



Watergate Newsletter

Autumn 2023

Welcome to Autumn 2023 edition of our school newsletter.

What a very busy term it has been!

We started the year by welcoming everyone back to school as well as welcoming lots of new children and families to Watergate. It has been great to see how quickly the children settled.

As the term went on, we have all enjoyed the 'Food Glorious Food' topic with loads of multisensory, fun food themed activities and events – this edition is packed with examples of what the children have been getting up to and, maybe even a few things you can try at home too.

Finally, we have ended the term with a host of Winter Wonderland events and activities. We hope you managed to pop in to share some of them with us.

Wishing you all a lovely break and we look forward to seeing the children back on 8th January 2024.

Linda and everyone at Watergate

Totally Terrific Trips!

It has been a really busy term for trips and visits with children across the school getting out and about in the community. Pupils from Chestnut, Sky, Orange and Blue started the year by going to the Stanhill Farm in October and filling wheelbarrows with wonderful pumpkins. They brought these back to school and decorated them for Halloween.

Several pupils have been going rock climbing at JAGs sports centre each week and it has been wonderful to see their confidence and skills improve. We hope to open this up to more pupils next term.

All Ladywell pupils have been over to the Bellingham site for swimming sessions. It is such a great opportunity for them to build their confidence in the water and to become familiar with the Bellingham site.

Paloma, our music lead, has been taking our Makaton Choir to join with pupils at Brent Knoll. Our pupils have been doing so well that they created a Wonder Choir and went to perform festive songs to the children of Downton Primary School, the residents of the Alexander Care Home and the Diamond Club at Hartley Hall. These performances were very well received and brought some Christmas joy to all who heard them.

Blue Class teacher, Alice Hann, organised a special trip to the Royal Observatory for some of our visually impaired pupils. They were immersed in an amazing visual and aural space spectacle which appealed to all the senses. What a treat!

Several of our classes were lucky enough to go to Godstone Farm to meet Father Christmas. Each of them received a special present, did craft activities and explored the farm. Godstone Farm have been brilliant at accommodating our pupils and we can highly recommend them as a great family outing. Two others went to Christmas Tree Farm to feed the animals and soak up the festive atmosphere there.

We have enjoyed trips to the theatre this term. Peach Class went to The Unicorn Theatre to see The Wolf, The Duck and The Mouse. They were very well looked after by the staff at the theatre and they absolutely loved the performance. Some of our children had never been to the theatre before and were totally entranced by what they were seeing. Yellow Class went to the Orchard Theatre in Dartford to see Beauty and the Beast - they all had a wonderful time.

Ladywell pupils have been making the most of the dedicated SEN sessions at the soft play at Bellingham Leisure Centre. These monthly sessions have been a real hit with our pupils – especially their Christmas Party!

As you can see, we have been out and about a lot this term and we hope to continue making the most of our minibuses and getting the children out in the community. Our theme next term is Amazing Animals so there will be lots of opportunities to meet animals of all kinds. Thank you for your continued support with our trips.



Forest School

Collaborate



Create



Explore



Forest school sessions are in full swing for a number of classes at Watergate school. The children love exploring the outdoors and getting creative with natural resources. At the end of each session we come together at basecamp for some hot chocolate and biscuits

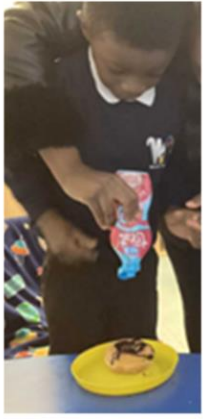
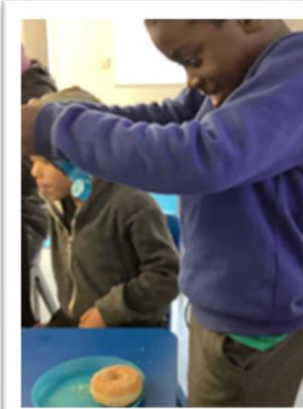
Sky Class

This term, Sky class have loved doing so many activities related to Food, Glorious Food and one that we have repeated lots of times is the Sensory Market Experience. Every week we decided to visit a different country and we would play music from that culture as the children came in to the classroom. We had a music and dance station set up with instruments and fabrics and then on the table we offered lots of different food ingredients from that country and some utensils that the children could use to explore the ingredients, like cutlery, pestle and mortar, sieves and other kitchen utensils. The children would also try cooked food from that country and you can see in these lovely pictures that the children really loved to taste all the food items. The children have learnt lots about different countries and have enjoyed trying new things together.



Ruby Class

This term in Ruby class, we have explored the story 'Don't put your finger in the jelly Nelly' as part of our wonderful topic 'Food Glorious Food'. We explored each of the foods from the story including jelly, pie (cream), cheese, spaghetti (pasta), and jam. We also applied skills such as mixing, grating, pouring, squeezing, squirting and chopping as part of this topic. To finish the story, we decorated our own donuts! Yummy!



