



NEWSLETTER



Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we close the chapter on another academic year, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the remarkable journey we've undertaken together. This year has been a testament to the resilience, creativity and dedication of our entire school community. We have faced challenges with unwavering determination and celebrated triumphs with heartfelt joy.

Our classrooms have been alive with curiosity and discovery, driven by the passion of both students and educators.

This year, we have seen incredible personal growth. Kestrel House students have not only gained knowledge but also developed important life skills such as empathy, perseverance and collaboration. They have engaged in meaningful projects and initiatives that extend beyond the classroom, making a positive impact on their own lives and that of those close to them.

The sense of community and support has been palpable throughout the year. Teachers, parents, and staff have worked hand in hand to create a nurturing and inclusive environment where every student feels valued and inspired. The encouragement and care we have shown each other have been the backbone of our success.

As we prepare for a well-deserved summer break, let's carry forward the lessons learned and the friendships formed. To our leaving students, we wish you all the very best and will always remember the impact you have made here. Your future is bright, and we have no doubt that you will continue to achieve great things. For our returning students, we eagerly anticipate welcoming you back in September, ready for new adventures and learning opportunities.

A Heartfelt Thank You

I want to extend my deepest gratitude to our staff for their tireless efforts, to our parents for their unwavering support, and to our students for their enthusiasm and hard work. Together, we have created a school year filled with memories, growth, and success. We also say goodbye to a few staff who will shine their light bright but far from us. They are Patricia (Victoria Class), Kelly (Victoria



Class), Marco (Westminster Class). Thank you for your hard work, dedication and devotion in all you have done for Kestrel House School, its students and parents.

Furthermore, it has been an honour to have been the interim head of school, but I have decided to take a step back enabling me to develop areas I am passionate about even further. As a result of this I would like to welcome Giovanna Zullo-Avila to Kestrel House School as the new Head Teacher.

Wishing everyone a restful and enjoyable summer. Let's return with renewed energy and excitement for the year ahead.

With warmest regards,

Marc Cox



Angel Class



In Angel Class this term we have been doing lots of trips around the community and to the park. This has tied in with a sensory story we have been reading in the classroom - about taking trips on the bus. The learners thoroughly enjoy being out in the community and this is very beneficial for their social skills and emotional regulation. It also offers them a chance to improve on skills such as following instructions to keep themselves safe and interacting with each other and adults.





Angel class have been doing lots of work around self-care routines this term. Including toileting, brushing teeth and dressing for the different seasons.

We have also been doing a lot of cooking this term, making pizzas, cupcakes, fruit salad and more. These activities have allowed our class to have increased exposure and exploration of different foods. The learners really enjoy following the steps of the recipe and helping to cut, mix and pour.



In literacy this term the learners have been enjoying different sensory stories with the learners themselves within the different stories. These stories incorporate different sensory elements to give the learners a fun and engaging experience. After the stories the learners take part in comprehension activities including writing and matching activities with relevant vocabulary from the story.



Victoria Class



Victoria's class this term has been learning about measurements and sizes, London landmarks by reading 'Maisy goes to London', listening and matching animal's sounds for phonics lesson and exploring things we can find in the air, water and land for science. We also, engage in mark making activities using different resources and messy play.

Now that the weather is getting nicer, we have loved going for walks, playing in the park and going on trips. We loved going to the Zoo and look the different London landmarks from the London Eye.



Pimlico Class

During the summer term, Pimlico class have enjoyed learning, exploring, discovering, and taking part in a range of lessons and activities.

Pimlico have loved engaging in music therapy sessions during which they have practiced playing a variety of instruments including the guitar, xylophone, and maracas.



In life skills, we have been working on developing functional skills including cooking, road safety awareness, going to the shops, and using public transport.



Pimlico have really enjoyed going out including to Parkland Walk, Alexandra Palace, and Priory Park.



Pimlico have also enjoyed working on tooth-brushing, personal care, dressing skills, and healthy eating in PSHE.

In PE, we have been working on our co-ordination, core strength, balancing, and throwing through activities such as sensory circuits, hockey, scooter boards, group games, and stacking blocks.

In literacy, Pimlico have really enjoyed reading books and listening to stories whilst also working on their phonics awareness and use of language/symbols.

In numeracy, we have been learning about counting money and understanding directions when following a map which has come in handy during our trips to the local community!



