



Spring 2022

Watergate Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the Spring Term ends, with all its trials and tribulations, we are very much looking forward to an exciting Summer term.

It was wonderful to see so many parents and carers in school for our Open Afternoon and we look forward to being able to engage again in some of the school's traditional activities that include the Watergate community, for example Diversity Day, Dad's breakfast, Carnival Day and many more!

The Summer term has always been my favourite term and our focus for this term's topic - 'Moving!' - is for classes to make the most of the current climate and engage in outside learning, including trips and activities within our local community and beyond.

I wish you all a restful Easter break and I look forward to seeing you in the Summer term.

With best wishes.

Linda Matthews, Headteacher

Amber Class



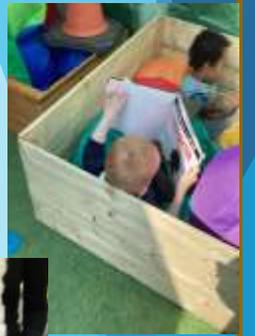
In Amber Class we have been doing lots of work around The Very Hungry Caterpillar. We have practised our reading, writing and counting skills, used choice boards to communicate our preferences, and had plenty of fun making salad caterpillars and painting butterflies! We have had lots of opportunity to join in messy play and sensory play. We are also enjoying our circle times on our rug.

Chestnut Class



Chestnut class have grown in confidence and independence thanks to using our individualized communication systems. We also love exploring our new instruments and being creative and messy using different media.

We have really enjoyed learning together. 😊



Sky Class



Sky class have had some amazing outdoor learning experiences. There have been increased amounts of social interactions and purposeful play from all. We have also had some upgrades to our venues and now have an amazing wooden kitchen and sensory circuit in our class garden.

Alongside outdoor experiences, Sky class have been using lots of colour to celebrate festivals and mark make. The children have also creatively made a large sized rocket ship using household materials. They have enjoyed using it for exploration and relaxation. Well done! Have an amazing Spring time break.



Olive Class



In Olive class, our main focus this term was for the children to become more independent in their creativity. Firstly, we have been learning a variety of painting techniques and we used them to create art for our displays. Next, we used our creative sessions to build on our communication skills, where we used a number of communication methods to request for different coloured paint, textures and utensils to use. Finally, you can see below how the children used all their new communication skills as well as their growing confidence in their independence to turn our dull garden shed into a masterpiece all by themselves. WELL DONE OLIVES 😊



Red Class

Red Class have been very active and very creative this spring term!!

We have been inspired by the work of Andy Warhol (Pop Art) and we used the bubble wrap printing effect, finger painting and different types of mark making tools to create portraits of Martin Luther King for MLK's day.

For communication, we focused in the sensory story "we're going on a bear hunt" were children explored different textures (water/river, grass/straw, mud/soil, snow/cotton wool, forest, sticks from the sensory garden collected by children). Within the story children learnt new Makaton signs, developed their gross and fine motor skills including running and mark making.

For world book day, one of red class pupil shared his book of "the gruffalo" with his friends. It was lovely to see the engagement and interest children demonstrated.



We took inspiration from Stephen Miller, the British para-olympic athlete and used objects from our bear hunt story to create an art work.

Green Class



Green class has been working hard developing all aspect of our new curriculum. We are gaining independence, ability to communicate, express ourselves and gaining well being through the use of music and art. We have been developing our cognition and learning through the use of a wide range of engaging activities and problem solving tasks. We love being together, having fun and keep growing and learning in Green Class! Well done everyone!

Yellow Class

In Yellow Class we have been promoting social skills through participation in small group dance activities. We have been promoting independence and communication skills by ordering our favorite breakfast at the 'breakfast club'.

We have been learning how to use visual communication systems to request ingredients to complete cooking recipes and have been having fun in participating in group sensory games.



Blue Class

This term we introduced more visual supports into Blue Class to enable pupils to be able to predict what is expected of them throughout the school day. This helps them to transfer calmly from one activity to another and promotes their independence skills. We now have a system where pupils have their own work trays when they arrive in the morning and work on individual activities as independently as possible. Pupils have learned this routine really quickly. It can be so quiet at this time as everyone is concentrating really well!



