

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we come to the end of another wonderful school year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your continued support, kindness and partnership. It has been an incredible year at Kestrel House School, and one that will always hold a special place in my heart as my first year as the official Headteacher.

When I reflect on the past year, what stands out above everything else is our extraordinary school community. Kestrel House has always been much more than a school – it is a place where children, families and staff come together to support one another, celebrate successes and overcome challenges as one team. Every day I see the warmth, care and dedication that make our community so unique, and I feel incredibly proud to be part of it.

One of the proudest moments of the year was welcoming the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) to Kestrel House School. We were delighted to be awarded a Significant Strength in leadership for teaching and learning—a distinction achieved by fewer than one in ten schools. This recognition reflects the passion, expertise and dedication of our staff team, who work tirelessly to provide every pupil with an ambitious, personalised education. It was a wonderful endorsement of the exceptional teaching and learning that takes place every day at Kestrel House, and we are excited to build on this success as we continue to grow.

Alongside this achievement, the year has been filled with laughter, learning and unforgettable experiences. Our pupils have embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm, curiosity and confidence. From meeting fascinating animals during our Wild Science visit, to the excitement of Santa's Grotto, the friendly competition of our Winter Olympics and World Cup events, the determination shown at Sports Day, and our fantastic end-of-year trips to Lee Valley Farm for Lower School and the London Eye for Upper School, there have been so many moments that have brought smiles to our faces and memories that will last for years to come.

If you haven't already, I encourage you to visit the News and Events section of our website, where you can see photographs and read about many of the wonderful experiences we have shared throughout the year. It really captures the joy, achievement and sense of belonging that make Kestrel House such a special place.

Throughout the year we have continued to embed our school values of Play, Pride and Preparation into everything we do. These values are at the heart of every interaction, every lesson and every achievement. Through Play, we inspire curiosity and enjoyment in learning; through Pride, we celebrate every success and help our pupils develop confidence in themselves; and through Preparation, we equip our young people with the skills, resilience and independence they need for life beyond Kestrel. These values have shaped everything we have achieved this year and will continue to guide us as we move into our exciting next chapter.

September marks the beginning of an exciting new era for Kestrel House School as we expand across two sites. This development will allow us to provide even more age-appropriate, targeted support through

dedicated Lower and Upper School provisions, ensuring our pupils continue to receive the specialist education they deserve at every stage of their journey.

Whilst our school community is growing, what makes Kestrel House so special will remain exactly the same. We are committed to ensuring that every child and every family continues to feel known, valued and connected, with the strong sense of community that has always been at the heart of our school. I am incredibly excited about the opportunities this next chapter will bring and look forward to welcoming new families into our growing Kestrel community.

Our final day of term was, as always, filled with mixed emotions as we celebrated our wonderful leavers. Many of them have been part of the Kestrel family for many years, and it has been a privilege to watch them grow into confident, resilient young people. We are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved and know they are well prepared for the next stage of their journey. They will be greatly missed, and we wish each of them every happiness and success for the future.

Finally, I would like to thank our exceptional staff for their unwavering commitment and dedication, and to our families for the trust and support you give us every day. Together, we create the nurturing environment that enables our pupils to flourish.

I hope you all have a wonderful, restful summer break, and I look forward to welcoming you all back to Kestrel House in September as we begin another exciting year together.

Warmest wishes,

Aimée McMillan Headteacher

Angel Class

Well done to Angel Class for their hard work during summer term!

We have been very busy working on the theme "Planes, trains and automobiles", with learners engaging with the theme across all subjects.

In Maths, we have been exploring the concept of 2D shapes, as well as continuing to work on grouping numbers and number bonds. We have also gone on shape hunts, finding lots of real-life examples of shapes in our community.

