

Dear Parents/Carers

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year as Headteacher at Watergate and I can only say how privileged I feel to work with our wonderful children, families, staff and stakeholders.

It has been a pleasure to bring back some of the pre-Covid traditions, such as the Community Lunch, Fun Day and class trips out - which have all been a great success and I look forward to adding many more in 2022/2023, especially now we had a new Variety mini bus! This will enable us to take more children out each week.

We have enjoyed a number of exciting events, Watergate Wonder Tour, I AM festival, 'Firebird' performance, Liberty Festival, the 25 mile MOVE challenge - just mention a few. These events take a lot of work from staff, children and families - but they are so worthwhile and really show how amazing our children are. I would like to say a big thank you to everyone for their support throughout the year.

I hope you have a lovely summer break and I look forward to seeing our children on their return to school on the 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

Best wishes

Linda

For this end of year newsletter, each class has thought back to one of their favourite events or activities of the Summer Term.

Take a look at what we have been up to and what we really enjoyed this term...maybe you could try some of them too!

## Amber Class

Our favourite thing this term was...being with our friends and families



We really enjoyed being part of Community Lunch with our families and friends. It was great to share a celebration together.



## Chestnut Class

Chestnut class favourite activity has been...



Exploring Ladywell park 😊



In Chestnut class we have definitely enjoyed learning through play and movement. Gardening, Cooking, learning action songs, reading, mark making, tasting different foods from around the world, learning how different toys move and make sounds, feeling sensory trays and walking through them are just some of the learning activities we have done. Water play has definitely been a huge highlight too. We can definitely move around the school more independently and we can now make really good choices using all our communication systems. We love playing together and walking around Ladywell park too!



## Sky Class

**Our favourite thing this term was...visiting our local play park!**

The children all did so well transitioning to a new environment and several children gained confidence to use the swings and other play equipment despite some initial hesitation.

The children were all happy to eat their picnic in the park and to go back to the park for a second time - great preparation for the summer ahead!



## Olive Class

### Our favourite thing this term was...going out!

Back in May, we took our first trip out to the local shops and we loved it! We have been going out every week around the local area to learn about road safety, shopping, communicating with others and helping each other. It has been a great experience and one that we never want to stop!

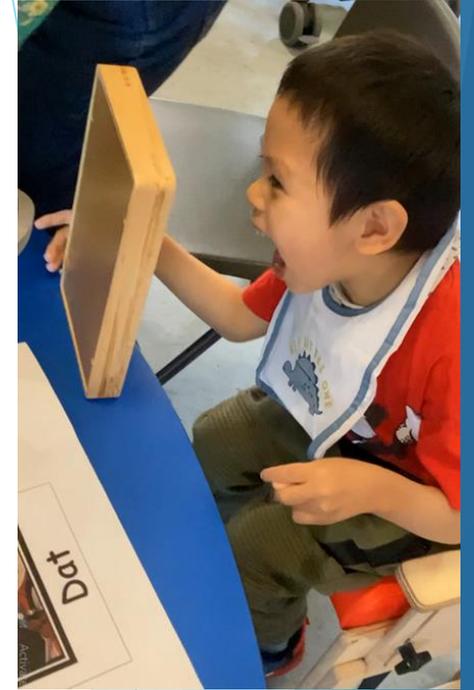


## Red Class

Our favourite thing this term was...having fun and getting out and about!



This term we were very busy in red class and had lots of fun together! There were many special events that we would really like to share. First our celebration of diversity week was amazing! Parents shared about their families' culture (music, language, food, clothes etc..) and as we shared it with the class, we saw how the children were enthusiastic about listening to their favourite music from home or wearing special clothes and looking at themselves in the mirror and talk about themselves!



Very special this term also were our trips out!! We had the opportunity to travel to the park for the concert and we also went to the community garden!! Lots of fun and discovering new places!!



## Green Class

### Our favourite thing this term was...music!

Green Class enjoyed and made the most of music sessions. Children had the opportunity to learn about different music instruments, playing and taking turns within the group. They learnt to play together and create their very unique music, having fun and developing their learning skills.





## Yellow Class

**Our favourite thing this term was...cooking!**

This term we have been exploring flavours and foods from a range of cultures as a means to promote diversity and independence.



## Blue Class

### Our favourite thing this term was...a Nigerian afternoon

Blue class really enjoyed an afternoon focused on Nigerian music and dancing. The children enjoyed dressing up, and then creating a safari picture using paint and silhouettes. The children also enjoyed tasting fruit.

