



# Watergate Newsletter

Summer 2024



Welcome to Summer 2024 edition of our school newsletter.

You might be able to tell from all the smiley faces – our Summer Newsletter is all about **sharing what makes us happy in school!**

Despite the rainy start to our Summer, we have not let the weather get in the way of our fun and happiness – so, find a patch of sunshine (if you can), sit back and take a look through our newsletter which is bursting with joyfulness and beautiful smiles!!

We hope it makes you smile too 😊

**Wishing you all a lovely break, from Linda and everyone at Watergate**

## Autumn Term dates

Start of term: Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 24  
Half term week: Mon 28<sup>th</sup> Oct – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> Nov  
Start of 2<sup>nd</sup> ½ term: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November  
Christmas holiday: Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec – Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan 25





**Sky Class**

We have had such a wonderful year in Sky Class and it has been so special to see all our children grow and make friends with each other and bond with the adults. The things that make Sky Class the happiest is lots of cuddles, intensive interaction and games with their adults. We love going swimming every Monday and even when the pool is closed we love to make the most of the amazing outdoor and indoor areas at the big school. When we're not swimming, we also love water play in the garden and playgrounds. We love to play music in Sky Class every day and the children love to listen to the guitar and play their percussion instruments too. We have done some fantastic Attention Autism sessions too and we are so proud of how much our children have grown and learnt how to sit together around the table and attend to our motivating sessions. Have a beautiful summer everyone!



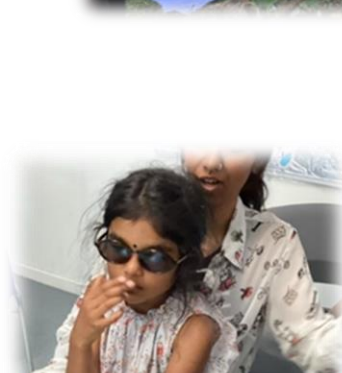
## Ruby Class

In Ruby Class, we are happiest when we get involved in Messy Play Activities! This term, we have enjoyed a range of messy play activities – in particular we love getting our hands messy with shaving foam and corn flour as well as using tools such as spoons and splatting tools. We have also loved getting messy with paint by using different media and tools to create art work in our group activities including moons, planets, pirate boats, parrots and treasure maps. Take a look at our pictures below to see us all having fun getting messy in Ruby Class.



## Lavender Class

Over the last term, Lavender Class have been focusing on independence, communication, number skills and learning outside of the classroom. We were fortunate enough to visit Airjump Trampoline Park where we all had an amazing time. Lavenders have mastered finding their peg and hanging up their coats/bags with decreasing support and navigating visual supports to help in making requests and fostering independence within our cooking sessions. Unfortunately it is time to say goodbye to Emmanuel, Jacob, Naveena and Natayne who are all moving to the Bellingham site in September. Our journey has been one of love and laughter and we miss you already! Orion, Jago, Panushan, Yahaan and Daniel, Jade, Anushka and Leigh will remain at Ladywell for Lavender the remix! Stayed tuned for our next adventures.....





## Chestnut Class

Chestnut class have had lots of fun playing and interacting together. We have gone to the moon and back following "Zoom zoom zoom song" and Whatever next story and we have had lots of great moments being Pirates in remote islands. We have been developing lots of playful interactions as this is key to develop communication and interaction skills e.g. mirroring what the child is doing, responding enthusiastically to the child's attempt to interact with us, bringing fun into the activities they are already playing and creating opportunities for the child to communicate, using visuals, language, noises, movement, facial expressions.... We have had great fun moments together. Thank you to the team that had made possible all the FUN LEARNING.