In art, Pimlico have enjoyed developing their creativity skills through activities including painting, colouring in, cutting and sticking, exploring different textures, and messy play.



In science, we have been learning about different materials, sink and float, parts of the body, and parts of a leaf. We have also strengthened our ICT skills through engaging in activities on the interactive whiteboard, laptop, and iPad.



It has been a great year overall and we are so proud of everything Pimlico have accomplished. Well done everyone!

Westminster Class

Westminster class have welcomed the Summer Term by taking every sunny opportunity to take learning outside of the classroom!

We learnt about the weather through sensory art and craft sessions. Cloudy and rainy were some of our favourites.



We have been reading 'Maisy Goes to London', as part of our topic 'Mind the Gap'. We created our own London bus model to help us learn about different London landmarks and used Maisy as our guide!



To say "thank you" we took Maisy to see some of our local landmarks in Crouch End. Did you know we have our own clock tower? It was like visiting Big Ben! We got to try some hot chocolate from a local coffee shop as well.



Paddington Class

Paddington have had a wonderful summer term, we've engaged in lots exciting learning, developed our skills, engaged and participated in lots of meaningful learning activities, and have worked hard toward and achieved our targets and AQA awards. We've enjoyed weekly music and cooking sessions and completed our class cooking book; it has lots of delicious and healthy recipes. We've gone for lovely community walks and have celebrated birthdays and special events. It's been a great school year overall for Paddington class. Well done everyone!



In Literacy our focus texts have been "Mr Men in London" and "Paddington at the Tower". We've done lots of comprehension and matching activities based on these books and have also been working on developing our writing and typing skills. Our morning phonics sessions have been really engaging and we've loved joining in with group games and activities. Our reading sessions have been very relaxing, and we've read, watched and listened to some really great stories.



In numeracy we've been using maps to follow directions, measuring and ordering different heights and lengths and working on our counting ability. We've enjoyed lots of walks in the community following different directions, we've measured who the tallest in the class is and have been able to recognise different sizes in the classroom and around school. We've really developed our skills and enjoyed numeracy games as a group.



In Science we've been learning about lots of different things and doing lots of fun experiments. We've learnt about the seasons, habitats, different careers in science, and solids and liquids. We've built structures, created sensory bags, and have done balloon and melting experiments it's been great!



In Art we've learned about lots of different topics and celebrated lots of different events. We created dragons and swords for St Georges Day, we created expressive art pieces for World Art Day, we made lots of cool habitats for World Species Day, made delicious biscuits to celebrate Wimbledon, and created beautiful bracelets for National Friend Day. We've been busy engaging in creative activities and celebrating fun days as a class.



During our RSE and PHSE we have been learning about safe people, personal space and touch, and different careers; whilst also developing our self-care, independence and life skills. Our independence has grown, and we are developing more of an understanding of the wider community.