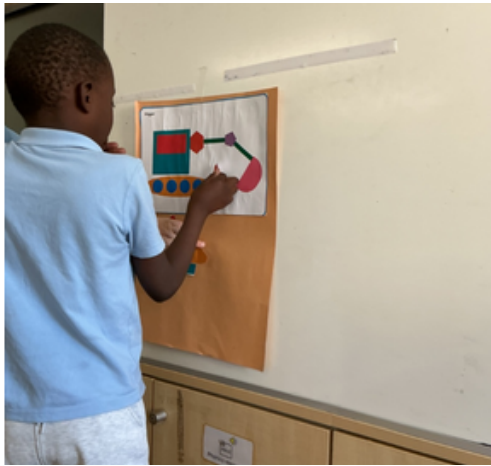
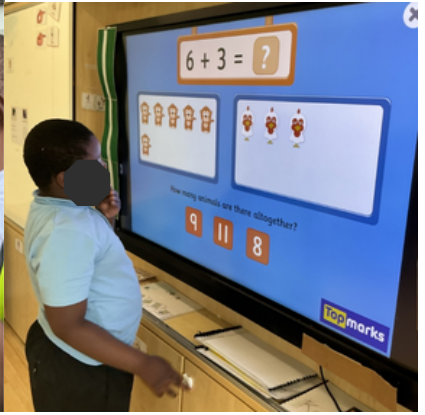
We have continued to expand our vocabulary through our Core Word Programme. We have practiced the words "finish" and "help", as well as revisiting "go", "more", "like" and "want". Learners have been learning how to apply these verbs in context through stories and songs and have been practicing using them with their core boards and BSL in a variety of activities and contexts.

Angel Class have had excellent opportunities to engage with our local community this term. We have been practising our shopping skills, practicing making shopping lists, choosing items from the shop and paying for them. This has built towards our class making a list and going shopping for items for their end of year party.

There have been a lot of roadworks outside our school lately, and we got a fantastic surprise visit from the local builders, who brought their diggers into school! Learners had the opportunity to sit in the digger and learn about the career of being a construction worker, which we thoroughly enjoyed.

We had a fantastic day at Lee Valley Animal Adventure Park, where we got to meet some of the animals, play in the trampoline park and explore the farm. We are so proud of how our learners have been able to engage with the community safely, enriching their educational experience.

It has been a fantastic year for the learners in Angel Class, and as a team we are so proud of our learners' progress from September to July. They have shown determination and enthusiasm, tried lot of new things and had fun along the way. Thank you for a wonderful year, and we will see you in September!



Victoria Class

This term, we have been learning about transport and the different vehicles we use when travelling to school and on holidays. We enjoyed practising lots of nursery rhymes linked to this topic and had great fun building a big bus, house, and aeroplane for our role-play area. The children loved using these to act out lots of exciting travelling adventures together.





One of our main focuses this term was learning to share space and toys with others. We developed many important social skills while playing in our new playground, taking turns on the swings and enjoying ball games together.





We had a very exciting term with our weekly swimming sessions, where we learned new water skills and practised travelling safely by taxi, always remembering to wear our seatbelts. At the swimming pool, we also developed valuable life skills, including dressing and undressing independently and drying ourselves with a towel.

In Science, we explored light and shadows. The children had great fun using the immersive room projectors to create exciting shadows, accompanied by sounds and actions that brought our learning to life.





Throughout the term, we have been learning and embedding lots of key vocabulary during our communication sessions through play and sensory experiences. This has helped the children develop their communication skills, hear and use their own voices, and make good use of the core boards throughout the day.





We were also very lucky to have diggers visit our school. The children enjoyed exploring what it is like to sit inside a digger and watching them at work outside the school during the nearby roadworks.





We continued to practise important self-care skills, with a strong focus on washing our hands and brushing our teeth independently.



We are incredibly proud of all the children's achievements this term. They have worked so hard, made wonderful progress, and enjoyed so many new experiences.



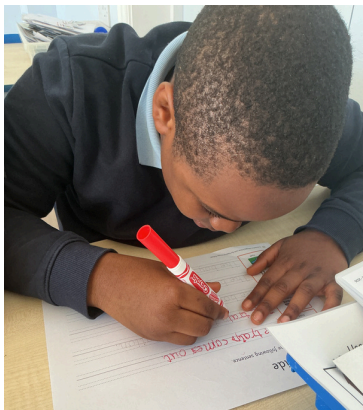


Pimlico Class

Well done to all the learners in Pimlico, you have been exceptional this term and have made so much progress.