**Olive Class**

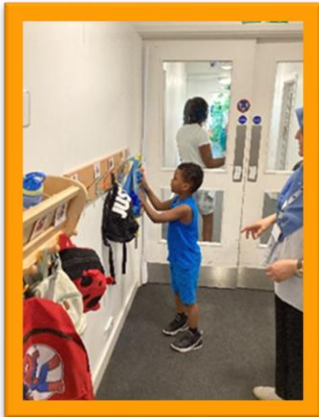
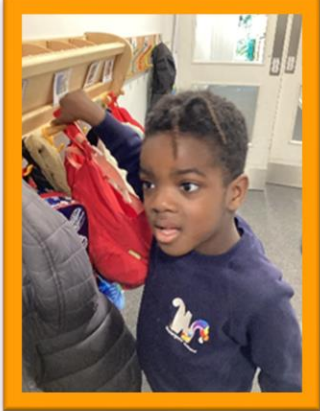
There is nothing we like better in Olive Class than being busy!

You can see that being creative, making choices, building relationships and keeping active have definitely made us happy this term.

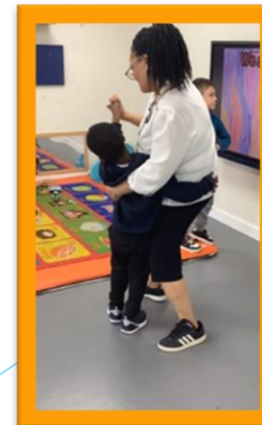


# Amber Class Happy Moments

“Whoever is happy will make others happy” (Anne Frank). In Amber Class we are always happy and we love coming to school, we have become so confident and independent that we happily hang our bags on our pegs without any adult support.



Music is happiness with a steady pulse (Richelle e Goodrich). We love making music and listening to music while having a dance with our teacher, we are the best dancers ever!



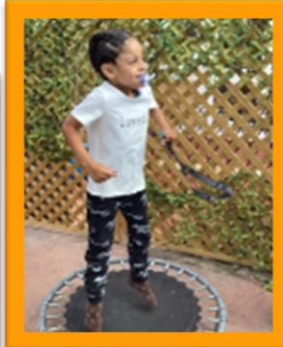
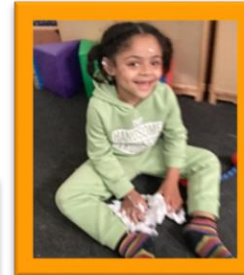
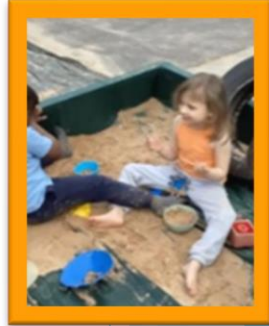
# More Amber Class Happy Moments!



In Amber Class we do not dress up to impress others, we dress up to express ourselves and we love dressing up!



Sometimes having fun with your friend is all you need! We are all friends in Amber class and we like playing alongside each other



In all this world there is nothing so beautiful as a happy child and in Amber Class we have lots of beautiful happy children!!!!





**Primrose Class**

This term in Primrose class we have been learning about themes of the ocean, exploring different sporting activities in the run up to the Paralympics, and communicating our musical preferences of learned songs and instruments. We have also been building our sense of responsibility in how we help and support each other with helpful tasks, with a focus on being kind and happy. We have enjoyed playing darts, mini golf and bowling, and swimming is always fun in Primrose class!

‘If you want to be happy, be.’ Leo Tolstoy.



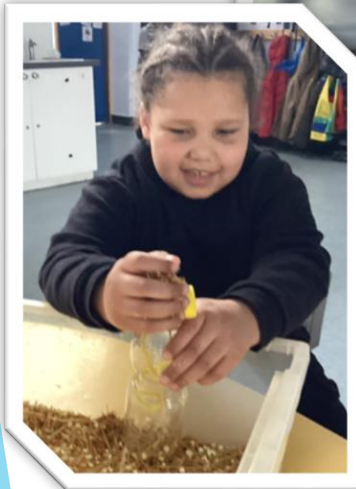
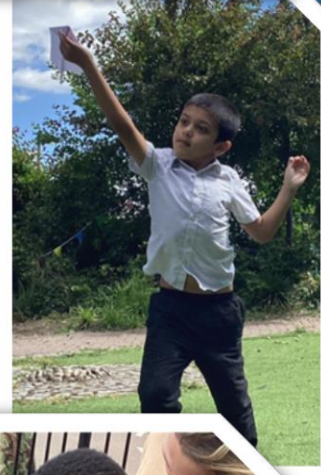
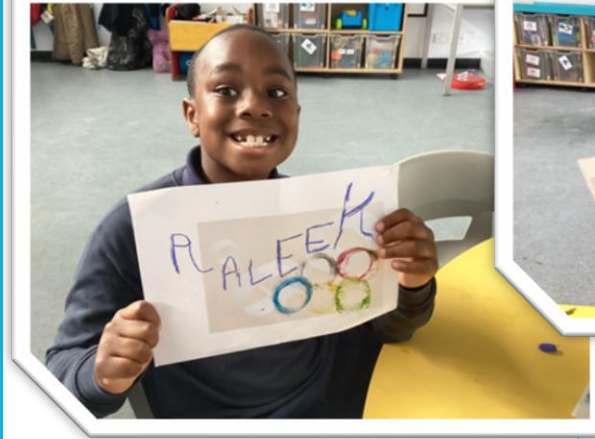
## Red Class

