

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we come to the end of another busy and rewarding term, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the many wonderful experiences our pupils have enjoyed, and to thank you all for your continued support.

A special thank you to the parents and carers who joined us last week for our termly review day. It was a pleasure to celebrate the meaningful steps in your children's progress. It is always a delight to welcome our families into school and to have the opportunity for face-to-face conversations.

I would also like to extend a very warm welcome to Jennie, who joined us in February as our Pupil Administrator. Her calm and warm personality will be the first point of contact when you phone the school or come in for a visit. We are very pleased to have her with us at Kestrel House.

This term has been full of engaging and memorable events that have enriched our learning:

- 5th March – World Book Day: Pupils and staff enjoyed dressing up in costumes linked to our termly themes of *Mini Beasts* and *The Environment*, drawing inspiration from books explored in class. The Immersive Room experiences helped bring this to life by supporting learners to look at *Vertebrates & Invertebrates* and *Living Things and their Habitats*.
- 8th March – Holi: Pupils took part in vibrant tuff tray activities and creative crafts to celebrate this colourful festival.
- 17th March – St Patrick's Day: A fun-filled day with green outfits, Irish music, and themed sensory and craft activities.
- We have also been exploring Ramadan and Eid through food experiences, tuff trays, and crafts, supporting pupils to learn about different cultures and celebrations.

In addition, pupils thoroughly enjoyed Number Day, exploring numbers in the world around them. We are delighted to share that, through our "dress up for digits" initiative, the school raised £76, which was donated to the NSPCC. We

also marked Children's Mental Health Week, with a strong focus on wellbeing across the school. It was a pleasure to welcome Wild Science, who engaged pupils with their fascinating mini-beasts and animal habitats—an event that is always a highlight for both students and staff at Kestrel. Across both half terms, we also greatly enjoyed following and celebrating the Winter Olympics and Paralympics, cheering on the athletes and learning about their inspiring achievements.

If you have time, please do visit our school website where you can see photos and updates showcasing the many lovely activities taking place across the school.

As always, I am incredibly proud of our pupils and the dedication of our staff team in providing meaningful, engaging experiences tailored to each child's needs.

We hope all our families have a restful and enjoyable break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back next term as we begin our new theme, 'Trains, Planes and Automobiles', which promises to inspire fun, adventurous learning as the warmer weather begins.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support.

Warm regards,
Aimée McMillan

Headteacher



Angel Class

It has been a busy term for our learners in Angel Class. We explored the topic of minibeasts and had our very own caterpillars in the classroom! We have been watching them grow over the past few weeks and we're very excited to see if they have hatched after Easter. We learned about different bugs and their characteristics that are native in United Kingdom and what kind of habitats they live in and had lots of fun looking for these in our community walks.

In maths, we have been exploring the concepts of "more" and "less" and how we can "add more" or takeaway from quantities. We used a variety of materials to practice making and comparing quantities, as well as using balance scales to judge which side had more items. We have learned the British Sign Language (BSL) sign for more, and it was great to see learners using this sign and their AAC to communicate this not only in maths, but across all subjects.

As part of our communication module, our wonderful clinical team have introduced a Core Word Programme, where we focus on key verbs and how to use them in two-week blocks. This term we focused on the verbs "want", "more", "go" and "like". Learners have been practicing our BSL signs for these words, using our core communication boards and partaking in sensory stories, activities and games which helped us to practice using these verbs. We have also continued practicing our sounds in phonics.

In Science, we learned all about our body and different body systems such as the skeleton, our skin, the lungs and the heart. Students had the opportunity to explore what each of these body parts do with lots of hands-on sensory activities such as building skeletons, digging for bones, using our lungs and blowing air to make objects move and pumping blood around the heart.

We have been continuing to build our awareness of road safety and how to walk safely in the community with several walks around the community. This meant that we could take advantage of the sunny weather and we had some picnics in Priory Park! The learners had an amazing time and are growing in confidence while out and about in our community. We also learned about the people in our community who help us, such as firemen, doctors, nurses and police, and how they help us.

It has been a busy term of celebrations such as St. Patrick's Day, World Book Day, Holi, Ramadan and Lunar New Year, and learners have enjoyed learning about these through different art and enrichment activities, a

highlight being the Winter Olympics, where we learned all about the different sports and nations that partake in them.

Overall, it has been a fantastic term for Angel Class, and the learners have shown enthusiasm and growth throughout. Have a lovely break and we will see you for summer term!