We have enjoyed learning about 'Planes, Trains and Automobiles' in English, Science and PSHE this term as well as exploring a digger that has been digging up Crouch Hill. We have also learnt about different environments such as sea, sky and land. The class have been exploring the local community making sure they know how to keep safe. We have visited local parks and parkland walk. We have also enjoyed getting messy through sensory sessions and bucket time. Thank you to Sam for delivering our Music sessions, they have been extremely fun!

Good luck in your new classes!





Westminster Class

Westminster class have been working hard this term, taking part in a range of activities to build on their communication, engagement and life skills.







The class has particularly enjoyed multi-sensory activities, exploring new ways of learning together. For instance, movement is a big part of our everyday routine that helps us feel happy and ready. The class love to dance, run around the playground and go for visits into and around the local community.

Regular trips mean we can apply our skills outside of the classroom and exploring new areas has helped the learners confidence grow and their independence flourish! This term we have been to nearby parks and shops, on local walks and we ended the term with a trip to Lee Valley Animal Adventure Park.

Well done Westminster class for all your work this year!

Enjoy the summer holiday!



Paddington Class

Well done to Paddington Class for all their hard work and enthusiasm during the summer term! We have had a busy, rewarding year filled with exciting learning opportunities, sensory exploration, and wonderful achievements.

A vital part of our daily focus has been supporting our learners as they work towards their individual EHCP goals. Every child has made fantastic strides forward at a pace entirely personal to them, and it has been incredibly rewarding to watch their self-assurance, resilience, and daily independence flourish across all aspects of school life.

In Science, we concluded a brilliant year of discovery. While we previously explored our hearts and lungs, a particular highlight for the learners was discovering how the brain works by 'delivering messages by mail' to different parts of our bodies. More recently, we shifted our focus to Light and Shadow. The learners thoroughly enjoyed making their own creative shadow puppets and taking tracking ribbons outside into the sunshine to watch how they swirl and dance within their shadows.

Our maths learning focused heavily on developing practical number skills. Learners worked hard on concrete number bonds to 5, 10, 20, and 100, mastering these concepts through grouping exercises using toy cars, dinosaurs, and even grouping themselves. We also built upon our understanding of more, less, equal to, bigger, and smaller by using interactive 'frog fly catchers' and exploring capacity with water containers.

In English, our learners went on a wonderful journey around the world inspired by the book *Lots*. We travelled to Antarctica, Delhi, Tokyo, and the Amazon rainforest, with each destination brought to life through immersive weekly tuff trays. The children had great fun dressing up as news presenters to share the facts they had learnt. We finished the term diving into poetry, rhyme, and rhythm, enjoying clapping and stomping out beats using our own body parts.

Developing safety awareness and independent living skills has been another major focus for us. In PSHRE, we learnt about the people who help us in our community - from firefighters and teachers to window cleaners and mechanics - and how to contact them, which we combined with practical road safety lessons. During our life skills sessions, learners worked hard on their independence by making a healthy sandwich, focusing on safely cutting up food and using both pieces of cutlery together. Alongside these skills, learners have practised vital self-regulation tools, learning to stay calm and grounded through deep breathing, blowing bubbles, and requesting their personal sensory aids when needed.

Our cross-curricular themes of transport and travel, alongside bugs and the environment, inspired a variety of artwork and interactive projects this year. Learners loved exploring maps, plotting journeys, and thinking critically about what essential items they would need to pack for a big trip. To bring our learning to life, we had a fantastic surprise visit from community workers who let everyone climb up and sit inside a real, giant digger! We rounded off our spectacular year with an unforgettable trip to the London Eye and a sunny end-of-term picnic, which provided a wonderful opportunity for learners to practise accessing public transport safely.

It has been a truly fantastic year for Paddington Class, and as a team, we are incredibly proud of each learner's progress, resilience, and personal growth from September to July. Thank you to all our families and carers for your continued support throughout the year. We hope you have a safe, relaxing summer break, and we look forward to welcoming you back in September!