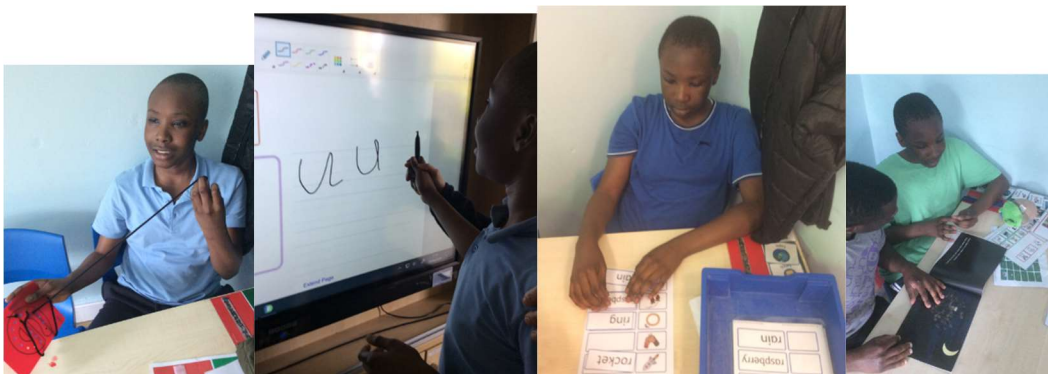


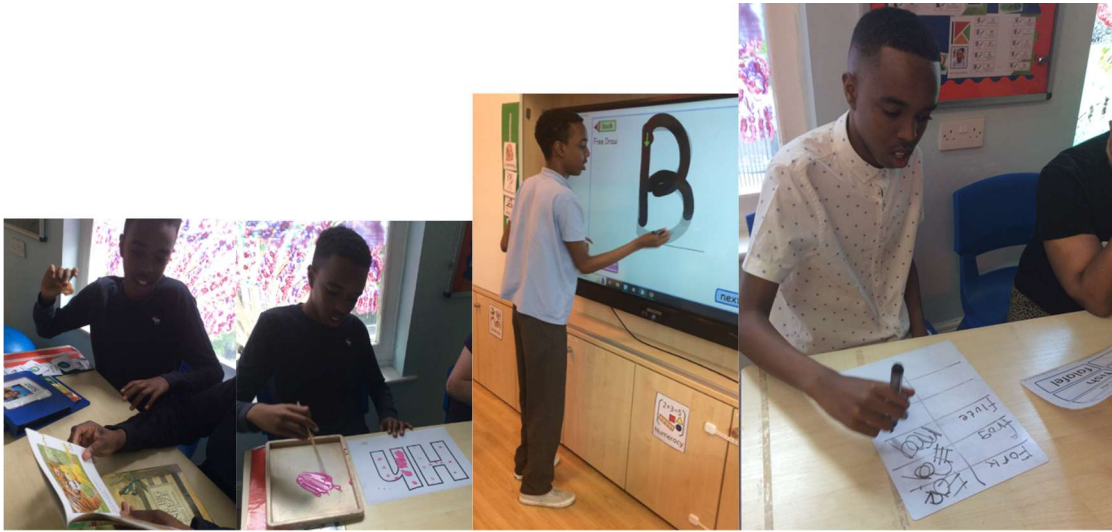
Hampstead Class

During numeracy learning Hampstead have had opportunities at the interactive whiteboard and their work desks. We have been solving problems using skills such as matching, counting, number recognition and fine motor skills for example. We have had inspiration from London and The Mr. Men or Little Miss characters.



During Literacy our learners have had opportunities to enjoy reading as well as participating in phonics lessons. Learners have had a variety of picture books read to them as well as entry level reading books. This term phonics sounds have been eE, uU, rR, hH, bB, fF and lL.





Hampstead class have enjoyed plenty of creative learning opportunities this term. We have made artwork based around the class sensory story for the term which was Mr. Men Little Miss in London by Roger and Adam Hargreaves. The story involves various Mr. Men and Little Miss characters taking a trip to London and seeing some of the very famous landmarks and attractions the city has to offer. Art has been inspired by these such as a making a crown fit for King Charles III, lion art inspired by the statues in Trafalgar Square and clock art inspired by Big Ben. We have also built 3D dioramas of the city.





Waterloo Class

Waterloo Class have had a great summer term completing targets and practicing our reading and writing skills. We especially made a lot of progress learning and incorporating new life skills. We had a lot of fun learning how to cross the road safely, learning how to cook different meals and learning how to use public transport safely. However, we had a particularly exciting time learning how to wash cars. Everyone was enthusiastic and playful from beginning to end. First, we created a poster to let everyone know about our car wash. Second, we had to ask our favourite teachers if we could clean their cars (for free of course!). Finally, we got to it. As you can see, we had a great time learning from the teachers and then doing it by ourselves. We even helped each other. Altogether, this life skills lesson was our favourite lesson and we have had a great year. Well done to everyone!



Life Skills

This summer term, our students have engaged in a variety of outdoor activities that emphasized essential life skills. Under the theme "Mind the Gap," we focused on teaching students the importance of road safety. They practised crossing streets safely, using pedestrian crossings, and securely riding buses. Some classes had the opportunity to travel on the underground and overground trains, allowing them to navigate public transportation with confidence and independence.



I am incredibly proud of our students for mastering the skills required to use public transport with the support of adults. Their progress in this area is a testament to their hard work and dedication. Notably, Paddington class had an excellent opportunity to participate in tennis lessons with a coach, which was a delightful addition to their learning experience.



In addition to learning about transportation, our students continued exploring different foods. They were encouraged to smell, touch, taste, and feel various foods and textures, which helped broaden their palates and promoted the inclusion of healthy foods in their diets. This sensory exploration was instrumental in making them more open to trying new and nutritious foods.