When we put on 'Jerusalema', Olu was happy to show us how the dancing should be done. All the children enjoyed this activity, especially the dancing.



## Violet Class

**Our favourite thing this term was...moving and music!**

Our 'Rosie's Walk' Sensory Circuit was great fun! We climbed over the haystack, walked around (and through) the pond and through the yard.

We've enjoyed working on our physical skills; using the adventure playground has really helped develop our climbing skills. We all love to go down the slide, it's great fun! We have all worked hard in swimming sessions, and practiced our rolling skills!



Our Music Sessions with Paloma have been great - we've really enjoyed these sessions!



## Pink Class

**Our favourite thing this term was...being together!**

Pink class are all super stars, working hard together and with their amazing parents! The children enjoyed their mums and dad coming in to school to join them making tie-dye bags to raise money for Ukrainian children. We had a picnic with games enjoying each other's company and parents got to know who their child's friends are!



## Orange Class

### Our favourite thing this term was...gardening!

We have had great fun planting and growing seeds and bulbs this year, we got very involved with potting and watering. It was lovely to see our sunflowers grow and to see the lovely efforts across the school with certificates for all from the London Flower Society. Well done Orange Class and well done Watergate!



**A message from Lisa...** I would like to say a big thank you for my amazing 31 years at Watergate. I have so much enjoyed being part of the Watergate community and being able to see so many lovely children grow and make such fantastic progress. I have loved organising our flower competitions and outdoor learning and being part of so many positive developments over the years. I will keep Watergate in my heart as I move on to new challenges.

# SILVER CLASS

Silver Class have had a very busy term, full of art, action and adventure. The children enjoyed taking part in the opera workshop with ENO and immersed themselves in the setting, the music and the movement. They also loved meeting the Firebird when it flew into the playground. We've travelled the world in our Up, Up and Away play session, visited the supermarket, celebrated Eid and the Platinum Jubilee and practiced our communication skills at every opportunity.



We've made art through movement - bouncing balls and rolling toy vehicles through paint to make fabulous pictures. We've moved our bodies too and had great fun in MOVE week and helping towards the MOVE miles target. We all travelled together to the field and then played games and had a picnic. We also contributed to the theme of 'Save the Planet' by making a banner and staging a 'Save the Planet' demonstration. And on top of all that we've had lots of fun playing together – especially in the paddling pool and water trays.



Well done Silver Class – you are brilliant!!



## Peach Class

### Our favourite thing this term was...yoga!

This term our favourite activity in Peach Class was afternoon yoga. Every Friday afternoon as a part of our wellbeing and relaxation session, we conducted yoga classes both for children and adults. It was a great activity and lots of fun for everyone. During this session we were working on our balance, coordination skills and physical strength. It was also a fantastic opportunity to understand our bodies a little bit more and to increase our awareness.



## Lime Class

**Our favourite thing this term was...going shopping (and eating what we bought!)**

Pupils in Lime class went on a trip to our local Lidl store to buy snacks and drinks. Wei went to get the trolley and some other children took shopping baskets. Yusuf went to find water and he put in in the trolley and Leila found apricot jam. We used money to pay for the food and they collected their change. After lunch we had ice lollies which we bought in Lidl.





## Aqua Class

### Our favourite thing this term was...growing Sunflowers!

In Aqua Class we had a great time planting sunflowers seeds and watching them grow. All of us participated and took turns to take good care of them. It was really exciting to see them grow and move them to a bigger pot! When the London Flower Society judge came, we all got certificates for our gardening efforts!



## Gold Class

### Our favourite thing this term was...cooking Jollof Rice

In Gold class this term we have had lots of fun with cooking. Our favourite recipe was for Jollof rice - we had such fantastic reactions from the pupils who obviously loved the smell of the spices! Pupils were able to press a switch to operate the food blender which was very dramatic and quite noisy! We enjoyed going to the cooking room to use the cooker and after doing the washing up we could then go to Soft Play to have fun and relax!

These photos give a glimpse of how engaged they were with the activity and everyone had fun!



## Art Club

Art Club has been taking place every Thursday lunchtime, supported by brilliant volunteer artist (and ex-Watergate parent), Hend Ezat.

This term, we have been outside creating lots of large-scale collaborative works using different mark making techniques.

We've applied paint with brushes, brooms, mops, spray bottles and our hands. We've used pastels, chalks and crayons too. Art Club is a drop in session so anyone can come along and join in the fun!



# Watergate Wonder Tour!

In May, 10 lucky pupils took part in the Watergate Wonder Tour. We worked with 6 professional musicians from Give a Song to create a concert of happy songs that we toured to community groups across Lewisham. This project was part funded by Phoenix Housing as part of Lewisham Borough of Culture 2022.



