



Autumn 2021

Watergate Newsletter

WOW – what amazing children you all have!!! They have been making such great progress and have really immersed themselves in all the fun learning activities that we have had this term.

Our activity weeks were a great success and the children have had so much fun whilst learning and building 'Watergate City' and Sukkot dens out of recyclable materials and getting 'messy' in Messy Play Week exploring lots of different materials and textures. The excitement of all our Winter Wonderland week, incorporating music, bouncy castles, cinema day, discos and the five Pantomime performances, delivered by staff at Bellingham to ensure that all classes were able to enjoy and participate. Our Panto cast will also be performing at Ladywell at the start of the spring term.

The launch of lunch clubs has been a fantastic addition to the school day - messy play, art, dance and wheelchair rugby are amongst a few of the favourites – watch this space for our new clubs next term!

It has also been fantastic that we have been able to have parents back into school for workshops, annual reviews and parents evening – which was huge success, supported by our Governors and multi-disciplinary teams, it really did bring back the Watergate community feel.

We are very excited about new term too, with the introduction of our new Amber Class at Ladywell, welcoming nine new children to the school. Our topic next term, which is 'Being Creative', means we are planning lots of exciting activities both in school and out in the Community – so watch this space!

As this half term has progressed, we have once again faced the challenges that Covid 19 brings with it, we are working hard as a school to keep everyone safe and we really appreciate how quickly families have adapted to any changes that have been imposed upon us. Our aim to ensure that regardless any new restrictions, our children will continue to have fun learning and make progress in a safe and secure environment.

All that is left for me to say is a big thank you to everyone involved at Watergate pupils, families, staff and the wider community, for all your hard work and support.

Wishing you all an enjoyable and restful holiday and a happy and healthy 2022.

Best wishes, Linda

Chestnut Class

Chestnut class have had a wonderful first term getting to know each other and exploring our new spaces in School. We have been working inside and outside and transitioning, using objects of reference and photographs. We are all getting used to sharing our space and toys and understanding our daily routine which includes brushing our teeth, playtime and breakfast time! We are beginning to use our visual timetable to help us understand our day.

We visited the Sensory garden regularly to collect natural materials for our journey sticks and enjoyed absorbing the nature! We have been using some of the materials we collected for our sensory playdough activities. Some of us have been practicing to make our faces using playdough, adding eyes, a nose and mouth.

We explored lots of food sensory trays and had great fun on our Messy play day, using food such as custard, trifle and painted spaghetti! Our Diversity week allowed us to encounter and taste tropical fruit from the Caribbean and make yummy Tropical fruit smoothies!



Sky Class

We have had amazing learning experiences and fun this term Sky class. Reception children have worked hard at settling and getting used to a new routine. Lots of independence gaining skills too which include brushing teeth and taking care of class babies.



For our Black history celebrations we learned about African culture. We used the book Handa's surprise to explore fruits and native animals.

We also re-created our own prints using traditional Kente cloths as inspiration.



Olive Class

This term, We have settled really well to life in Olive class. We have been getting to know our new peers and teacher as well as our new classroom routines. We have enjoyed doing many fun things such as: dancing to Christmas songs when a DJ came to visit; decorating our very own class Christmas tree which, of course, was magical; finally, taking part in the amazing 'Messy play day', where we won the award for 'Best Messy Art'. As well as this, we have all made wonderful progress with our communication skills. I would personally love to mention how much I have had a fabulous first term at Watergate School and can't wait to see all the fun things 2022 has to bring for Olive class.



Red Class

This term in red class, we have been very busy and enjoyed playing and learning together with sensory story "in the kitchen" where children had the opportunity to explore lots of dry material (flour, spices, etc..) to touch, see and smell and use kitchen utensils to make music at the sound of Samba.

We made a sukkot and had picnics under the tent. We also had lots of fun enacting the story "Handa's surprise".

We talked about who we are, looking at the mirrors, looking at pictures of when we were babies, looking after baby dolls and sharing stories from home.