Victoria Class

This spring term, Victoria class explored the topic of minibeasts, which was very exciting. We learned about different habitats, the names of various creatures, and how to sign some of them using BSL. We also built a bug hotel in the outdoor area and are hoping to see some small creatures visiting us soon.



In Maths, we focused on learning and signing the core word "more." This was very successful, as it was used throughout the day across different subjects. It supported students in requesting more food, toys, sensory objects, and helped with regulation, linking closely to their EHCP targets.



In Communication, we learned and practised the core words “more,” “go,” “want,” and “like.” This was delivered through engaging activities such as bucket time, sensory stories with dressing up, and movement-based dance breaks.



In Science, we covered the human body, including the skeleton. We built skeletons using pasta and sticks and took part in digging activities to find and match bones. We also learned about the heart, checking heart rates and exploring how blood is pumped using syringes and coloured water. Students enjoyed taking part in doctor role play, helping “patients” feel better.



In PSHE, we focused on road safety, practising how to cross the road safely and learning about safe people around us. We also explored a range of celebrations and events through sensory activities, including Chinese New Year, World Book Day, Mental Wellbeing, the Winter Olympics, Number Day, and Easter.



We placed a strong focus on life skills, including toileting, brushing teeth, and washing hands. These were practised daily, with both small and significant successes observed across the term.



Overall, we had a fantastic spring term. The students in Victoria Class built strong relationships, developed important social skills, and showed great progress through play and shared activities both indoors and outdoors. It has been lovely to see their confidence grow, especially in areas such as sharing, communication, and engagement.

Pimlico Class

This term, we have been learning colours. We have explored colours through a range of fun activities which included board games and painting.



This term, we had a visit from Wild Science. We learned all about mini beasts and their environments. The children enjoyed mini beast themed activities where they explored different textures and colours.



Pimlico class worked on their self-care and independence skills this term which included teeth brushing, buttering their own bread and mixing flour and water together to make dough.

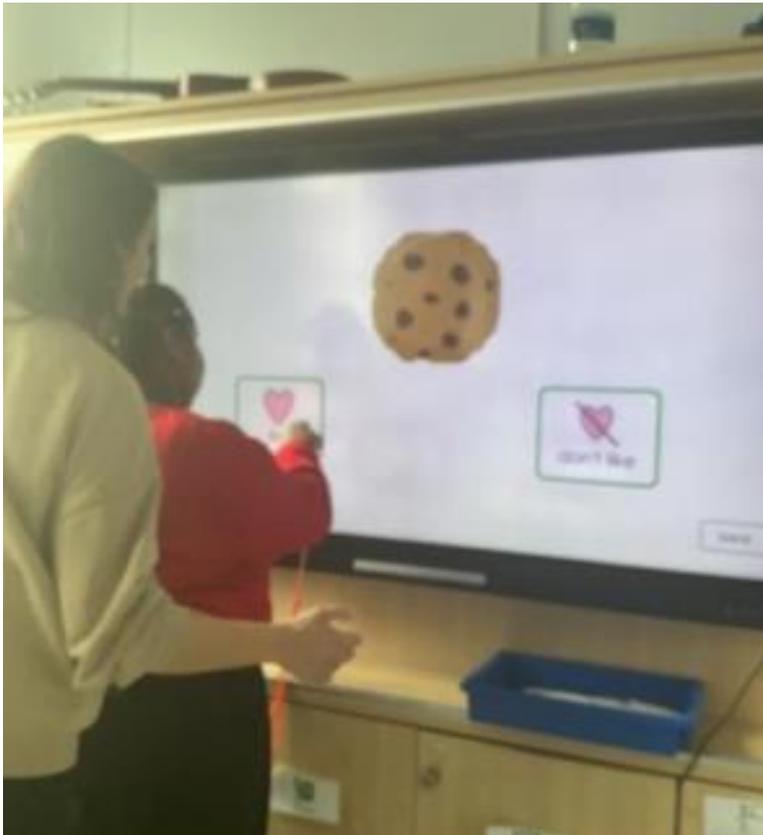


Spring is the primary season for many flowers to bloom, our class had fun exploring all the new flowers which have bloomed in and around our school.



Westminster Class

This term, Westminster Class have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the Core Word of the Week programme. Every two weeks, a different core word is introduced, and we have explored important words such as “want”, “more”, and “go” to help develop our communication skills.



