantity including learning to order height, size, weight and numbers.



In science, Waterloo class have been learning about animal habitats and animal food chains. We have learnt facts about many different environments including rainforest, arctic, desert, and ocean habitats.



In creativity, Waterloo class have really love expressing their imagination and artistry. We have enjoyed colouring, painting, making decorations and messy play including making playdough.



In topic, we have been learning about the various countries that our learners and teaching staff are from. Each week, we have a different 'country of the week' during which we learn lots of interesting facts about the country, listen to some traditional music, and perhaps even try some food!



In PSHE, life skills, and physical wellbeing, Waterloo class have worked on strengthening their functional skills including cooking, personal hygiene, communication, learning to stay hydrated, balance, coordination, participating in group activities and turn-taking, and self-regulation.



# Wellbeing Team

As we come to the close of the year, the Wellbeing Team would like to take a moment to reflect on the progress we've made in supporting all the learners within our school community. It has been a rewarding year, full of efforts to enhance our school culture, promote self-care, and provide resources for everyone to thrive.

This term, our team has worked hard to create classrooms that are neurodiversity-affirming, ensuring they provide communication opportunities and sensory-friendly environments for all students. We are committed to making our school a space where every learner feels understood, supported, and included.

Additionally, we focused on training staff to use Makaton more frequently throughout the school day. This initiative has expanded the range of communication methods available, empowering every learner to express themselves and access their education in a way that suits their needs.

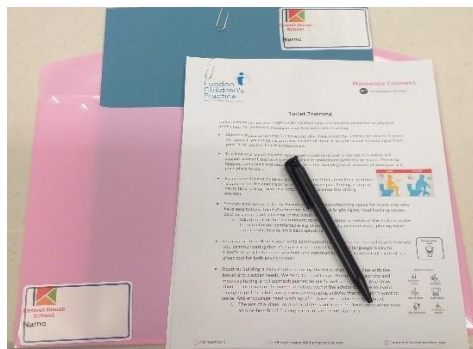
As the holiday season approaches, we hope that each of you takes the time to rest, recharge, and spend quality moments with loved ones. This is a special time to reflect on the year gone by and to set intentions for the year ahead. We wish everyone a joyful and peaceful holiday season, filled with relaxation, celebration, and connection. Happy holidays!

---

# Kestrel Family Nest

Kestrel Family Nest met on two occasions this term. The first meet was the McMillan coffee morning and meet the new head teacher.

The second session focused on toileting and sleep as requested by a few families. Mikaela our OT led this session and gave out leaflets on both sessions with information on how families/carers and guardians can best support their child/ren. Also, we made a folder that contains a notebook and useful information that included the school holidays for the year. These are made so that when families/carers and guardians come for any meetings or have any letters they can put them safe away into these folders and make notes in the notebook.



Our KFN sessions happen every half-term so please look out for the letters on ClassDojo in the New Year.

I would like to take this time to wish you all a very peaceful and joyful break and I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

# ... and finally

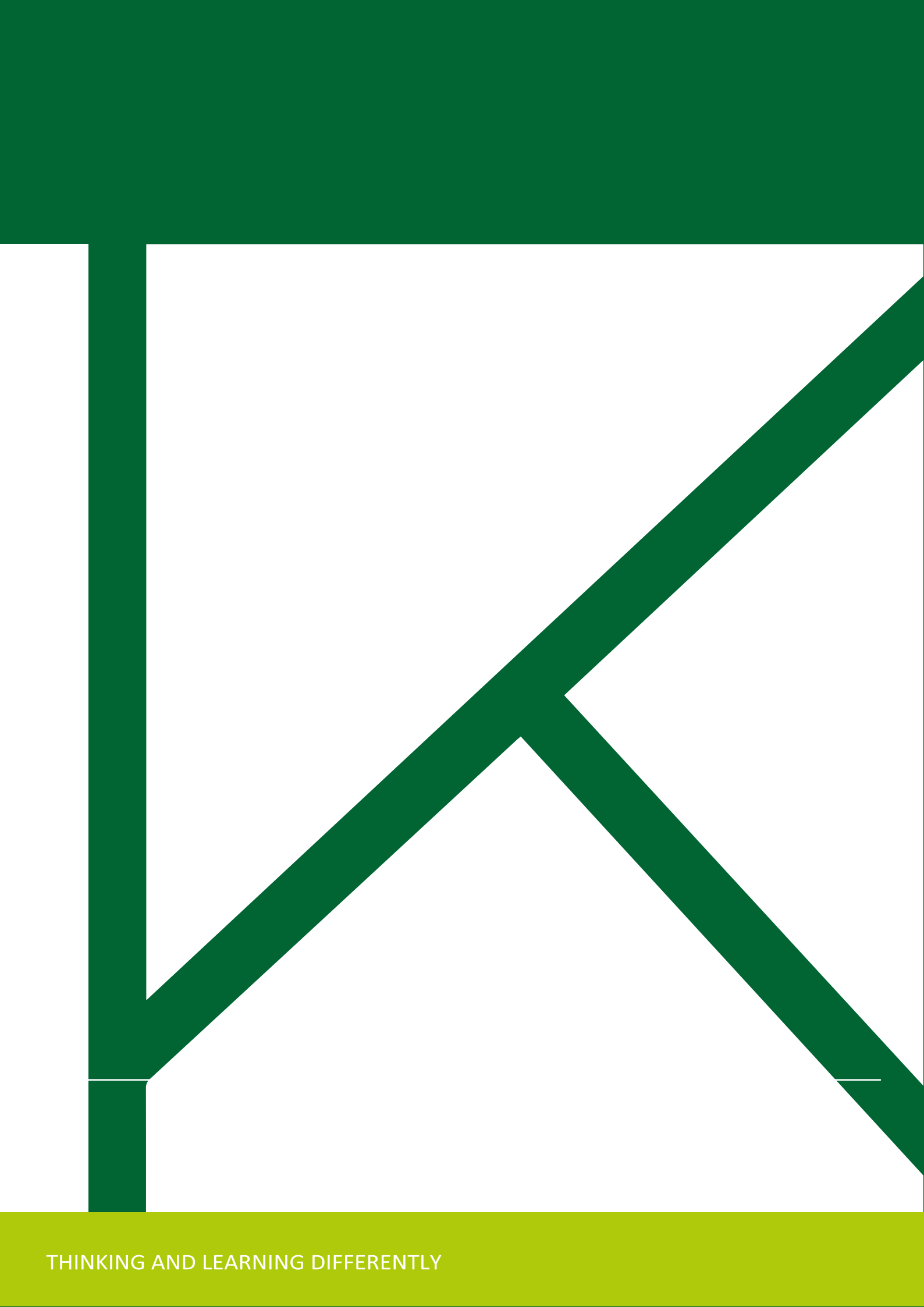
Pupils are back to school on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

Spring Term 2025		
	Starts	Ends
Inset Day	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January <b>(School is closed to pupils)</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> Half Term	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February
Holiday	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> February	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> February
2 <sup>nd</sup> Half Term	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April <b>School finishes at 3pm</b>
Review Day	Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> March <b>(School is closed to pupils)</b>	
Easter Holidays	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> April	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> April

First Family nest session: Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January – NHS visit to talk about promoting positive health, and vaccinations.

Have a wonderful winter break!





THINKING AND LEARNING DIFFERENTLY