

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of the spring term, I would like to take a moment to thank you once again for your continued support and partnership. It has been another busy term at Kestrel House, full of progress, creativity and connection.

It has been a pleasure to see our pupils engaging in such a wide range of learning opportunities and celebrating their individual achievements. From World Book Day costumes to helping the duck hatchlings, the excitement and enthusiasm across the school have been a joy to witness.

We have also continued to welcome you into school for important events, including Progress review days and Kestrel Family Nest sessions on Careers and Vaccination UK. Our involvement plays such a valuable role in strengthening the home-school relationship and supporting each pupil's journey.

This term we were delighted to welcome two new members of staff: Katie, our new Clinical Lead and Speech and Language Therapist, and Adina, who has joined Angel Class as a Learning Support Assistant. We are very pleased to have them as part of the team and know they are already making a positive contribution to our school community.

At the same time, we are saying goodbye to some members of staff who are moving on to new adventures:
Victoria Class - Fern - Victoria
Angel Class: Asha and Eden
Paddington - Esther
Waterloo - Esha

We thank each of them for their hard work and care in supporting our pupils, and we wish them all the very best in their next steps.

Wishing you a restful and enjoyable holiday. I hope you all have the opportunity to relax, recharge and enjoy some sunshine together.

Warm
Giovanna

wishes,

Angel Class

Our theme this term is inspector calls we have explored this through English, maths and explorative play.

In maths we have been doing fractions and addition. For fractions, we used pizza and cake to explore how to share equally. For example, they would be given a fraction such as $\frac{1}{8}$ and would have to take 1 slice.

The learners enjoyed exploring maths using food as it was a functional task. For addition, the learners were given a task consisting of two numbers added together and the corresponding number of pictures of an object above. They then had to identify and stick the correct number to solve the equation.



In PSHE, we have been working on self care and hygiene. As part of this we have been working on brushing teeth, as part of their every day routine. We have seen great improvements in the involvement of the children, since the start of the year. We have also been doing stories to do with healthy eating and habits, and how to clean up after ourselves in the toilet, using a chair and paint which the children have to wipe.



In English we have been doing different sensory stories involving Inspector Gadget and friends- each story has had a problem and a solution- going to the zoo to help the animals, going to the adventure park to help fix a ride. The learners really enjoyed the sensory inputs such as animal figures, grass, trees and the roller coaster. Lastly, we have a story where Inspector Gadget and friends went to the swimming pool. This consists of the floor being wet – we put up a ‘caution wet floor’ in the class and replicate the wet floor in the class, and the children have to mop it up. In each of the stories, the children receive story boards where they can follow the story through identifying key words on the board.



The learners all have different ways of communicating that they may already use, or that the adults model to them throughout the day. These include communication boards and books, verbal and gestural language symbols and more. When we do activities such as fine motor skills, we give the learners communication boards with different activities, so they can communicate what they want to do. Throughout the day, the learners use lots of gestural language and symbols to tell us what they want. For example taking us to the door and pointing to the toilet symbol, or using the symbols on their timetable to tell us what they want to do. Some of the learners can also communicate with spoken language but we still model sentence building to help them develop this further.



This term we have been going on walks most weeks to priory park and on parkland walk. This has helped improve the learners confidence outside of school, such as with knowing when and how to cross roads safely, understanding when they must hold hands or when they can explore more independently in the park, and more. We have also been incorporating some of our learning from the classroom, in our walks. For example we went on a trip to the farm, and brought boards with the names and pictures of the animals, which the children used to identify and name each animal.



This term we have been using bucket for our science lessons – each time the learners can watch and take part in a different experiment. Some experiments that we did: making slime which the children still request for and use to this day; mixing colours with oil and making exploding volcanoes with all sorts of ingredients. The learners thoroughly enjoy when we do experiments, and their engagement is amazing when the results are unexpected as this holds their attention incredibly.



Victoria Class

This month, our students have been busy exploring new topics and having fun with hands-on activities across various subjects!