In Red Class this term we have been enjoying sharing stories. We have been telling stories about pirates sailing across the sea, rockets travelling into space and exploring all our different senses at the beach. As pirates we've walked the plank, met a giant squid and found the treasure. On the beach we've liked feeling the different textures of the sea shells, feeling sand between our toes and trying on different sunglasses. We have really enjoyed using the cardboard space rocket to Zoom Zoom Zoom to the Moon, throwing asteroids through hoops and joining the man on the moon for a picnic.



## Yellow Class

You can tell from our smiles that we have enjoyed so many fun activities this term – from pirate explorations, launching paper planes, creating art, being musical and (best of all) spending time with our friends!



# Happiness in Green Class



Green Class have had a wonderful year, full of learning, laughter and amazing achievements! Beautiful friendships have blossomed and lots of memories have been made. In class, we have loved making music, food, art and fun together. We're always playing games, sharing and helping each other. We've also had some fun outside the classroom; at Godstone Farm, AirJump Trampoline Park and Bellingham Soft Play! It's been a year **full** of joy and happiness!



# Happiness in Blue Class

In Blue Class we laugh and we smile,  
we go the extra mile and it can take  
us a while but we do it in style!

We love to sing and we love to cook,  
oh we love food and we are so good!  
We sit, we stand, we run and we play,  
and it may always rain but our day's  
never grey!

We enjoy each other's company  
and we make each other happy.

So let's give a cheer to Blue Class' best year!





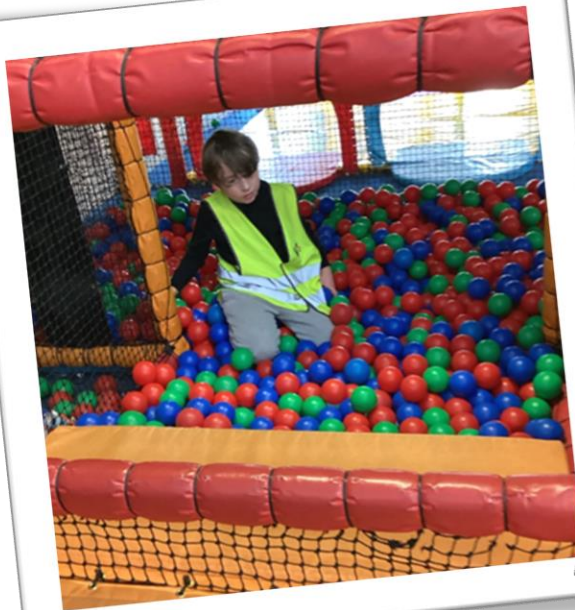
## Violet Class

In Violet Class, we've been having so much fun with all kinds of activities that make us smile. We love sensory play, where we get to feel and see different things that are super cool. Dressing up in costumes lets us pretend and go on exciting adventures, and we enjoy sharing stories with each other. Playing games brings lots of laughter and helps us work together, while music fills our classroom with joy. Every day is an exciting and happy time in Violet Class, and we've really enjoying learning and playing together.



