



# Watergate Newsletter

Summer 2023

**Welcome to this special 'Getting Out & About' edition of our Newsletter.**

Our newsletters are usually packed full of the amazing things we get up to in school, but this term, we have had such fantastic learning opportunities outside of the classroom that we wanted to share them with everyone.

All term, we have been developing more and more links with spaces, places and people in our local and wider community. We have really enjoyed getting out and about – it's not only great for the development of our pupils, but it's a great way of helping others to understand how we can all be valuable members of the community.

We hope you enjoy looking at the newsletter and seeing how we have been putting our school motto into practice... 'I Can, You Can, Together We Will'

**Wishing you all a lovely break and we look forward to seeing the children back on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023.  
Linda and everyone at Watergate**

## Flying Fantastic

Pupils from across the school have had the opportunity to go to Flying Fantastic in Peckham to learn aerial circus skills! We had so much fun doing trapeze, hanging from silks and swinging from hoops. Aerial circus has helped us improve our balance, strength and coordination whilst giving us the amazing sensation of flying through the air! A few pupils also attended a performance of Alice in Aerialand at Flying Fantastic which was brilliant!







## Paddle Boarding

A group of children and staff have been lucky enough to pop along to Beckenham Place Park every week to go Paddle Boarding.

It has been a fantastic experience. We have all developed our confidence, water safety skills, balance, coordination and social skills – as well as having so much fun! Some of us have even tried a bit of open water lake swimming!!

This final week, some children were able to have a taster session with a family member too.

Come rain or shine, the PTP instructors at the lake have been brilliant and we can't wait to join them again as soon as we can.







## Girls' Football

We were very excited when some of our pupils were invited to a girls' football session with the Crystal Palace ladies team at Marjorie McClure school. They had the opportunity to learn lots of football skills and work as a team with new faces from other schools! The girls received well earned certificates at the end and were thrilled to be invited back to this event next year!







# Sky Class

It has been a very busy term in Sky Class! Last week, we went on a class trip to Christmas Tree Farm. We enjoyed looking at and feeding all of the different farm animals.







Godstone Farm



Ladywell  
Fields

# Olive Class - Out and About

Every week,  
Olive class  
have been  
exploring the  
outdoors on  
various  
adventurous  
trips.



The Reach – Climbing Wall



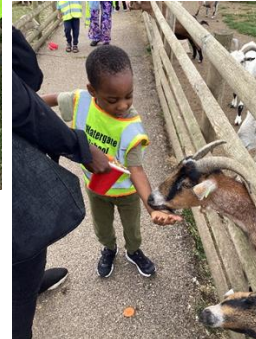
Swimming



# Amber Class

We travelled to Christmas tree Farm on the Blue Mini Bus.

At the farm we had the opportunity to feed the animals. We saw sheep, chickens, alpaca's, lamas, goats, cows, pigs, Shetland ponies, donkeys, horses, emu's, ducks, geese and rabbits.



After meeting and feeding the animals we washed our hands and had a lovely lunch in the picnic area. We saw some egg shells!





It has been a pleasure to see our little Chestnuts enjoying their time outdoors this year and beginning to travel to different places in our community! first trips to the Sensory Garden at Bellingham were done, some children loved their first swimming experiences, big soft play adventure play area was a hit, forest school learning was loved by most, sensory football was amazing to develop gross motor skills and coordination and we even had flying fantastic experiences!

Wishing everyone an amazing and well deserved summer break!

From everyone in Chestnut class team.











## Red Class

In Red class this Summer term was very busy and full of exciting activities. We explored "Over the rainbow" topic and various colors during our sensory messy play, art, cooking and fine motor skills activities. We also enjoyed "Going out and about" and using our walkers, wheelchairs and legs to explore our school environment and sensory garden. We had fantastic time during the picnic day where we played with our friends from different classes and enjoyed outdoor activities. We also went to see the farm animals, which came to our school but first of all, we are looking forward to go to our trip to Swanley and Beckenham Place Park very soon!





# Green Class's trip to the Horniman Museum!



On the 4<sup>th</sup> July, Green Class went on a trip to the Horniman Museum, where the children explored the various animal exhibits and gardens. They had a fantastic time, particularly in the aquarium looking at different sea creatures. Pupils had the opportunity to explore freely and lots of memories were made. It was a fantastic day out. Well done to Green Class!