In English, our young learners have been diving into exciting investigations. They have read stories like *Where is the ?*, *Animal Boogie*, and *Goldilocks*. Pupils engaged in an interactive activity where they searched for different items around the classroom and matched them to a symbol or a page in their booklet – a great way to enhance their observation and matching skills!



English:
investigations.
Goldilocks.
different items
in their booklet –

Maths:

read *Bear in a Square* to learn about shapes. The children were thrilled to use shapes to create their own pattern. We also explored numbers through the story *Hungry Caterpillar*, which helped the children understand counting and sequencing. It was a fun way to bring numbers to life!



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Science:

Our Science lessons focused on seasons. The students had a fantastic time wearing sunglasses to represent different seasons. It was a fun way to bring the fun of learning about weather to life!



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Pimlico

Pimlico have had a fun spring term and have enjoyed lots of different activities and celebrated events like St Patricks day, World Book Day, and Chinese New Year! We have also welcomed in a new learner and enjoyed some fun new lessons in PSHE, art, and topic.

Class

Maths: This term in Pimlico Class, we have had lots of fun learning about fractions. The learners have been working hard to understand how to share in halves and quarters. They have especially enjoyed playing games that involve sharing and serving pizzas in a computer game, making learning both engaging and exciting!

English: This term, our learners have been fully engaged in exploring the story *Poo in the Zoo*. They have enjoyed fun and interactive typing activities based on the book, helping to develop their literacy and keyboard skills. We have also been choosing our own books to read during story time.

Science: This term we have been exploring changes in materials through exciting hands-on experiments. Pimlico Class has especially enjoyed making different kinds of slime, working together as a team to follow recipes and observe the transformations. It has been a fun and engaging way to develop our scientific skills!



Westminster Class

This Spring term, Westminster class has focused on improving transitions, turn-taking, and self-help skills. Students have been using visual schedules to support smoother transitions, developing turn-taking abilities, and participating in activities to promote regulation. These efforts are helping build their confidence and independence.



Paddington Class

Paddington Class has had a fantastic Spring Term, full of exciting learning experiences and enriching activities. Our learners have worked incredibly hard, developing their skills, achieving targets, and earning AQA awards. As part of Children's Mental Health Week, learners explored emotions using the Zones of Regulation. They matched coloured tubes filled with water and paint to different emotional states, making it a fun and interactive way to understand feelings. For Chinese New Year, students watched social stories, took part in board activities, and created beautiful lanterns and dragon artwork. To celebrate Ghana Independence Day, they designed clothing using a collage of Kente materials, exploring patterns and textures in a creative way. In PE, our tennis sessions were full of energy! Learners practised balancing, running, target games, and threw balls to the bats that were woven into nets as part of their activities. These sessions helped develop coordination and confidence while having fun. Alongside these events, our weekly cooking sessions continued to be a highlight, as students prepared delicious and healthy recipes.

Our community walks allowed us to practise numeracy in real-world settings like local shops. A visit to the

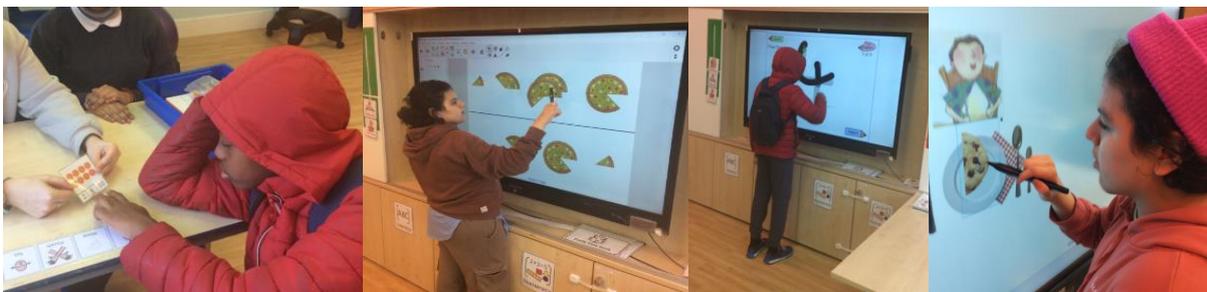
park weekly was another highlight of the term, where learners enjoyed ball games, basketball, using the slides, and exploring the play equipment. It was a great way to develop teamwork, and physical co-ordination while having fun outdoors. Our weekly library visits have also been a wonderful opportunity for learners to develop their love for reading. They explored different books, listened to stories, and engaged in the sensory corner; helping them build on their play and imagination. Fridays remained a favourite, with games club and cinema time providing opportunities for relaxation, fun, and social interaction. It has been a joyful and productive term for everyone in Paddington Class.