During these sessions, we have been learning a variety of strategies to support our understanding and use of each word. These have included signing or saying the word following adult modelling, as well as listening to the word using voice recorders. We have also practised locating the words on our communication boards.



We have incorporated the core words into engaging activities, such as using “go” during bucket time to start a balloon experiment and taking part in sensory exploration activities like scooping sand into containers to request “more”



Paddington Class

In maths, Paddington class explored the concept of bigger and smaller. They compared different sizes of chicks and eggs to identify which were big and which were small.



In phonics, we focused on the letters U, L, I, and J, practising how to form each letter shape correctly.



We have also been practising matching rhyming words.



We have been practising self-care by learning to brush our teeth properly and following the correct steps.



In science, we have been learning about the body. We explored the heart and lungs and used a stethoscope to listen to our heart beating.



Hampstead Class

It has been a fantastic and very busy term in Hampstead Class, and everyone has worked incredibly hard. In English, we have been learning about a range of music artists, including The Beatles, David Bowie, and Bruno Mars. Alongside this, we have been developing our comprehension skills by finding information in texts to answer questions, helping us to build confidence and improve our understanding of what we read.

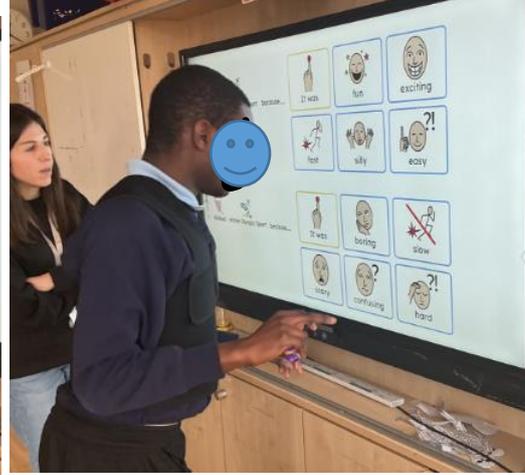
In maths, we have been focusing on measurement, including height, weight, and length. We have explored a variety of practical activities using tuff trays, where we investigated different types of measuring equipment such as tape measures and scales. These hands-on experiences have helped us to better understand how we measure and compare different objects in a fun and engaging way.

In science, we have been learning about the human body. We explored the roles of different organs, as well as learning about the skeleton and muscles, helping us to understand how our bodies work.

This term, we have also continued to develop our independence skills. We have been trying new activities and sharing whether we liked or disliked them, helping us to communicate our preferences more clearly. We have also enjoyed regular walks in the community, building confidence and independence in different environments.

In addition, we have taken part in a range of enriching SMSC activities, including learning about Holi, celebrating World Book Day and the Winter Olympics, and having a visit from some animals in wild science!

Overall, it has been a fun, exciting, and productive term full of learning and new experiences. Everyone in Hampstead Class has shown great effort and enthusiasm. Well done, Hampstead Class!





Waterloo Class

This Spring in Waterloo we learned about our environment. We looked at all the different Mini beasts, Plants and Manmade objects that make up the world around us.



We explored around our school to find textures, discovering prickly plants, hard and rough walls, wet soil, and lots more.

In Maths, we explored the topic of 'more than' and 'less than'. In the classroom, we compared groups of objects and numbers to work towards our EHCP targets using Lego blocks, weighing scales and other tactiles.



We took our understanding of these concepts to the kitchen and weighed, measured and grouped our ingredients to make some delicious food. Everyone had a lot of fun making and trying these recipes.

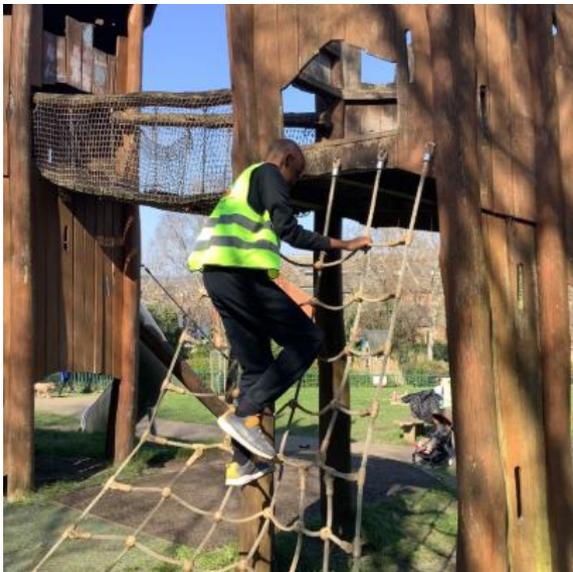
This term we made flapjacks, beetroot cakes, Greek salad, chocolate chip biscuits and plenty more.