# Pink Class

In Pink class, learning takes place indoors and outdoors and is always fun





## Orange Class

This term, Orange took a trip to Battersea Zoo. Pupils really enjoyed sharing this experience together, staff have observed pupils forming deeper friendships and taking care of each other over these last few weeks. We saw lots of turn-taking, saying hello to fellow visitors and laughing at the Emus who were very funny to watch running around! Such a special way to end our year together.





## Silver Class Shines Bright!

As we reach the end of this term, we are filled with pride and joy as we celebrate the incredible journey of Silver Class. This term has been a remarkable one, marked by the wonderful bonds that have formed among peers and the growth in their confidence.

What stands out the most is the happiness that radiates from Silver Class. The joy they find in being around each other and the genuine care they show in looking out for one another.

One of our most fond moments have been our weekly trips to Lidl. Watching Silver Class explore Lidl, following their shopping list, collect items from the shelves and engaging with our local community has been fantastic! It's been a proud moment for everyone involved.

Well done to Silver Class for being amazing! Your efforts and enthusiasm have truly stood out.



# Peach Class

Peach Class have had a wonderful year together! This term we have been exploring a wide range of learning through our "Land Ahoy" topic.

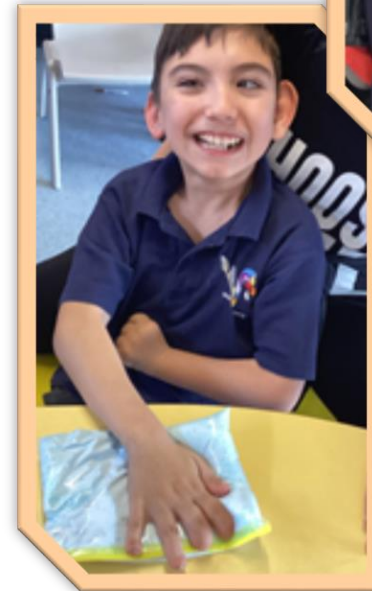
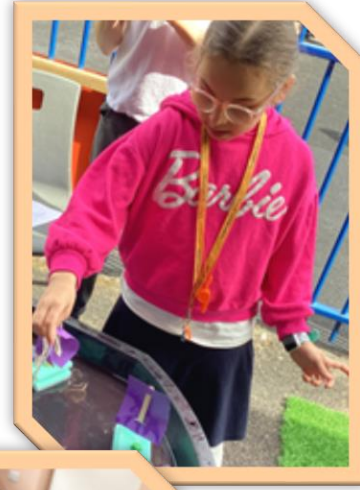
Peach Class have loved making and testing different boats using recycled materials to see if they would float or sink.

We have had great fun playing Pirate Pandemonium and walking the plank!

We have had a fabulous time experiencing some incredible new sensory environments including far away islands or in the deep blue see through our Moving Stories project.

We have mostly enjoyed spending lots of time together outside, in nature and splashing around in the swimming pool!

What a fabulous and joyful year Peach Class!



# Lime Class

Lime class have had an amazing year this year and it has been filled with joy and happiness throughout.

Lime class have been on some lovely trips this year, we have been to the farm, some of our children have been paddle boarding at Beckenham Park, and our most recent trip, to celebrate the end of the year, has been to Air Jump.

All of the children were so engaged and happy when we attended air jump and the whole room was full of smiles and joy. We were also lucky enough to have shared this trip and learning experience with Aqua class which was an amazing opportunity for our classes to spend time together and create new friendships with other people in the school.

Lime class have enjoyed so many sessions throughout the year and it has been lovely for all the staff in Lime class to share and cherish these happy moments with all of our pupils!



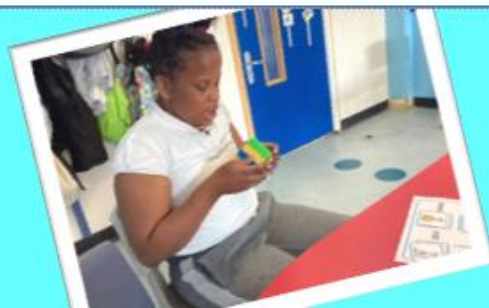


Aqua Class have been very busy this term. We have been exploring pirates and space as part of our Land A'hooy topic. We loved make pirate hats and looking at ourselves in the mirrors and we created our own "wanted" posters to see if we could catch the pirates. We made lots of mess when exploring space, aliens are very messy!