We painted using a variety of tools including cars...

We also had lots of fun creating our grocery store and buildings for our Watergate town!!

We made poppies using wet pasta, paint and even made poppy cookies!!

We also had mega messy day where children enjoyed using their feet to mark and create a beautiful art work and of course, we celebrated Christmas with Christmas wonderland!!!



Yellow Class

We love role playing in Yellow class. We have been using a variety of resources to develop an understanding about our world through action songs and role play activities.

We have been experiencing gardening. Pupils have been following steps of the process of gardening and have been making choices of tools and textures to engage with this lovely activity.

We have been exploring a range of recipes in cooking and have been using our hands and cutlery for the best outcome. We have been using different parts of our body (hands, feet) to engage in sensory and messy learning. We had so much fun!

We have been developing social skills and communication through participation in the morning breakfast club taking place every Monday and Friday.

It is so nice joining other classes in the dining hall to have breakfast together!

We have been learning how to make requests of our favourite breakfast as well as to walk to the 'cashier' waiting for our turn and bringing our breakfast back to our table. It has been an amazing term and we look forward to new exciting learning experiences.'

Green Class

This Autumn Term, Green Class has been very busy. We learnt about general seasonal celebrations such as Halloween and Christmas! We are all making amazing progress towards our learning. We are happy sharing activities with our friends in Green Class and we are having fun!





Blue Class

The pupils in Blue Class have had a great time making Paint Splat! creations! We rubbed sponges in paint and then flung them at an old sheet covering the table. As we flung the sponges we shouted 'Splat!' very loudly. It was great fun! Even some of us who aren't too keen on paint joined in. Well done everyone!



Purple

Purple is proud to present the Watergate Whizzers, our new wheelchair sports group! The Whizzers have been playing rugby this term and have formed a fantastic team! They are very competitive and work really hard alongside their teammates to win each game! They have shown incredible wheelchair skills by self-propelling as they try to steal the ball from the other team or keep it away from them! We are excited to see how the Whizzers get on with wheelchair basketball next term



Violet Class

Violet Class have been very busy this term. We have had lots of fun with messy play, exploring a range of sensory bins and food resources using our hands and fingers, and implements such as spoons, spades and colinders.



We worked hard to make a class messy picture, using lots of foods - such as tomato ketchup and flour. We think it looked great 😊 We hope you do too!



We have also enjoyed celebrating Black History Month and Diwali. As part of our Diwali celebrations we explored light, and created fireworks by rolling spikey balls in paint over paper, and flicking paint using brushes and water sprays. We added glitter to make our pictures look really sparkly! We've had a great Autumn Term.

Pink Class

We have all been making fantastic progress in Pink Class, engaging in lots of fun learning activities. We particularly enjoyed the Mega Messy Play day in November where we all got stuck in exploring different textures, colours and ways of making marks.

You can see just a couple of our big messy play creative activities below!





Silver Class

It has been brilliant getting to know all the wonderful children in Silver Class this term. We have enjoyed lots of stories and play sessions including Star in the Jar, The Enormous Turnip and Jack and the Beanstalk. Amongst other things the children have visited a Nigerian market, made their own star jars, helped pull up a giant 'turnip', hidden from a scary giant, and climbed a beanstalk. We even met a spooky witch hiding in the sensory garden and helped her to make a magic spell inside a pumpkin volcano! We all loved Mega Messy Play Day and everyone helped to make a huge and very messy cupcake! We love our weekly Art Attacks and cooking sessions too! I think we can safely say that we've had a totally terrific and fantastically fun term and we can't wait for more brilliant Silver Class moments in the New Year!



Orange Class

Orange Class have had a great term learning about different festivals and celebrations. We particularly enjoyed the Jewish Harvest festival of Sukkot. We made fruit prints and fruit smoothies and everyone was very involved.

