



Watergate Newsletter

Spring 2021

A word from the head...

Writing to you on what is going to be the hottest, sunniest day of the year, with all the trees in beautiful blossom, I am struck by what a turbulent and challenging time we have all been through in the last year. Despite all of that, our staff have worked incredibly hard this term to provide wonderful learning opportunities in school and for those of you whose children were at home until the beginning of this month. You as families, have been incredible and we salute you for all your hard work, patience and tolerance when your children have not been able to come to school. It is fantastic to see that all of our children have continued to make great progress. It is so lovely having everyone back in the buildings, both on the main site and at Ladywell. The children are so happy to be back with their friends. On the 8th March our third class at Ladywell opened and we welcomed another 8 pupils who are settling in so well.

This term we say goodbye and thank-you to Aqua class teacher Anna and hello to Lauren who will be taking over in April. We have also just appointed some fab new staff to be teaching assistants and higher level teaching assistants, to make our teams even stronger.

With the change in the weather and the gradual lifting of restrictions we can look forward to next term, which will bring wonderful opportunities for outdoor learning and the hope that all parts of our school community will soon be fully re-united. We look forward to seeing you during the Summer term.



▶ Chestnut Class



Welcome to our new Chestnut Class at Watergate School!

It has been a phenomenally successful start for our new learners in Chestnut Class.

Everyone has coped so well coming to our new classroom and learning all the new routines. Everyone has settled into school life really well. There are 8 new pupils in our class who are all excited and eager to learn as they start their time at Watergate school. We have had lots of opportunities for exploratory play, taking part in group activities, practicing our communication and self-care skills. But most of all we have had a lot of fun!

▶ Sky Class

We are so happy to have all of the children back in Sky class! And the children are adjusting very well to a bustling classroom once again. This term, we have been reading two stories: *Brown Bear Brown Bear, What Do You See* by Bill Martin and also *Dear Zoo* by Rod Campbell.

Inspired by these wonderfully simple stories, we have made lion face masks and a class elephant; we have been having animal-themed discos with plenty of animal actions; sensory play with dried food and small world animals; making animals out of food; play dough animals and much much more.



As the weather slowly improves, we are spending more time outside. The children are making planters, playing with soil, playing with sand and water, making nature 'soup' and have been interacting with the outdoor environment a lot.

Some of the children in Sky class have recently begun to eat in school or try new foods, which is wonderful news. Others are making real progress with their toileting routines, their attention and their communication. Keep up the good work Sky Class!



▶ Olive Class



We have had a busy term learning at home and at school. Everyone has been very happy to be back in class together and we welcome Baveen, our new pupil who has settled in well to Olive Class. We have had great fun with animal stories, 'Brown Bear' is our favorite. We have been busy making interactive outdoor games and activities for our 'My World' Competition which has brightened up our playgrounds kept us busy and occupied. Well done Olive Class and families for some amazing learning this term.



▶ Red Class

This term we have been busy talking and learning about animals, their names, colours, habitat.

We went deep into the oceans and explored sea animals through sensory journeys, art activities, posting.



We went to the zoo through our Makaton story "Dear zoo". We recreated a zoo and a farm in sensory trays.

We made some apple turtles and fruit kebabs!



Lots of messy play too! Painting egg boxes and recycled materials for our outdoor learning. We made beautiful frames for mother's day and on Wednesdays we gathered as a class on zoom for hello session and art activities.



▶ Green Class

Hello! We are Green Class and we Swim together! This term we have been extremely happy to be back to school. We have been very busy with our learning and we are making a great progress with our Communication our Independence and our Thinking and Problem Solving. We have welcomed a new pupil, his name is Marvellous and is very happy to be with us. We all love music in Green class and we are creating our little "Big Band!" Look at our beautiful display work for the Term! 😊



▶ Yellow Class

Welcome back Yellow Class!

Yellow Class are really happy to finally be back together and are settling back into school and a full class really well.

This term we have been looking at animals and their habitats, We have looked at animals from all around the world and have even made a display of 'Our Animal Kingdom' to show all of our fantastic work!

We have been taking full advantage of the warmer weather and have been spending lots of time outside using this space for our learning. Here's an example: our sunflower seeds have been planted! (We'll let you know how they do!)

Yellow Class celebrated World Book Day and have been loving sharing books and stories.

We have even found time for some cooking this term! We have made biscuits, angel delights, desserts, jelly and more!

Recently, we also celebrated Red Nose Day with a 'street party' in the playground! We loved the music and activities outside!

We have had lots of fun this term and look forward to even more next term!



► Blue Class

Everyone in Blue Class has been working really hard again this term, both pupils in school and those working from home.

We had many great Zoom sessions which involved nearly everyone each time. We sang together, shared stories, made Angel Delight, shared messy play sessions and travelled on Katie's Sensory Journeys! We enjoyed the book of *Monkey Puzzle* and everyone made animals from it to add to our Jungle display (it's amazing!) and decorate the classroom door for World Book Day. Well done everyone and thank you to all the parents and carers at home who were brilliant in using Zoom to join with us!



▶ Violet Class

Children in Violet Class have been working hard this term, both in school and at home. We have taken part in a Noah's Ark Sensory Journey, which all the children (and staff) enjoyed – especially when it began to rain, and we all got wet!

We have made a water xylophone for our outdoor area, bird feeders and repainted bird boxes to go in the sensory garden. We hope they get used, and will keep looking out for birds who may be using them.

We have also worked very hard on our physical skills; standing, stepping, walking and rolling amongst other skills we are learning.