We have also had a great time being creative with bubblewrap – small pieces, large pieces, loud POPS and quiet pops! We rolled some paper onto the group room floor, squirted paint on it, put bubblewrap on the top and then moved on it – with a walker, a wheelchair, a trolley and our feet. We made some very loud POPS and created something very wonderful!



Violet Class

Violet Class have worked hard on their physical skills this term; climbing the ramps and steps in the adventure playground, using the stairs in school and working on our rolling skills whilst popping bubble wrap!



We made a dragon to celebrate Chinese New Year, and really enjoyed joining in with the Dragon Parade! It was fun.



Pink Class

Pink class enjoyed having our parents visit us, they came in whilst we were singing our good afternoon song. We went straight in doing our tie and dye bags using string and elastic bands,

It was so lovely to see the parents communicating with each other. We ended the afternoon with snacks and we look forward to doing this again. A big thank to our parents



Orange Class

We have had lots of creative fun with different techniques. We really liked investigating bubble wrap and making prints with it. We have also loved making big splatter paintings and had fun celebrating Holi. We have grown bulbs and have managed to look after them and get some flowers.



Silver Class

Silver Class have been enjoying our Creativity topic this term and have loved making art in all sorts of ways. We have splatted colourful string, bounced balls and walked over bubblewrap in our weekly Art Attacks! These have been great opportunities to practice our skills as we've been using different communication tools to make choices and express our feelings. We've also enjoyed watching our Spring bulbs grow, making tasty treats in Cooking and practicing our physical skills whenever we get the chance. Our favourite book has been Shark in the Park and we've loved looking through the telescopes and joining in the rhymes. Oh, and we really loved the cake stall! Yummy!



Peach Class

Spring term in Peach Class was very exciting and creative. We did lots of artistic activities through which children has had an opportunity to develop their independence, self-expression and social interaction skills with their peers. We were also working hard on our physical and communication skills. Our aim was to develop and expand vocabulary and become physically more independent. For our artistic creations we were using various materials, including paints, strings, ribbons and also toilet paper! We had lots of fun with wrapping up different objects like chairs and walkers. We also used our own bodies and we transformed them into mummies. Well done Peach Class! It's time for well-deserve break☺





Lime Class



We have been very busy in Lime Class exploring different sensory materials and various tools. We used small and big bubble wrap and different colour paint to make bubble wrap printing. We blew bubbles through straws into bubble solution mixed with paint to make bubble printing. We also dipped forks into paint and finger painted to make flowers for Mather's Day card. We explored different foods during cooking lessons, for example chocolate, fruits, vegetable, different types of bread and cheese. We also made vegetable soup.





Gold Class



Gold class have had lots of creative fun this term! Pupils especially loved our big art project where we used different methods of making marks & designs on large sheets of paper on the floor. Pupils also painted toy cars and rolled them in paint to see the marks made. We painted our feet and walked across or painted wheels and used walkers or wheelchairs to make marks. Afterwards pupils had a footspa to wash the paint off their feet which was great fun!

Pupils in Gold class also learned about tie-dye methods to choose different colours and make beautiful t-shirts. In cooking we especially enjoyed chopping vegetables and making cheese and leek pancakes - yum!



Purple



The Whizzers have been loving basketball this term! We are working hard in our teams to get the ball into the basket and keep it away from the opposing side! We are super competitive! We are also loving our new t-shirts and Whizzers logo!



In February the Whizzers were delighted to welcome Pete from Wheelchair Skills College to work with us to develop our wheelchair skills! We carried items, played ball, practiced self-propelling and even completed an assault course!



It will not be a surprise to anyone to hear that our MOVERs have excelled this term and made us incredibly proud (as always)! Check out some of our achievements and what we've been up to in these amazing photos!



Please follow us and see more of our MOVERs in action at www.twitter.com/movewatergate

Community News

Open Afternoon

We were delighted to be able to welcome lots of parents and carers to an open afternoon this week, with opportunities to find out a bit more about our curriculum and, most importantly, spend time with their children in classes.

The atmosphere around the school was relaxed and very positive and feedback from families was overwhelmingly in favour of more opportunities to come into school and join in!

Across the school children and families were engaged in cooking, creative activities, MOVE sessions, tie dying and so much more!