Overall, this term has been incredibly successful. Our students have not only learned valuable life skills but have also enjoyed enriching activities that have contributed to their growth and development. We look forward to continuing this journey and seeing even more achievements in the coming terms.

Kestrel Family Nest

We have had a very busy year with lots of workshops which have been very successful. We have seen so many families and carers gain so many skills from the workshops and built a strong connection with other families which is the aim of KFN.

I would like to say a very big thank you to Marc, Lucy, Molly, Klea and Coryn for their hard work and continued support with KFN and the significant impact that their work has had with us all.

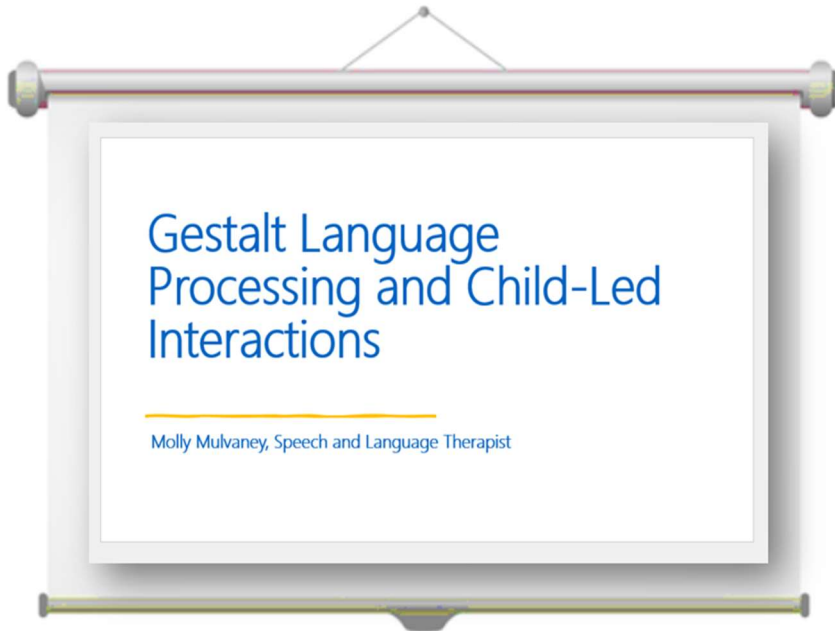
I look forward to building KFN into stronger sense of connection for all families and carers and building it into a community within our local communities so that it is much more accessible for everyone to attend. I am so proud of how our KFN group has progressed over this last year. I hope you all have a fantastic summer and I look forward to seeing you all in September.

All that is left to say is 'thank you' to Sharon for organising and support us with these sessions.





Wellbeing Team



The Wellbeing Team and our Family Liaison have once again successfully completed another fantastic Kestrel Family Nest. This term, our Speech and Language Therapist, Molly, conducted a workshop on child-led interactions and introduced parents and carers to "Gestalt Language Processing."

It was delightful to welcome all the parents back for another term, providing them with valuable advice and addressing

any questions they had. Our workshops are designed to inform and support parents and carers of our learners, ensuring we can continue delivering the best inclusive practices for every learner at our school.

In other exciting news, our Occupational Therapist, Lucy, will be going on maternity leave soon. We wish her well during this special time. Lucy has been a valuable member of our team for over 3 years, and her contributions have made a significant impact to our school. We look forward to her return and continuing our work together.



As we wrap up this term, we want to celebrate the incredible achievements of our learners in therapy. We remain dedicated to advocating for and providing neurodiversity-affirming support, ensuring every child thrives. Enjoy your break, and we look forward to continuing our journey together in the new term!



Events

Happy 16th Birthday Sabir!



International Day

Here at Kestrel House, we have a multitude of cultures amongst staff and learners. We celebrated this on Monday 15th of July during our international day. Learners and staff brought in national dishes from their culture and wore traditional outfits.





Hackney Adventure Playground

For the end of year trip, Kestrel House School went to Hackney adventure playground. We had an amazing day with our learners, who had access to climbing frames, treehouses, bikes, soft playroom, and much more.





... and finally

Congratulations to Cat, one of our Assistant Head Teachers, on the birth of her baby boy!

We look forward to seeing you all on Wednesday 4th September for the new academic year.



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