We focused on some important events and got busy baking and crafting paper rings for the Olympics and pancakes for pancake day.



In springtime we went out for walks in the community and took the opportunity to do some shopping. All the learners were able to build their independence in walking, crossing the road safely and helped getting all the items we needed from our shopping list.



When the sun started to shine, we went to the local stationers park and had lots of fun climbing, swinging and sliding. It was great to see the whole class explore the equipment and build social skills.

PE (Physical education)

This term has been full of exciting celebrations, including World Book Day, the Hindu festival of Holi, and St Patrick's Day. We have incorporated these special events into our PE lessons, making learning active and enjoyable.

The children have had lots of fun moving their bodies in a variety of ways, exploring new movements and ways to travel through sensory play, obstacle courses, and free play activities.





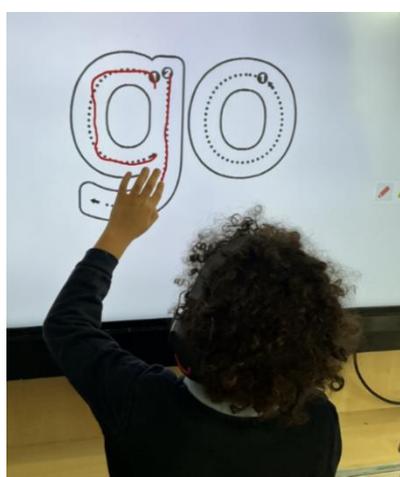
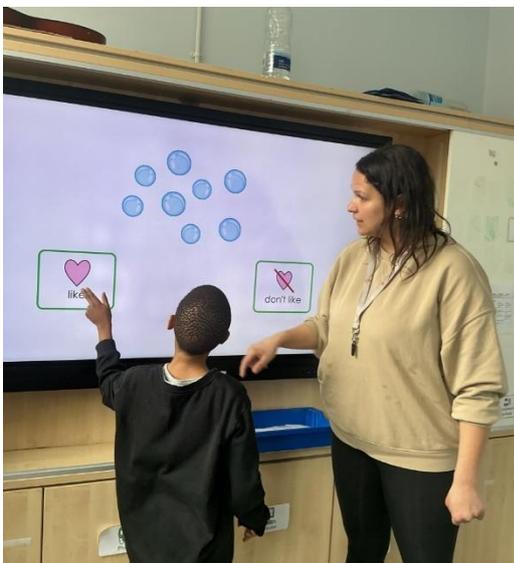




Wellbeing Team/Clinical

This term the Clinical Team have been excited to begin delivering group interventions across the school. Within Occupational Therapy a range of groups have been introduced focusing on self-care skills, movement and regulation. These sessions support our learners in developing independence and strategies to help them feel more regulated and ready to learn. It has been wonderful to see learners engaging and building confidence.

In Speech and Language Therapy we have been trialling a 'Core Word Programme' with the lower school. These sessions focus on developing use of communication boards through consistent use of core words such as 'want, go, like and more.' The intervention has been an enjoyable and interactive experience with learners beginning to use these words in meaningful ways. We are looking forward to continuing to build on this progress next term.



Events

National Storytelling Week



This year's theme was 'Soundtrack your Story', with class groups delivering the following learning activities: Book soundtracks for the classroom, live storytelling workshops, non-fiction musician studies, and Immersive Room experiences.



The official theme for Children's Mental Health Week 2026 was 'This is My Place'. The children were tasked with created a map collage showing all the

places, groups, and activities that help you feel like you belong. In classes they discussed 'What does belonging mean?', and we held a celebration assembly to mark the occasion.

Winter Olympics 2026



All classes provided learning activities and experiences relating to this year's Winter Olympics

Wild Science



Following our Mini Beast and Environmental themes in science we had a visit from several insects, invertebrates, reptiles and other assorted animals for the children to explore.



For World Book Day we dressed up in costumes and provided learning activities based on the Mini Beasts or Environment themes, using books read in class for inspiration

Holi





THINKING AND LEARNING



Acorn Education And Care
Options Autism