Well done to all!



Hampstead Class

Numeracy opportunities have involved counting quantity, tracing numerical digits and fractions. Fractions heavily influenced by food as well as the story Give Me Half by Stuart J. Murphy.



Phonics opportunities have allowed the learners to work with the sounds dD, Gg, oO, cC, kK and eE.



Hampstead class have enjoyed plenty of creative learning opportunities this term. We have made artwork based around the story Give Me Half by Stuart J. Murphy and the different foods which the brother and sister are expected to share in the story. Pizza, Juice, Cupcakes and Cookies. We also made firework art for the New Year 2025 and firework art for the Chinese New Year 2025, the year of the snake.



A selection of story books and entry level reading books are always offered to Hampstead Class and the learners can choose what is read.



Waterloo Class

As the spring term draws to a close, we are incredibly proud of all that Waterloo Class has achieved over the past few months. Our learners have shown enthusiasm, determination, and creativity across all areas of learning, making this a truly rewarding term.

In English, we have been exploring exciting new stories such as 'Hashtag Goldilocks' and 'Burglar Bill', developing our reading and writing skills. The learners have particularly enjoyed engaging phase 3 phonics stories such as 'Sam's ship adventure', where we had the opportunity to work on our typing and writing skills. We have also enjoyed playing board games such as snakes and ladders focussed on different phase 3 words to decode and read.



Maths has been filled with hands-on learning experiences such as making pizzas and fruit salads to explore the concept of fractions and sharing. Other learning opportunities have included drawing and shading our fractions following adult verbal instruction.



Cooking sessions have been a highlight of the term, with learners engaging in hands-on experiences to develop important life skills. From making simple snacks to preparing healthy meals, they have learned about following instructions with independence but have also been a fun and engaging way to explore different tastes and textures.



A huge well done to all of our learners for their hard work this term! We wish everyone a restful and enjoyable break and look forward to more exciting learning adventures in the summer term.