We have been busy with lots of events and trips too, including Year 6 Graduation and trips to Greenvale School and Drumbeat School. We had an amazing trip to AirJump and loved jumping on the trampolines.

We have spent lots of time this term discovering things that make us happy and understanding that different things make our friends happy, some of us like dressing up, some of us like doing art and some of us like spending time in the Sensory Garden.

Well done Aqua class on a fantastic term and to those who are moving to secondary school, we will miss you and good luck!



## Gold Class 😊

This summer term in Gold Class has been a blast! We've enjoyed a variety of outdoor activities, engaging art projects, messy play, lively music sessions, and countless joyful moments. A standout memory was our trip to Godstone Farm, where we had a fantastic time exploring and learning. We also loved participating in school-wide events, including International Music Day, assemblies, and special celebrations. Our hard work has made learning truly fun! Wishing everyone a wonderful summer!



# Family Coffee Mornings

This year we have had some lovely coffee mornings with families and friends!

We have had visits from Speech & Language and Occupational Therapists who shared some advice and activities to try at home.

Thank you to all our parents and carers who have shared your invaluable knowledge of what other families can access for their children or where there are community groups and support networks.

We also had fun cooking with Raji and a chance to think about looking after our own mental health with Isabell.

Our final coffee morning of the year focused on hints and tips for activities which children may enjoy over the Summer holidays which we sent out to all our families last week ☺

We will be having Monday morning drop ins from September and will continue to have specialist coffee mornings – if there is something which you would find particularly useful, please let Carol Powell (Family Support Worker) know!



**A REAL(ly)  
super coffee  
morning!**

We had a fantastic **coffee morning with families** about **Early Communication and Literacy with ANGELA RUSSELL, Make it Real approach** Lewisham project leader. We are very happy to share that we will be following this presentation with a few more sessions next academic year!

Watch this space...

*Making it REAL is a fun, engaging and accessible programme that supports the home learning environment and makes a difference to children's communication, language and early literacy*





# HUGE thank you!

We must say a huge thank you to our local Lidl store and colleagues at Lidl Bellingham, who helped massively with donations of food for the Fun Day!

A thank you also for raffle donations from...

## Watergate Fun Day

The sun was shining for our annual Fun Day at Watergate!

Nothing makes us smile more than sharing good times with our friends and families!

We thank everyone for all their generosity with donations, helping on the day and, of course, coming in to share the day with us!

Working together, we took a fabulous £1500 on the day!



Catford branch



Ladywell

Thank you also for sessions on the day to Clara from Planet Hoop

...and the Catford Library Team!





## MOVE Week!

Our MOVERs celebrated MOVE week by taking part in a Beach-themed Olympics. We enjoyed showing off our MOVE skills by playing beach volleyball, taking part in a tiki torch relay and completing a range of challenges in the PE hall. We also celebrated our achievements alongside our families at our annual MOVE awards, which was great fun!



# Class of 2024

Something which definitely brought a tear to our eyes – but which was still a joyous celebration – was our Leavers' Lunch and Graduation Ceremony.

We were so glad that so many families could join us to hear about the achievements of their children over the year.

**We will most certainly be sad to see our friends leave, but wish them all the very best of happiness in their new adventures at Secondary school!**



## Team Watergate: Sports Report

As always, we have been very busy trying new sports and developing our skills. The great thing about being active is it is good for our physical wellbeing and our happiness too!

### Anyone for Tennis?

Our pupils have enjoyed tennis coaching with Ed and Ali from South East London Tennis this year. It has been wonderful watching them develop skills and build relationships with the coaches. We were thrilled to welcome Ed and Ali back to run sessions for parents to attend, and around 40 families were able to join us and have a great time playing tennis with their children

South East  
London Tennis  
TENNIS FOR ALL



## Paddle boarding – come rain or shine!



Our pupils were delighted to return to Beckenham Place Park lake for paddle boarding this Summer. The weather has not been in our favour, but we were not deterred by a bit of wind and rain! Our pupils have worked really hard to use paddles to move around the lake and have been learning to balance on the boards. We also had some parents join us for the last session which was lovely!