▶ Pink Class

It has been so lovely to welcome all the children back to Pink Class this term. We have been continuing with our animals topic and have been joining in with lots of animal action songs. We have been playing 'Bear on the Chair' and we've been hunting through tunnels to find the bear – who keeps disappearing!

We put up our tin can wind chime in the sensory garden and loved the colours and the noises it made. The children made flowery Mothers' Day cards and decorated shamrocks for St Patrick's Day. On Red Nose Day we made red nose hats and red nose cakes – which were yummy! We're looking forward to some Easter fun soon too. What an exciting term!





▶ Silver Class

Silver loves getting messy! We have set up the 'Messy Play Shop' so we can choose which foods we want to play with! This can sometimes end in a food fight! However, we are very good at cleaning up!



Silver loves therapy balls! We have been enjoying weekly sessions using the balls as a group along to music. We have worked on our strength and balance by sitting on them and going over them on our tummies. We like lying down and having them rolled over us and we have been using them as drums along to 'We Will Rock You!'



Peach Class

It has been so lovely to see the children back in class all happy and cheerful after such a long break. Thank you for all your hard work at home during lockdown. We have been also working very hard this term continuing to learn about different types of animals and their habitats. We have been listening to sensory stories, like "The Tiger Who Came To Tea" and we have been exploring and making stripy and spotty patterns. We have been listening to and recognizing animal sounds and we have been listening to various songs about animals and we have been copying movements of some of the animals, like elephant, monkey and a crocodile. We also used recycling materials to make farm animals and jungle animals. We have been designing cards and gifts for various celebrations during Spring Term, e.g. Mother's Day, St Patrick's Day and Easter.



Lime Class



Lime class has been working really hard this term, both pupils in school and those working from home. We enjoyed all our sensory activities, loved sharing stories, cooking at school and making foods at home, singing, signing with "Singing hands", making and playing musical instruments, exploring, communicating, developing new friendships, making lots of animals from paper plates and plastic bottles. We really enjoyed decorating our class door for World Book Day following "The very busy spider" story. Lime class had lots of fun making bubble snakes and sensory squishy bags. Big well done to everyone for being so good at developing independence skills!!! Thank you to all the parents and careers at home for being very supportive and so brilliant with sharing their children's works with us!!!



Aqua Class

Aqua students have had a lot of fun this term with the topic Amazing Animals. Students have taken part in learning activities around the story and song, Walking through the Jungle. Students have made animals using lots of different materials such as paint, cardboard, paper plates, feathers and a big canvas. We have also been playing games together outside, such as What's the Time Mr Wolf. It was fantastic to see students on Zoom during lockdown, and it has been lovely to welcome all of the students back in class. It is clear how excited and happy the students have been to see each other again!



Gold Class



It has been so lovely to see Gold class pupils back in the classroom! We were so grateful for your support during lockdown and fantastic attendance at our many Zoom sessions. This term we have had lots of fun with sensory stories about The Mitten and The Very Best Sheepdog and have had some great cooking sessions including making chocolate crispy cakes and exploring chocolate Easter eggs. Pupils have worked really hard using our new large touch screen computer to learn about cause and effect and have explored soil, vegetables and seeds in the sensory garden including making our own allotment. We will be exploring foods and seeds in the Summer term and having fun with our Land Ahoy topic!



Community News

World Book Day 2021

On Thursday 4th March, we celebrated World Book Day. Classes transformed their doorways, using stories of their choice. I think you'll agree they look pretty amazing! The children in school enjoyed looking at the doorways as they travelled around the school.

Silver Class travelled through the wardrobe to visit Narnia!



Characters from 'Charlotte's Web' in Lime Class.....



Gold Class had a visit from Peter Pan and Tinkerbelle



Pink Class had an 'Elmer' themed day while Red Class went on a bear hunt!.



While Charlotte appeared on their door!



Blue Class created a jungle themed entrance



We had an extra special visit from Trunchball during the day!

As part of the celebrations, children took part in a range of activities throughout the day, and some children joined in activities from home, via Zoom.

Jungle themed sensory trays, a 'Peter Pan' Sensory Journey, a sensory visit to Narnia and sharing stories were some of the ways in which children took part in story related activities. It was a fun filled day! Thank you to all who took part and made this a truly memorable day for all.



Community News

Are you and your child new to Watergate this term or are you starting with us soon?

If so, why not pop along to a coffee morning, every Friday at 10am with Rani.

Just email
admin@Watergate.lewisham.sch.uk

for a link to the Zoom meetings!



Zoom Coffee morning for new families

Run by Rani Singh Family Worker

- Come and join us let's have a chat!
 - Meet with other parents.
- An opportunity to talk about your child starting a new school.
 - Any questions you have?
 - What worries you have?
 - How do you prepare your child ?
- Would you like to share your experiences about having a child with additional needs with others who understand?
 - A parent zone where you take the lead.
- An opportunity to meet with our family worker and share what workshops you would like to see in the future.

Every Friday 10.00 am

Please contact the school office to book a space



Can you help?



Our topic next term is Land Ahoy! and we are really excited for our whole school topic launch days over the first two weeks back. Staff have been working incredibly hard to plan lots of super fun, holistic learning activities and we can't wait to get going after the Easter break.

If you have any of the following items to donate for our Land Ahoy! topic launch, please send them into school with your child on the first day back. We need....

- ▶ Empty plastic bottles (all shapes and sizes)
- ▶ Cardboard boxes
- ▶ Plain sheets (e.g.; bedsheets)
- ▶ Pieces of fabric
- ▶ Foil wrappers from Easter eggs
- ▶ Unwanted costume jewellery or sparkly things (to make pirate treasure!)
- ▶ Shells

Thank you in advance for any help you can give with donations!