## Violet Class

Violet class have been shopping this year to the local supermarket and really enjoyed finding items on the shopping list and paying at the checkout. We had a visit from a mobile farm and the children responded so well to the animals and even stroked them. A few pupils went Paddle boarding and it has been amazing! You can see the pupils really enjoyed this experience.





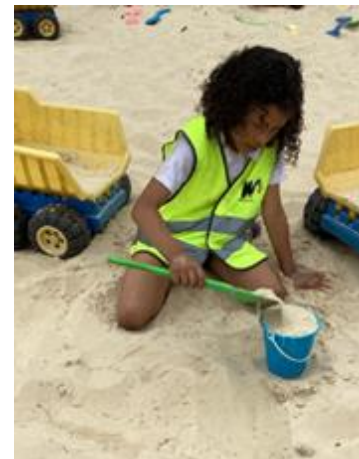
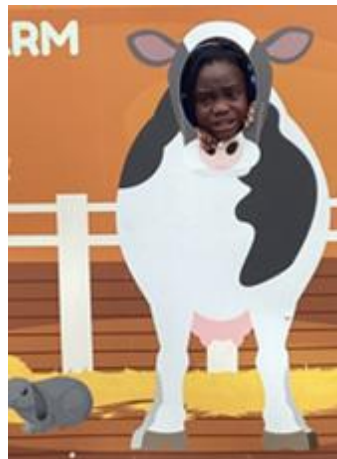
## Blue Class





# Yellow Class

Yellow class went for a fun trip to Godstone Farm! We were all very excited, we remembered our lunch, snacks and sun cream, it was a very sunny day! We got on the bus and we sat with our friends and looked out the window and saw some horses and cows which got us more excited to go to the farm. When we arrived at the farm we had a snack and drink to give us some energy for our busy day! Then it was time to set off and look at the animals, we saw some very big pigs and a few little cheeky chickens. Whilst we were walking around we also spotted a lot of sheep and goats and we all said 'Baaaaa!', then we saw a couple of ponies, alpacas and bunny rabbits! We loved exploring through the dinosaur trail, we were all very brave and took some pictures with the dinosaurs. Then we got to pet a calm cute bunny rabbit, a tortoise and a chicken and the best part of all... we got to feed the amazing alpacas! To end our wonderful day at the farm we all played together in the playground, we loved the sandpit, the swings, the climbing frames and the construction site! It was a busy brilliant day, some of us fell asleep on the bus back to school! We will see you next year Godstone Farm!





## Pink Class

Pink Class have had a fantastic summer term. We enjoyed our weekly shopping, walking to Lidl's supermarket which developed key shopping skills looking for the items on the list and waiting in line to pay for the items. This was an incredible experience for our children in Pink Class building on their independence and learning a very important life skill.

We also had our class trip to Godstone farm where our children had a chance to see and interact with many different animals and absolutely enjoyed the extensive outdoor play areas. We saw lots of pigs, ducks, rabbits, donkeys, llamas and meerkats. We were so delight to feed the animals, the children got to feed goats, llamas, and pigs. The highlight of our trip was the petting corner where the children got to stroke and pet 'George the tortoise' and 'Crunchy the Guinea pig'. We thoroughly enjoyed our day trip to Godstone Farm. Well done Pink Class!







## Orange Class

Orange class enjoyed their class trip to Horniman museum, we saw the butterfly house, the aquarium, and we really enjoyed visiting the Lego dinosaur exhibition. Despite the rain, we had a lovely day and enjoyed an ice cream at the end.





# Silver Class

Silver class have been super busy this term and we are excited to share the wonderful experiences we had on our trips out! We visited Godstone Farm and got first-hand experience of rural life! Everyone was able to interact with the farm animals, such as ducks, chickens, goats and we even got to feed the alpacas!!! It was lovely to see the whole of Silver class be delighted to feed and pet these animals at the farm.



Following the farm visit, Silver Class made regular visits to Beckenham Place park (our local park), where everyone had a blast engaging in outdoor activities. All the children enjoyed playing on the playground equipment, running around the fields, and having fun on the swings and slides, oh and we cannot forget the huge sandpit!