We took our concert to our Ladywell site and then onto Greenvale School. Over the course of 5 mornings we toured to Hazelhurst Court, Goldsmiths' Community Centre, Chinbrook Food Bank, Donderry Primary School, Launcelot Primary School and Beckenham Place Park, spreading joy and happiness as we went.

Lots of Watergate classes made a special visit to Beckenham Place Park to see us perform. Goldsmith's Community Centre was a particular highlight as we got all the elders up and dancing! We had a big finale performance back at school so that everyone could enjoy the music together. It was a hugely successful project that demonstrated Watergate School's commitment to community, creativity and collaboration.

# Watergate Wonder Tour!



# I AM FESTIVAL 2022

## I Am Festival 2022 | A New Direction

We were thrilled to take part in three creative learning projects as part of the I AM FESTIVAL 2022 - a yearly celebration empowering D/deaf, disabled, and neurodivergent young people to explore their creativity. Firstly one of our brilliant HLTAs, Imogen, led dance workshops at our Ladywell site in which the children explored 5 different physical movements.

Another of our wonderful HLTAs, Toni, helped pupils to create a section of a giant flag. They followed a pattern, chose fabric samples and stuck them on to calico. SEN schools across London completed different sections and they were all sewn together to make one massive 'Unity' flag that is now displayed at A New Direction's headquarters.



# I AM FESTIVAL 2022



We were lucky enough to host English National Opera for a day of multi-sensory workshops based on the story of Hansel and Gretel especially for us. ENO transformed one of our rooms into an enchanted forest and then told the story through music, song and dance.

Over 40 of our pupils got to enjoy the workshops and it was amazing to see such delight and engagement during the sessions. As an extra surprise the singers 'popped up' in the dining hall and at the buses enabling lots more children to feel part of an amazing day of operatic fun.

We are grateful to ENO and to A NEW DIRECTION for supporting this project and bringing the wonder of opera to Watergate.



# FIREBIRD!!

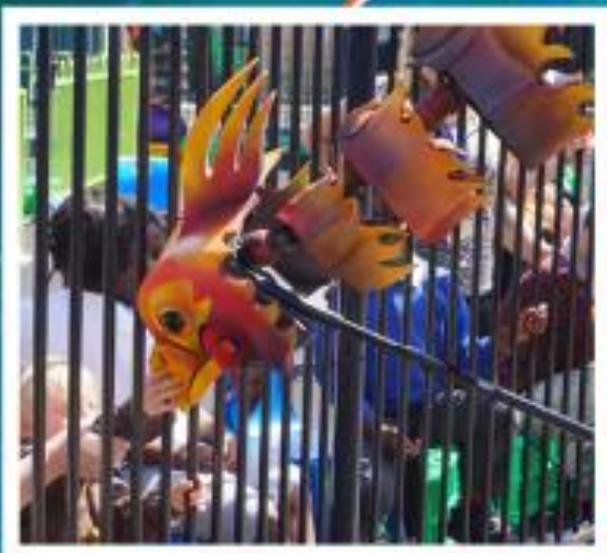


On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July Bamboozle Theatre Company came to Watergate with their production of 'Firebird'. This amazing performance took place in three different locations across the school as we witnessed the Firebird grow from baby bird to fully fledged spectacular winged creature.

We enjoyed making funny faces with the 'caretaker', dancing to the chicken jazz band and seeing the incredible giant Firebird flying around the playground. It was an awesome show that delighted and engaged everyone who was lucky enough to see it!



# FIREBIRD!!



Liberty Festival is a free three-day festival of ground-breaking creative experiences and works by D/deaf, disabled and neurodiverse artists, presented by the Mayor of London.

Everyone is invited to Liberty Festival, coming to Lewisham as part of London Borough of Culture 2022. The Festival takes place between the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

# LIBERTY FESTIVAL

As part of Liberty Festival 2022 we were offered two free interactive art workshops with neurodiverse artist, Gerald Curtis. Children from Lime and Pink classes made abstract paintings and drawings in response to music.

Our Lime and Pink artists did some amazing work – making marks on the giant paper together and showing lots of concentration and focus.