As part of learning about Our World, we have been busy in all classes planting bulbs for our 'London Flower Society' Competition. We are looking after them and can't wait to see them grow.



Peach Class

This autumn term was very productive in Peach class in terms of creativity and artwork. We did lots of fantastic activities through which we were expressing our feelings, learning about self-regulation, self-control and about each other's. One of our favourite artworks was walking on enormous paper with our feet being wrapped in bubble wrap and full of paint. We did amazing mark making while working on coordination and balance. We also did beautiful and very expressive paintings on bread - we used sliced bread as a base instead of paper and explored different textures and colours. However our most favourite activity was drumming: everyone was so happy to play in the middle of class and we all become real musicians!



Lime Class

This term we have been learning about ourselves, our families, friends and the world around us. We looked at our baby pictures and then we looked at ourselves in the mirror. What a difference - we have all grown! We have been learning our friends names while playing games and sharing toys. We had lots of fun exploring various materials and different textures - in Cooking we have been exploring different cooking ingredients by touching, smelling and tasting various fruits, vegetables and other foods. We have been learning to spread the butter, soft cheese and jam and to peel some fruits and vegetables and to cut them. In Art lessons we have been exploring paint and what happens when we mix two different colours together. We have had lots of fun during our sensory play especially with edible resources, like oats, flour, Cornflakes, Rice Crispies, Shreddies, but also with shaving foam, play dough and gloop.



Aqua Class

This term we had lots of fun being creative cooking. We've made rice cake lions, banana sushi, veggie wraps, bread butter pudding and many things more!



In Aqua class we love hands-on activities, especially when we can get messy.



We also worked really hard in our reading and writing.



Gold Class

This term Gold class have been making poppies to remember the soldiers who died in War. Here Gold class are using red and black paint to form Poppies. We have displayed Gold classes' work in class in respect and remembrance of the soldiers.



Gold class have been busy making Christmas decorations for our display boards in class. They really enjoyed using paint and glitter to make Robins and a Christmas Tree. Gold class have also made wreaths and Christmas Tree decorations such as Bells and Holly.



Community News

Lunch Clubs are GO!

Our wonderful staff, parents and friends have been providing amazing opportunities for pupils to dance, chat, play, explore and create their way through lunch playtimes, whilst sharing experiences and making new friends.

Clubs this term have included; Chatter Matters, Dance and....

Music



Watergate Whizzers Rugby



Pampering & Wellbeing



Mega Messy Play



Art Club



Creative Learning News



2022 is going to be a very exciting time for Creativity at Watergate as Lewisham is the London Borough of Culture for 2022. Our first term's topic is My Creativity and we will be exploring some of the borough of culture themes including:

- ✓ We will protect this place we love – a call to action on climate change
- ✓ We are strengthened by our diversity – a celebration of our borough of sanctuary
- ✓ We will be happy here – a commitment to building an inclusive society, working together to deliver change

Borough of Culture began at Watergate this week when Irie! Dance visited us to teach some of our pupils the LBoC Bop. This is a dance specially created to celebrate Lewisham Borough of Culture and will be taught to children all across Lewisham. Our pupils were fantastic and loved joining in with the dance moves and showing them what we've got!

We have successfully secured funding from Phoenix Housing Community Chest for our Watergate Wonder Tour music project. This will involve our pupils working alongside professional musicians from Give a Song to present Happiness Concerts at community venues across South Lewisham in the summer term. We want to show off our brilliant talented pupils, while bringing joy through music to as many people as we can in our community.

We are really going to embrace everything that Lewisham Borough of Culture 2022 can offer us!



Breakfast Club

This term has seen the start of our very popular breakfast club.

Every Monday and Friday we children are able to come along to the Dining Hall to have a breakfast of cereal and bagels with friends.

The club has provided opportunities for children to develop their independence skills and ability to ask for what they want.

Children have also been serving and then tidying up after themselves.

Some pupils have been working really hard during the clubs to work at the serving table, taking orders and helping their friends.