Going to the park was a huge highlight for Silver class and the visits strengthened friendships through cooperative play and shared memorable moments. Some of our pupils also got to experience aerial circus skills at Flying Fantastic and paddle boarding at Beckenham Place Park – we've really pushed ourselves this term! Our trips are integral to the holistic development of everyone in Silver Class and it has been wonderful to see the impact of all our outings!!

Well done to everyone in Silver Class for having such a fantastic term!





# Peach Class

This year Peach Class have been so busy and have loved exploring new places. We had an amazing time on our whole class trip to Swanley Park. Luckily, we were not deterred by the rain and had the entire park to ourselves! The children benefitted from exploring a new environment, applying their fundamental movement skills in different settings and spending time with their peers and classmates.

They particularly enjoyed the splash zone and loved exploring the water. Some of us were lucky enough to attend paddle boarding lessons in our local park which was so much fun. We were also had a visit from a farm, we got to meet some amazing animals in our sensory garden. The children absolutely loved meeting them and even got to brush their fur. Earlier in the year we went pumpkin picking, we loved exploring the countryside and playing in the mud.

We brought back so many pumpkins to share with our friends at school, we then used them to make some very yummy pumpkin soup. Over the course of the year we have also made regular trips to the local supermarket to further develop independence skills. The children have been brilliant at using shopping lists, working as a team and using their wheelchair skills to shop for our weekly supplies and cooking ingredients. We have had the most fantastic year!





## Lime Class

In Lime Class we waited for what seemed a very long time for the good weather to arrive. Finally, this term, we could enjoy with different outdoor activities inside and outside of the school.

We had a great time in Swanley Park, where we walked in nature, played in the water and the sand pit with other children, and also had a lovely picnic playing fun games.

Then, some farm animals visited us at Watergate. They were really soft and calm and we loved stroking them.

We definitely had the best time!





## Aqua Class

Aqua Class have been learning about road safety, how to walk in pairs and how to cross the road on the zebra crossing. We went to Godstone Farm and we had a great experience looking at farm animals, stroking some of them and feeding Alpacas'. We also went to our local Lidl to buy some snacks and ice-cream and to McDonalds to practice our road safety skills!







## Gold Class

Gold Class have enjoyed getting out and about, including a walk to the field for a whole school picnic on World Picnic Day with music, storytelling and chilling out with friends. We also took a trip on the minibus to Swanley Park for a lovely sunny day out.





# See Me, Hear Me

This term, we took part in the I AM FESTIVAL - which celebrates the creativity of disabled and Ddeaf young people across London. The festival brought vibrant colour and energy to the school through a series of different events. As part of the festival we did a major collaborative project with Cherry Garden School called 'See Me, Hear Me'. This project involved the school council pupils from both schools and their parents. Pupils and parents worked with artists - including local Brockley artist, Mimi Soan - to make sensory banners with messages that meant something to them. Our banners said 'Hear Me' and 'Say Hello' and Mimi did a brilliant job of working our ideas into something striking and beautiful.



We then took our banners to the South Bank in London and joined with Cherry Garden pupils and their families to sing and wave at passers by. It was a wonderful day where we felt truly seen and heard. Back at school and all the classes worked on their own sensory banners. These were displayed in the hall for our Multicultural Lunch. The hall looked so fantastic covered in our bold banners. Well done to everyone for making this project such a success!







**WATERGATE SCHOOL**

'I Can, You Can, Together We Will'

# Sports Day





# Community Lunch

As always, our Community Lunch was full of generosity, kindness, laughter and lots of very tasty food!

It was a pleasure to welcome friends new and old.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make this event such a highlight of the year - it really wouldn't be the same without you all.







## World Picnic Day 2023

We celebrated World Picnic Day by taking all of the Bellingham site children to the nearby field for a mass picnic. It was a glorious sunny afternoon full of smiles and laughter. We had storytelling, drumming, face painting and outdoor games – and picnic food of course! Everyone loved being together in the sunshine and playing with friends from other classes. What a wonderful afternoon!