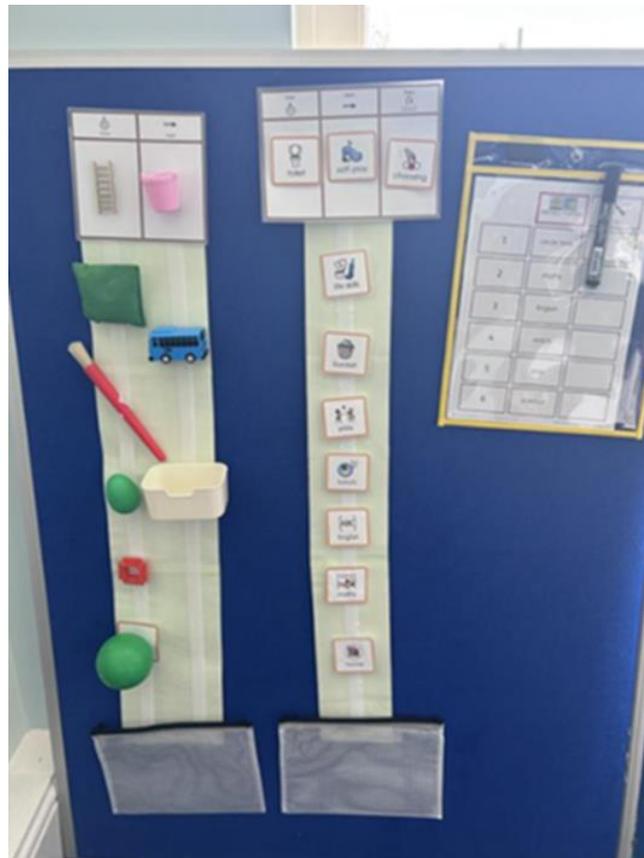
Clinical Team

This term we were pleased to welcome our new Clinical Lead, Katie to the team! Katie has spent a lot of time in the classrooms, getting to know our learners and staff. We've also welcomed Cathal, our Music Therapist and Georgia, our Occupational Therapist who have joined us for a couple of days a week.

Cathal has begun individual sessions, and Georgia has also spent a lot of time in classrooms working

alongside staff to ensure the right supports are available. We're excited to continue collaborating as a team in the summer term!

Alongside this we've focused on updating our visual timetables and schedules in class. We have created consistent and engaging timetables, as well as new 'now and next' boards, which look great and are being used successfully to support our learners.



Whole school celebrations



Spring has fully arrived with the hatching of ducks!

Our learners learnt how to care for them by making sure they had plenty of food and water as well as cleaning out the cage, making sure it was fresh and clean. The best part was getting



World Book Day!



To celebrate World Book Day, Kestrel House School was full of fun and interesting characters from all walks of life including out of this world. We had some learners casting their magic to a character that went unknown for the entire day... they were out of this world.

Easter Bunny competition!

The week we had an Easter Bunny themed competition. Here are some of the entries:



The pupils chose the winner, the pupils in Pimlico Class won with their Easter cupcakes!
Well done to everybody!

Kestrel Family Nest

Kestrel Family Nest have had a fantastic Spring term. We have been doing a lot of work with Vaccination UK to support vaccinations happening at school as we know that this can be very difficult for families, carers and guardians to do this at the GP surgery and clinics.

Vaccination UK came into school back in January and gave a talk at our KFN session on vaccines. They were Human Papilloma Virus (HPV), Diphtheria, Tetanus and Polio (DTP) and Flu vaccine.

Since then we have had two vaccination sessions for the learners that we have had consent for and each time we have done them they have been successful not just with a learner having the vaccination but even the learner just being in the same room as the nurse and vaccination and then going back to class still happy and ready to carry on with their day.

These have been made successful visits because Vaccination UK have worked with us as a team. We produced social stories with our speech and language therapist that we can adapt to each learner and their style of communicating and we have listened to the families and carers on how to approach this with our learners and made it personal to them.

If you would like to get in contact with Vaccination UK, please let me know and I can give you, their details. They will be able to answer any questions or queries that you may have.





In March, Marc (Deputy Head Teacher) held a session about careers and how we deliver this at Kestrel House with the importance focusing on how we support learners transition at the end of Key Stage 4. It was an informative session where family could see how we engage learners in careers. The next step will be to work even closer with our families to ensure our learners transition to a setting that best supports their needs with help from Sharon.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to seeing everyone for our next KFN in the Summer term.

... and finally

Pupils are back to school on Wednesday 23rd April 2025.

Summer Term Dates

	Starts	Ends
Bank Holiday	Monday 21st April (school is closed)	
INSET Day	Tuesday 22 nd April (School is closed to pupils)	
1 st Half Term	Wednesday 23 rd April	Friday 23 rd May
Bank Holiday	Monday 5th May (school is closed)	
Holiday	Monday 26 th May	Friday 30 th May
2 nd Half Term	Monday 2 nd June	Thursday 17 th July School finishes at 12:15pm
Review Day	Friday 4th July (School is closed to pupils)	

Have a wonderful Spring break!