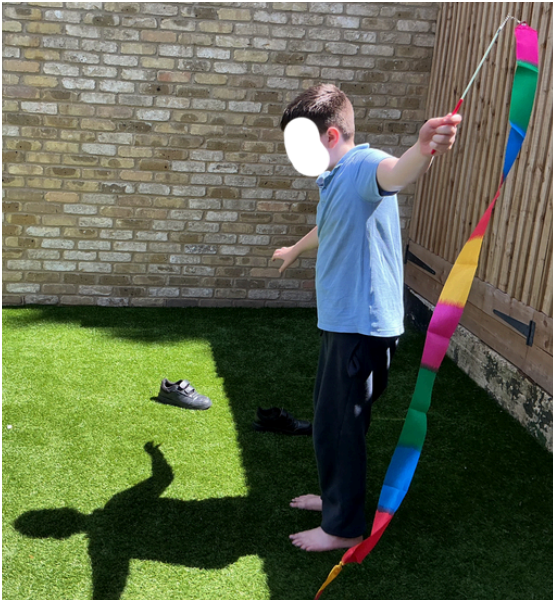












Hampstead Class

As we reach the end of another fantastic school year, it is hard to believe that this is Hampstead Class's final term at Kestrel House School before our pupils move on to their new schools and colleges in September.

This term has been all about preparing for those exciting next steps. The pupils have worked incredibly hard on building their confidence and independence through transition activities, including social stories, independence-building tasks, and visits to their new settings. It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow, and we are so proud of how well they have embraced these new experiences.

We have also had great fun celebrating the World Cup across the curriculum. The pupils enjoyed designing their own football shirts, writing about their favourite football players, and taking part in football-themed maths activities. It has been a brilliant way to combine learning with something many of our learners enjoy outside of school.

Of course, there has also been plenty of time for fun and making special memories together. We had a fantastic Sports Day, enjoyed an unforgettable trip to the London Eye, and were all very excited when diggers came to visit the school.

As we say goodbye to another wonderful year, we would like to thank all of our families for their continued support. It has been a privilege to watch the pupils grow in confidence, independence, and resilience throughout the year. We are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved and know they will continue to shine as they begin the next stage of their journey. We wish them all the very best for the future.







Waterloo Class

As we come to the end of another fantastic term, we would like to celebrate the incredible achievements and progress of all our learners in Waterloo Class. It has been a busy and rewarding term filled with exciting learning opportunities, new experiences and growing independence. We are so proud of everything the learners have accomplished.

A key focus this term has been Preparation for Adulthood, with regular visits into the local community to develop essential life skills. During these outings, learners have practised road safety, staying safe in the community, recognising important signs, shopping and travelling using different forms of transport.

Every learner has shown tremendous progress in these areas. They are becoming more aware of how-to crossroads safely, identify signs that help them navigate their surroundings, locate items whilst shopping and pay for purchases with increasing confidence. Through these meaningful, real-life experiences,

learners have developed greater independence, confidence and understanding, enabling them to apply these important skills in everyday situations.

Throughout the term, all learners have continued working towards their individual EHCP targets. We are delighted with the progress made by every learner, with each demonstrating growth at their own pace. It has been wonderful to see increased confidence, resilience and independence across a range of learning and personal development areas.

In English, learners have enjoyed developing their communication and literacy skills through a range of engaging activities. We have focused on recalling and retelling familiar stories, helping learners build confidence in sequencing events and developing their understanding of narratives.

Learners also explored the difference between fiction and non-fiction, sorting books and texts into the correct categories and discussing their features.

Writing activities were tailored to individual needs, with some learners working on improving their handwriting, sentence construction and written communication, whilst others focused on developing confidence and independence when typing using a computer or tablet.

In Maths, we explored a variety of practical concepts including number recognition, understanding more and less, recognising and identifying shapes, comparing bigger and smaller, and identifying tallest and shortest.

All learners have made excellent progress in these areas through engaging, sensory-based activities designed to support understanding whilst making learning fun and interactive.

We also spent time learning about money by recognising coins and notes, sorting different values and practising making purchases through role play and interactive games. Learners then had the opportunity to apply these skills during community shopping visits, helping to reinforce their understanding in real-life situations.