On the other days, classes have cereal and bagels available in class for their own breakfast club where children can continue to develop their skills.

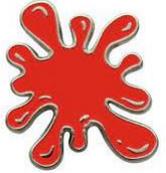


Community News

MEGA MESSY PLAY!

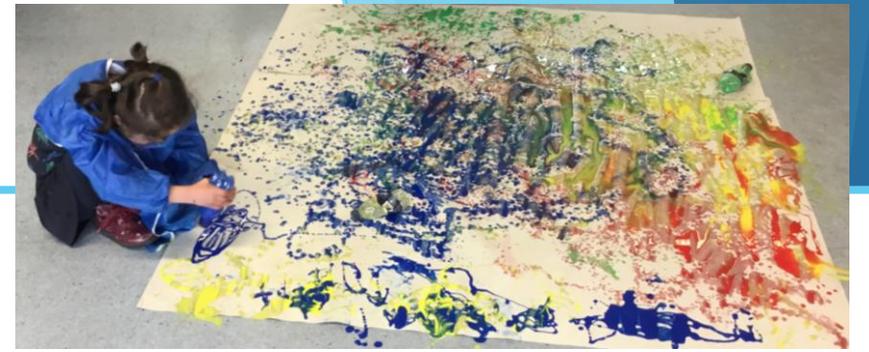
Watergate rolled up it sleeves and got stuck in to making a proper big mess during our Mega Messy Play Days in November.

Staff, pupils and families were able to explore how so much important learning can take place through messy play activities. We saw children extending their own learning and explorations, developing and using fine & gross motor skills, communicating, expressing themselves creatively, sharing fun experiences with others and so much more!



Families even got a chance to try out a bit of large-scale messy play during Parents' Evening!

Thank you to Katie Chapman, Purple Team and the Speech & Language and Occupational Therapy Teams for their support in making such a mess!



Community News



Winter Wonderland



We may not have been able to invite our friends and families into school to celebrate with us this year, but wow we have certainly had a busy, fun-packed final two weeks to the term!

We have enjoyed a Fancy Dress Day and Parade, Disco, Cinema, Bouncy Castle fun and a 'Best Festive Door' competition! It even snowed during a Christmas MOVE session!

The festivities ended with an amazing 'Jack and the Beanstalk' pantomime experience (oh yes we did)! We send out a huge thank you to our staff who starred in the performances, staff who helped create props and Molly Bertrand for organising everything!



Community News



Getting together & being creative!

It has been lovely to see so many parents attending the jewellery making group which has been running for the last six weeks. Parents have had an opportunity to take some time out for themselves and meet with other parents within the Watergate community. As well as making beautiful jewellery.

We have had a range of talented parents attend and have enjoyed lovely home-made cake each week.

I would love to take this opportunity to encourage parents to attend our workshops. It is a great chance to meet with parents and to have a moment for yourself and learn new skills.

Rani Singh, Family Worker



Watergate Governors

Dear Parents and Carers,

For those I haven't met, I'm Sarah, the new Chair of Governors for Watergate. Many of you will have met me or other governors at the parents evening a few weeks ago. It was great to speak to you about your experience with the school and to hear how much you value the work that's done at Watergate.

The last term has seen a lot of change at Watergate as we welcomed Linda as the new Headteacher, and started to see a bit more normality return to the school after the last, very difficult year. I'm sorry that the situation around Covid seems to be worsening again, but I know that all the staff at Watergate will continue to work tirelessly to keep all your children safe, happy and learning.

I wanted to take this opportunity to remind you all that we are looking for two new parent governors to join the two parents who already sit on the governing body. More information about what this involves will be sent round very soon, but if you are interested and would like to know more, please do get in touch via the school, or email me on chairofgovernors@watergate.lewisham.sch.uk.

As the situation allows, I hope that we will be able to see more of you at the school in the coming months. In the meantime, we would like to wish you a very happy and peaceful break.

Sarah (Chair of Governors)