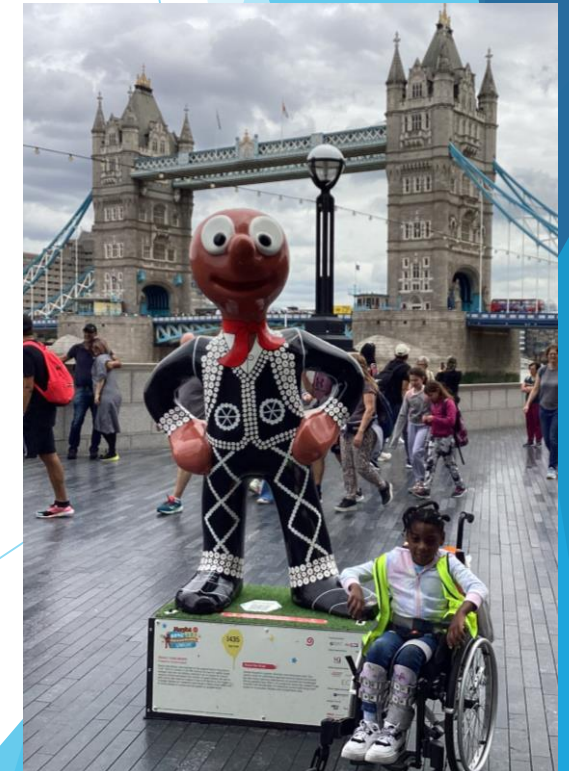
## Morph's Epic Art Adventure

Watergate School MOVERs were delighted to decorate a Mini Morph to be included in the Morph's Epic Art Adventure trail from WhizzKidz.

In July a few of us raised money for WhizzKidz by doing a sponsored wheel to visit our Morph and find 12 other Morphs in amongst the famous London landmarks! We were so excited to be reunited with Messy Morph and get a quick photo!

The art trail will be in place until 20th August and makes a great trip out for all the family. Make sure you head to Fenchurch Street to spot our Messy Morph!

Find details of the trail can be found at: <https://www.morphsadventurelondon.com/>





# MOVE Fest

Watergate MOVERs celebrated this year's MOVE Day by enjoying a week long MOVE Fest! All MOVERs had the opportunity to join an immersive campsite experience in Purple room, which was great fun!

We used our MOVE skills when cooking at the campfire, getting into sleeping bags and having a laugh in the FartFest tent!

We also thoroughly enjoyed a whole school MOVE Fest event, where each class set up a stage or activity. There were lots of giggles at Peach class's comedy stage, it was safety first at Violet's first aid tent and the Red class disco was extremely lively! The day's headline act was Mr Blobby and his Blobby bus!







## Family Support @ Watergate

This year we have held coffee mornings where we have invited several of our experienced staff including Speech and Language Therapist Molly who came to offer advice and strategies to help you at home, Katie came to share and advise what there is on offer and what you can do regarding physical abilities and Anna and Maria have supported parents to help them have ways to manage the summer holidays providing visuals to support with changes to their routines.

Parents were able to share their experiences and any information they held which was valuable for them to learn about.

We will continue with themed coffee mornings next year. Thank you to the parents who continually support these and bring fun and laughter with them too.

Next term We will also hold a new parent coffee morning in September. Dates to be confirmed.

**Our family support worker, Carol Powell, is always here to support Watergate families – please do not hesitate to get in touch – 0208 695 6555 ext. 220**





...and finally...



## Financial Support and Advice

Turn2us helps people in financial need gain access to welfare benefits, charitable grants and other financial help – online, by phone and face to face through their partner organisations.

<https://www.turn2us.org.uk/>

Turn2us is not linked to the school and is a separate, free organisation.

## Term Dates...

We will be welcoming the children back into school on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September!



## Summer Fair

Wow, you did it again! A huge thank you to everyone who supported and came along to our Summer Fair.

**Thanks to you, we have managed to raise just over £1000!**

We will be using this to help fund more educational visits and outdoor learning opportunities next year!

**THANK YOU !**



Thank you also to the generous donations of raffle prizes from:

- Kirkdale Bookshop
- Moon Lane Bookshop
- Laser Quest Bromley
- Louisa's Sweets
- Bellingham Community Project