

FEBRUARY 2019

Newsletter



Kestrel House
School

Headteachers Message

Welcome to our Spring half term newsletter. First of all let me introduce myself as the new head teacher at Kestrel House. It has been a wonderful start to the term and may I add a very busy start to the year. The school community have been incredibly welcoming and I have certainly enjoyed every second.

In January the children enjoyed many learning activities based on themes such as 'Under the Sea' and 'It takes a village' where they were able to talk about their heritage and research into their family history. Families joined the children in celebrating their cultures and even brought wonderful food from Nigeria and Finland. It was absolutely delicious.

I also had the pleasure of meeting many families and we are now starting to work together to strengthen the school community. In our first meeting this year organised by Sharon Manikham our Family Liaison Coordinator, parents worked collaboratively to come up with fundraising ideas for the year. I hope that many more families will attend the meeting from next half term onwards.

The children have continued to become more and more confident with their independence skills. They have been going on frequent trips to our local library and have gone shopping in supermarkets to get snacks for our visitors. As the weather gets better, they will have more opportunities beyond the classroom with planned visits to museums and local parks.

Finally, at the start of this month, we celebrated Children's Mental Health Week. Staff were encouraged to bake a cake for the 'Kestrel House Cake Off' – 1 from each class. The cakes were absolutely delicious and I took advantage of being one of the judges. There was no clear winner. Instead we had joint winners Yvonne Bromley class teacher from Chestnut class and Jose Gutierrez, LSA from Oak Class. They will now be baking a cake for the final which will be in the summer term. I can't wait!

I would like to invite you to the Spring Festival which will take place on Thursday 4th April 2019. The children will be sharing and celebrating all of the learning which has taken place this term. There will be a feast of creative and expressive arts to look forward to.

I look forward to seeing you all. Have a wonderful break.

Lorna Bailey



A selection of the cakes from our 'Kestrel House Cake Off'

Part of the Acorn Group



Class articles

Maple class

In Maple class we have been creating our reading corner. Callum loves to read in the reading corner and love ngage in other learning activities with his LSA.

Some of the students were fortunate enough to meet our local community police officers. Sabir was very excited and was more interested in trying on the policeman's helmet. The police enjoyed coming to Kestrel House and have promised to come  and see us soon.



Malcolm and Sabir love to work independently. Sabir has shown that he has a skills for blending primary colours whilst Malcolm continues to develop his problem-solving skills.





Elm class

In Elm Class this half term the children have been very busy creating pieces of artwork which reflects our theme of 'Winter wonders'. The children have been making wintry scenes which have included sensory snowmen.

Elm class learners have also been transforming their classrooms. Here you can see them decorating letters which spell **ELM CLASS**. The letters are now on display at the front of their classroom.

The children have made progress this half term with their independence. In Numeracy and Literacy, they are developing new skills and are taking more risks with their learning. We are proud of their growing independence and cannot wait until next half term.



Look! Elm class was celebrating the Chinese New Year. DRAGONS in progress!



Elm Class needed a new display banner! Here comes a great helper.



We are very busy making a Winter Wonders piece of ART



It is not like Elm class is having only fun. Mostly yes even when learning 'important' things.





Chestnut class

“The children in Chestnut class have transformed the display boards in their classroom!”



“This is a piece of art work that Chestnut created as a group using a splatter technique.”



Mental Wellness: “ Our Tree of Mental Wellness is to celebrate Children’s Mental Health Week. The tree shows some of the words that we think are very important to being happy in school and at home.”

We aim high to achieve our goals!
We love learning and achieving together in Chestnut Class.





Targets: "The kites in this display show all of our current targets in English, Maths and Science."



In Chestnut class the children have been developing their independence skills across the curriculum. They have been learning about living creatures under the sea and have been creative with their artwork which is being displayed around the classroom.

In life skills, the children have been cleaning and hovering the classrooms every day and have become more and more confident at managing the cleaning duties in their classroom.



"Our topic is under water animals so we made some of our own like these jellyfish and octopus!"



Oak class

This half term Oak class has been settling down very well in their new early year's classroom set up. All students have been exploring different sensory activities. In Art we have been learning about following step by step instructions to create beautiful symmetric paintings. The children have also been doing hand prints for our installation in the reception of our school. We are really pleased with all of the learning and progress that Oak class learners have made this half term.



Olive class

“Olive class have been working hard to find out about their family heritage. We even invited our parents in for an afternoon of food, drink, music and discussion about each of our heritages.”



“We are artists! We enjoyed lots of work on famous pieces of art and even had a go at copying them ourselves. We think our versions are even better than the originals!”

TERM DATES FOR PUPILS 2019

Spring Term 2019	Starts	Ends
1st Half Term	Tuesday 8th January	Friday 15th February
Holiday (SCHOOL CLOSED)	Monday 18th February	Friday 22nd February
2nd Half Term	Monday 25th February	Friday 5th April
Easter Holiday (SCHOOL CLOSED)	Monday 8th April	Monday 22nd April

Summer Term 2019	Starts	Ends
1st Half Term	Wednesday 24th April	Friday 24th May
Holiday (SCHOOL CLOSED)	Monday 27th May	Friday 31st May
2nd Half Term	Monday 3rd June	Friday 19th July
Summer Holiday (SCHOOL CLOSED)	Monday 22nd July	Monday 2nd September (INSET days TBC)

INSET Days 2019 (staff training: school is closed to pupils)

Tuesday 23rd April 2019

Term dates for pupils and staff (updated 13th February 2019)

How to get in touch

If you are interested in visiting Kestrel House School, or finding out more about the support we provide, please call **020 8348 8500** or e-mail admin@kestrelhouseschool.co.uk