Our learners have enjoyed expressing their creativity in a variety of ways this term.

In Art, learners created colourful collages and explored the colour wheel by mixing primary colours to create new colours, developing both their creativity and understanding of colour.

In Dance, learners enjoyed choosing their favourite songs and expressing themselves through movement, celebrating their individual personalities and dance styles whilst building confidence and having lots of fun.

Our whole-class topic this term was Transport. Learners explored a wide range of activities linked to different modes of transport, identifying various vehicles and discussing where they can be found and how they are used.

To bring this learning to life, learners visited the local community where they identified different types of transport in real-life settings, helping them make meaningful connections between classroom learning and the world around them.

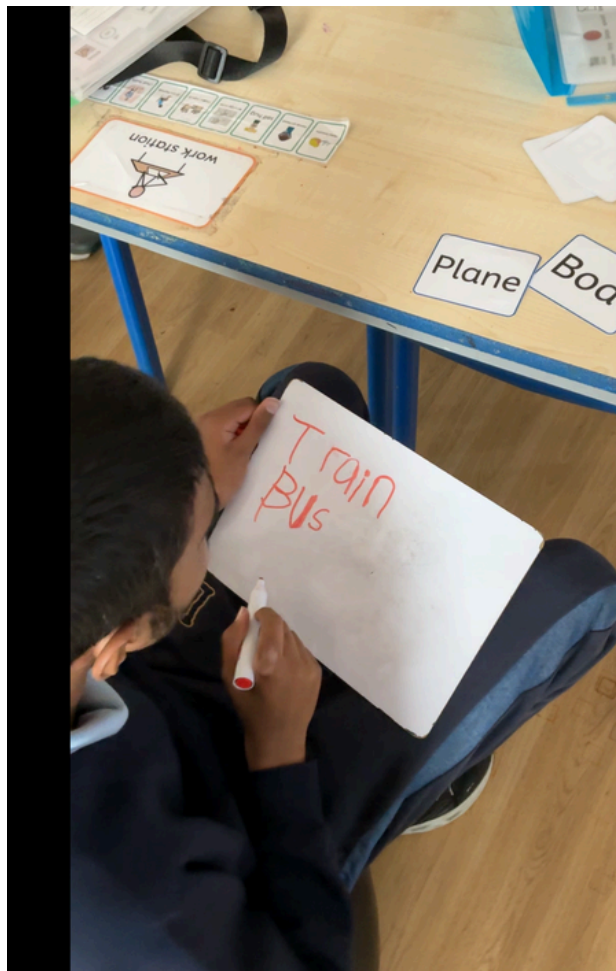
We rounded off a wonderful term with an exciting school trip to the London Eye. Learners travelled using different forms of transport before enjoying a ride in one of the London Eye pods, where they experienced spectacular views across London from high above the city.