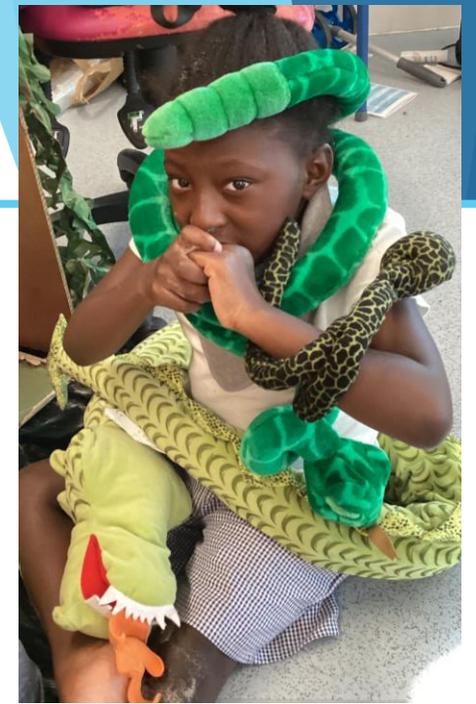
## MOVE 25 Mile Challenge

This year, the MOVE Programme celebrated its 25th birthday. Our MOVERs helped by travelling 25 miles collectively in one week. They walked, cycling, rolled, climbed stairs, pushed balls down chutes and moved through the pool. We were delighted by the enthusiasm of the children, staff and our physiotherapy team who worked hard to ensure we got to 25! During the challenge week, we were visited by the director of MOVE International, who travelled all the way from the US and was eager to visit our school. She was so impressed with the progress and determination of our amazing pupils and staff. Well done everyone!





## MOVE Week



The MOVERs had an amazing time celebrating 'MOVE Saves the Planet' week by visiting the world we created in Purple! There were areas set up as woodlands, the rainforest, the ocean, the arctic and the desert. The children used their MOVE skills to explore the planet and make lots of mess! We were also really pleased to see the classes getting involved by staging a demonstration and collecting recycling whilst using their MOVE skills!



# MOVE Awards 2022

We were thrilled to be able to hold the MOVE Awards ceremony again this year, where we celebrated the incredible achievements of our MOVE pupils. It was lovely to see so many proud families and staff cheering them on as they received their certificates. Everyone also really enjoyed the fun and games!



# A visit from Crayford Wanderers

Watergate School was lucky to have coaches from Crayford Wanderers come to spend time with three groups of pupils, including the Watergate Whizzers. The children were incredibly motivated by the activities provided and the enthusiasm of the coaches, who commented on how much they enjoyed being with our pupils. The pupils did extremely well following instructions and using their physical skills to take part in a range of activities. We are looking forward to more sessions with these coaches in September!



# Community Lunch June 22

A wonderful event demonstrating the strength and generosity of our community. The smiles say it all really!



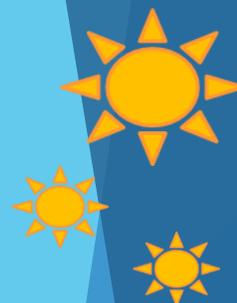


What a scorcher of a Fun Day we had this year!

It was amazing to be able to hold the first Fun Day since 2019 and welcome families, friends and staff back in for a day of fun, food and fundraising. Best of all, lots of our wonderful pupils came to enjoy the event, including current pupils, leavers and new children starting in September!

A massive thank you to everyone who donated, baked, volunteered and shared the day with us.

You all helped us to raise a fabulous £500 profit!



# Summer Fun Day



# Watergate Leavers 2022



It has been our pleasure and privilege to have been a part of the lives of our wonderful Year 6 pupils.

Some of you have been with us since Reception and others have joined us along the way. We have enjoyed working with each and every one of you and wish you all the very best in your Secondary Schools and beyond!

# Watergate's New Mini Bus!

A big thank you to Abridge Golf club and the Variety Club for our mini bus.

Debbie and Clare attended the presentation at Abridge Golf Club to receive the new bus and we are very much looking forward to taking the children out on trips in September.



...and finally...

### **Pupil Premium Prize Draw**

Thank you to all families who participated in the Pupil Premium registration (Free School Meals checker).

All participants were entered into a prize draw for two hampers.

Our lucky winners were Farhaaz in Green Class and Ali in Sky Class.

Congratulations!

### **Fond Farewells**

We say a big thank you, goodbye and good luck to...

- ▶ Lisa Xavier
- ▶ Barbara Nathan
- ▶ Jo Hickman
- ▶ Ella Gill
- ▶ Alex Gheorgie
- ▶ Alison Yearwood

### **A warm Watergate welcome to our new teachers**

Adam Deane  
Alice Hann  
Alyssa Garcia  
Gabriella  
Kirsty Hose  
Noelia Carnero

...and we can't wait to welcome all of the new children and families joining our amazing Watergate community in September!