Thank you to everyone who was able to join us this week. If you couldn't make it this time, there will be another open afternoon in the Summer Term – so we hope to see you then!



Creative Learning News



It has been another busy term for Creative Learning at Watergate. It started with a bang when we took part in a dance video for the launch day of Lewisham Borough of Culture 2022. Many of our pupils danced and paraded in the playground with Irie! Dance and we're very proud to be featured in their film which you can watch here.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UUfBclLRwgs>



Each month as part of the Borough of Culture Lewisham schools are being given different creative challenges.

In February we were asked to make clay walruses and to think about how we might help with climate change. We ran a lunchtime workshop and made lots of walruses which you can now see displayed in Lewisham Shopping Centre.



Creative Learning News

To celebrate the Lunar New Year we asked classes to make a dragon for our dragon parade. It was a bit cold and breezy but it was fabulous to see all the amazing dragon creations and to get together to parade them in the playground. Ladywell did their own parade too. Happy New Year!



Creative Learning News

We celebrate our achievements during music sessions and special events at school!



This Spring Term, different classes have had the opportunity to experience tailored music sessions that allow the children to further develop their learning. Music Therapy has been ongoing and many pupils have experienced the benefits of it during and after the sessions.

We had the visit of Trinity Laban's Musical Theatre Schools' Tour. It was an absolute joy to see how well the children engaged in this activity. There will be more exciting events coming in Summer Term!

World Book Day

Our theme this year was to create a
'Story Soundscape.'

Classes were challenged to create a story with sounds!

Gold Class created
the story of
Moana, and staff
dressed up!



Aqua Class created the story
'Walking Through the Jungle.'



Red Class
shared the
story of The
Very Hungry
Caterpillar,
and made
beautiful
butterfly
pictures



Autism Acceptance Week

We had a theme for each day to focus on all the things that are important to us. Here are some photos of Olive Class with the tie dye t shirts they made to celebrate neurodiversity, and a photo of everyone wearing red to show their support for Autism Acceptance.



Can you help?

Making Connections...

We are always looking to offer pupils a wide range of different experiences and opportunities to engage with different community groups.

Do you know a community group who would be able to offer opportunities for exploration, adventures, building skills or maybe just to experience new environments and meet new people? It could be in or out of school, as a 'one off' or as an ongoing link.

If you do, we would love to make contact with them. Please email any suggestions or links to:

n.carroll-ward@Watergate.lewisham.sch.uk

Lunch Clubs...

Do you have a great idea for a lunch club? Would you like to get involved?

Our lunch clubs run from 1pm – 1:25pm, with different clubs everyday.

We would love to welcome anyone who would be able to run a lunch club once a week – we are open to any suggestions, although some ideas may be...exploring foods and cooking, gardening, wellbeing, sports (we can use the field nextdoor), storytelling or anything creative!

If you can, or would like to find out a bit more, please email:

n.carroll-ward@Watergate.lewisham.sch.uk

Our friend Deniz

We have been thinking about our friend Deniz, remembering all of the times we enjoyed with him and why he was such a good friend.



Deniz was a wonderful member of the Watergate community, we will miss him and his brilliant smile very much, but we know that we were very lucky to have had Deniz as a friend.



Watergate Governors

A message from the governors...

Spring is here, there's blossom outside the window, and we're wrapping up another fantastic term at Watergate.

The governors would like to thank all the staff and parents for their efforts as the school starts to open up more and more after all the restrictions of the past couple of years. Increasingly we've been able to see for ourselves the fantastic work going on to deliver a curriculum that works for all our children as well as lots of really fun activities. We hope that those of you who were able to come to the open afternoon this week were also able to see all the great stuff that's been going on.

Although things are not completely back to normal, and we still have to be careful, we hope that the warmer weather coming will give us more opportunities to get together as a school community and to celebrate the great work being done at Watergate and the progress for all our children. We are looking forward to meeting more of you at these events over the coming months.

We are hoping to welcome some new parent governors to the governing body next term. There is still an opportunity to get involved in this if you're interested. This is such an important role in helping to support and shape the school. Please let the school know if you would like to find out more and we will arrange a time to talk to you about what's involved.

We hope you have a relaxing couple of weeks and look forward to seeing you back after Easter.

Sarah Hamilton (Chair of Governors)