# Open Orchestra's Studio Adventure!

Our Open Orchestra children had an incredible opportunity to record songs created at Watergate in a professional music studio. The experience was unforgettable, as we had loads of fun playing and creating music together!

We will share our music very soon!



# Waves of innovation...

Watergate School was delighted to receive two unique gifts from the University of Wales Trinity St. David and Cerebra, which we have been making lots of use of in our pool!

An adapted stand-up paddle board, invented by Dr. Ross Head, has made paddle boarding accessible for a number of our MOVE children.

Another of his inventions, an island of floating instruments, has enabled us to use music to encourage independent movement in the pool.

Both of these wonderful inventions have brought our children lots of joy and we are very grateful to have them!



# Health in 4

The Complex Needs Nursing Team and Community Paediatric Service at Lewisham & Greenwich NHS have provided the following 4 healthcare tips for the Summer...

1. **What health service should I use?** Here is a helpful poster explaining the different health services and when to access them. 

2. **'Contact, for families with disabled children'** is a fantastic organisation with a vast array of useful information. Here is a link to their website - [www.contact.org.uk](http://www.contact.org.uk)

We recommend ordering a free copy of their *'Helpful guide for families with disabled children'* [www.contact.org.uk/order-your-copy-of-the-helpful-guide-for-families-with-disabled-children](http://www.contact.org.uk/order-your-copy-of-the-helpful-guide-for-families-with-disabled-children)

3. **The British Summer is unpredictable, but with hotter weather on its way, here is some NHS advice on keeping safe in the sun.**

**Children and sun protection** -Take extra care to protect babies and children. Their skin is much more sensitive than adult skin, and damage caused by repeated exposure to sunlight could lead to skin cancer developing in later life.

From March to October in the UK, Children should:

- Cover up with suitable clothing
- Spend time in the shade, particularly from 11am to 3pm
- Wear at least SPF30 sunscreen

**Weblink:** [www.nhs.uk/live-well/seasonal-health/sunscreen-and-sun-safety](http://www.nhs.uk/live-well/seasonal-health/sunscreen-and-sun-safety)

**Dehydration-** Dehydration means your body loses more fluids than you take in. If not treated, it can get worse and become a serious problem. How to reduce the risk of dehydration

- Drinking fluids regularly can reduce the risk of dehydration. Water or diluted squash are good choices.
- You should drink enough during the day your pee is pale clear colour.
- Drink more when there's a higher risk of dehydrating. For example, if you're being sick, sweating due to hot weather or exercise, or you have diarrhoea.

**Weblink:** [www.nhs.uk/conditions/dehydration/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/dehydration/)

4. **'Challenging Behaviour Foundation'** is a UK charity focussed on the needs of people with severe Learning Disabilities and their families. Check out their website for resources and support.

**Website:** [www.challengingbehaviour.org.uk](http://www.challengingbehaviour.org.uk)

Wishing all Watergate students, their parents/carers, and families a very happy summer break.

From the Complex Needs Nursing Team, and Community Paediatric Service.

Lewisham Greenwich NHS Trust



**NHS Lewisham**  
Clinical Commissioning Group

## Use the Right Service

	Minor cuts and grazes Bruises and minor sprains Coughs and colds	<b>Self Care</b> Stock your medicine cabinet Visit <a href="http://www.NHS.uk">www.NHS.uk</a>
	Minor illnesses Headache Stomach upsets Bites and stings	<b>Pharmacy</b>
	Feeling unwell? Unsure? Anxious? Need help?	<b>NHS 111</b>
	Persistent symptoms Chronic pain Long term conditions	<b>GP Advice</b> Out of Hours call 111
	Choking Chest pain Blacking out Serious blood loss	<b>A&amp;E or 999</b> Emergencies only