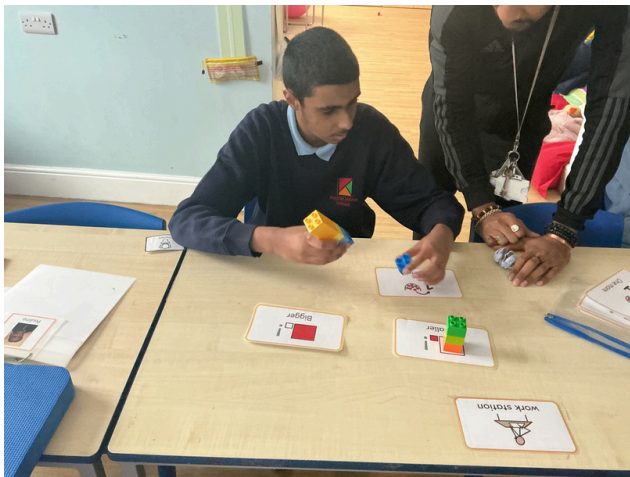
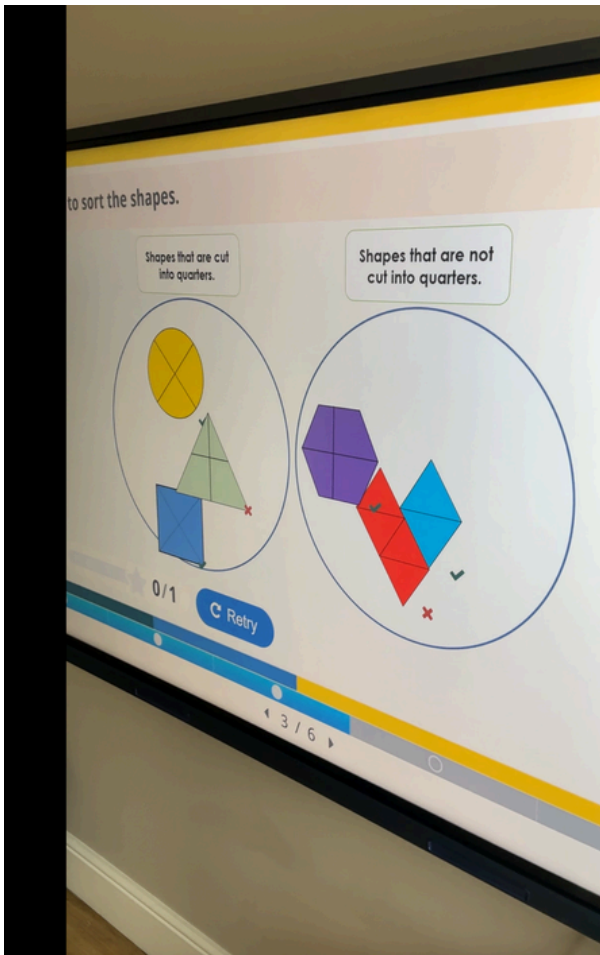
Afterwards, everyone enjoyed a picnic together, making the day a memorable and enjoyable experience for all.

The trip provided a fantastic opportunity for learners to continue developing their travel skills, confidence and independence whilst practising how to access public transport safely and behave appropriately in the community. It was a wonderful way to celebrate all the hard work and progress made throughout the term.

We are incredibly proud of every learner in Waterloo Class. Throughout the term they have shown enthusiasm, determination and resilience whilst developing important academic, social and life skills. Watching their confidence and independence continue to grow has been a real pleasure.

Thank you to all our families and carers for your continued support throughout the year. We hope you all have a safe, relaxing and enjoyable summer break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back for another exciting year of learning and new adventures.





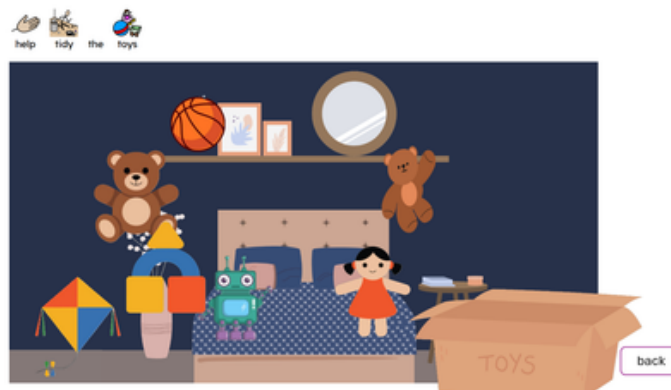
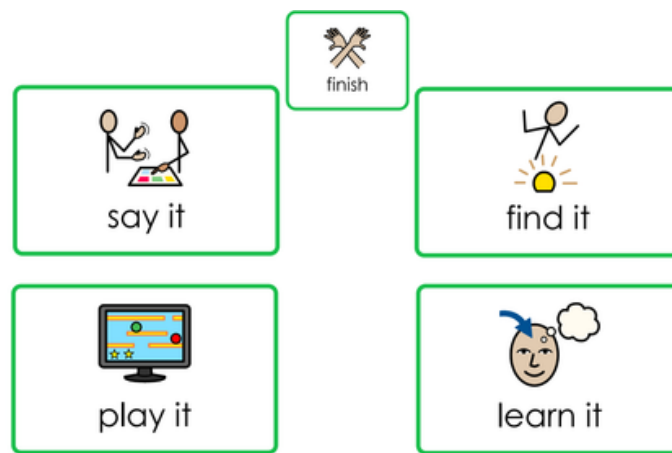
Clinical Team

This term, Speech & Language Therapy have continued with the Core Word Programme, which is now well established across our lower school classes. Learners are showing increasing confidence and independence in using the different core words focused on, across a range of activities. Our Signs of the Week this term have covered transport and

colours, to reflect the school topic, and we have enjoyed using the signs in different transport themed activities and games!

In Occupational Therapy, group sessions in classes have focused on regulation and functional fine motor skills; whilst the team have also been making the most of the school's new Soft Play, playground and sensory stations. Small group and individual sessions have been highly engaging and regulating, as learners have enjoyed exploring and having fun with all the new equipment.





Kestrel Family Nest



As we come to the end of another wonderful year, we are very sad to be saying goodbye to a few of our families. We wish them and their children every happiness and success for the future. Please do keep in touch with us—we would love to hear how you are getting on.

This year also saw the successful launch of our online Kestrel Family Nest (KFN), which has been very well received, allowing even more families to join our sessions and stay connected with the Kestrel community.

Our KFN workshops have been a fantastic opportunity for parents to get to know one another, share experiences, and support each other. Throughout the year, we have welcomed members of our Well-being Team and Senior Management Team, who have delivered a range of informative and practical workshops to support families both at school and at home.

Some of the topics we have explored this year include:

- **Sleep Strategies**, where parents learnt practical ways to support healthy sleep routines and improve bedtime experiences.
- **Bucket Time**, helping parents understand how this approach is used in school to develop children's attention, engagement and vocabulary, with ideas for continuing these activities at home.
- **Using Visuals**, where families discovered how visual supports are used throughout the school day and learnt how to create visual holiday timetables and routines to support their children during school breaks.
- **Safeguarding at Kestrel House**, providing parents with an overview of how we keep our children safe and the important role we all play in safeguarding their wellbeing.

We hope that these sessions have not only equipped families with practical strategies but have also provided a valuable space to ask questions, share experiences and learn from one another.

One of my favourite moments this year was during a KFN session when we encouraged all the parents to join in with a movement break, just as we do with the children in class. It was wonderful to see everyone stepping out of their comfort zones, having fun, and taking part together. There were plenty of smiles and laughter, and it really captured the supportive and welcoming spirit of KFN.

There are many exciting opportunities ahead for KFN in the coming year, and we look forward to offering even more workshops and opportunities for families to connect, learn and support one another.

We are also excited to welcome our new families in September and look forward to meeting them as they become part of our Kestrel community.

Wishing everyone a wonderful, relaxing summer holiday!





Events

Sports Day

This term, our learners took part in Sports Day, putting into practice all the skills they've been building during PE lessons throughout the year. We had planned to hold the event at venue off site, however because of the heatwave, Sports Day was held the school instead. This meant learners could stay cool, comfortable, and take breaks whenever they needed!





Everyone got involved in activities including a sack race, an egg and spoon race and tug of war. The afternoon ended with an awards ceremony, where every learner received recognition for taking part, and top scorers from each class were presented with medals.





End of Year Trips

Throughout the Summer term, Kestrel House School has loved getting out into the local community and beyond. As part of our End of Year celebrations, our lower school and upper school classes each enjoyed a special trip:

- The **Lower School** headed to **Lee Valley Adventure Park**
- The **Upper School** visited the **London Eye**

Both trips gave the learners a fantastic opportunity to explore and build confidence outside the classroom finishing the year with some wonderful shared memories!





... and finally

All **Crouch Hill** pupils will be back to school on **September 3rd** .

Elm Grove pupils will be having their **transition starting September 3rd in two alternating groups**, parents/carers **please make sure you are aware of which dates your child is coming on site**. This will have been sent home already. Transition will last until September 11th and then the school timetable will continue as usual.

If you have any queries, please phone the school or email KHS admin. Please be aware summer hours will not have staff in the school daily so reply time will be much longer than usual.



Acorn Education And Care
Options Autism



OptionsAutism
Your World is Our World™