Lavender Class

Lavender class have been exploring food in a variety of contexts. We have been developing our social skills at lunch and snack times, learning how to use cutlery, loading our spoons/forks and feeding ourselves. Lavender class have also been following the story "Today is Monday" by Eric Carle, looking at a different food each day of the week, representing each food through art.



It has been a real pleasure to see our little Chestnuts enjoying all the learning in their new class. The food glorious food theme has been an excellent vehicle to develop communication and to share beautiful moments together. We have also begun to travel to different places in our local community, all children loved their first swimming experiences, big soft play adventure play area has been a hit, forest school learning was loved by most, music and dance have been great to develop gross motor skills and coordination and we even had presents from Santa!

Wishing everyone a cozy and full of joy holiday break.

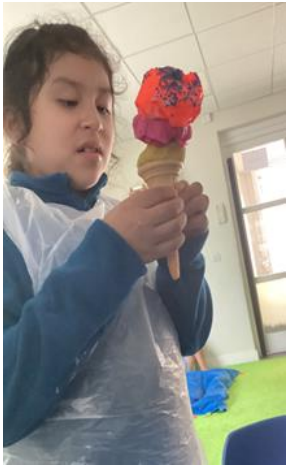
From everyone in Chestnut



Olive Class



We have enjoyed pop art food, inspired by Wayne Thiebaud. We have made pretend food using puffy paints, paper mâché, playdough and more!



In line with our class story 'Baby Goes to Market' the children tasted Chin Chin and it was a hit!

Perhaps you can make a better version than the ones we attempted!

Have a go at home using this recipe found here: [Chin Chin - Immaculate Bites \(africanbites.com\)](https://www.immaculatebites.com/2013/05/01/chin-chin-recipe/)



Amber Class

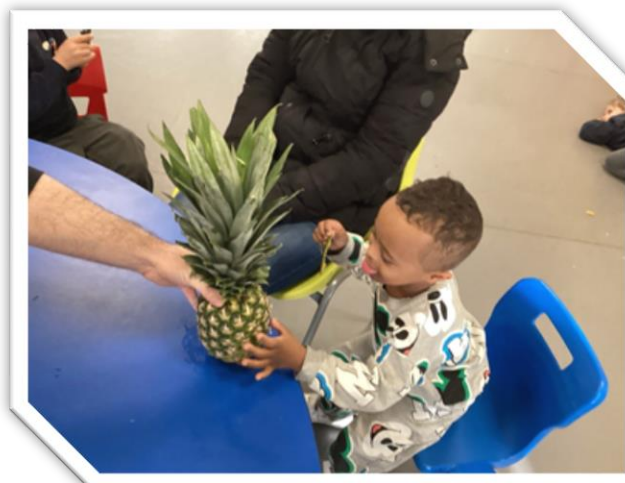
In Amber Class we have been developing our fine motor skills and also learning to use the appropriate tools. We have been cutting different fruit and vegetables. We have also been printing with vegetables, drawing around different vegetables and sorting fruit and vegetables. We made pancake faces and fruit kebabs and we tasted the different fruit we used. We used all 4 of our 5 senses to learn about food; we felt the textures of different food items, tasted different fruit, smelt different food, looked at different fruit from around the world. We decorated biscuits. We all are sitting together for our snack and lunchtime meals.





Primrose Class

In Primrose class, we have been exploring a variety of different foods, spending time to learn about different texture, smell and taste. We chose to focus on fruit and vegetables and have spent time reading and exploring the wonderful book, 'Handa's surprise'. Primrose class also began to look at how different foods can be used to artistically represent different objects and features.





Red Class

This has been a super exciting term for the children in Red class! For lots of the children this has been their very first term in school and they have settled so well. It has been a pleasure to watch each of them grow in confidence and start to develop friendships.

We have had lots of fun getting messy and exploring new sensory games. Our favourite is definitely splatting flour castles against black paper and making magic potions with lemonade, food colouring and salt. The reaction is spectacular - definitely an activity to do in the garden.

Red Class are also huge fans of Molly's puppets and finding how ridiculous the puppets have been. We laughed lots when the puppets made some truly disgusting sandwiches.

All of the children in Red class have made phenomenal progress in their physical skills and we are developing these skills by going on lots of treasure hunts around school. You'll often hear us chanting and playing musical instruments as we look for different objects. A personal favourite was a doughnut hunt around school.

In Red class we love starting each day with our singing assembly, ending the day with a story and playing in our brand-new home corner. Our home corner will be transformed into a vet ready for our brand-new topic.

Wishing you all a very lovely holiday and we can't wait to see what is next for Red class.



Green Class

Salima's samosas

We made samosas by following a simple home recipe from Green Class team member Salima. They were absolutely delicious and we had them for afternoon snack that day!

Below is the recipe to try at home.

? How to make samosas

First, roll out your pastry.

Next, place the vegetables on top.

+ Add the sauce.

After, fold the pastry into a triangle.

Put in the oven to cook.



YELLOW CLASS BUILT THEIR OWN MARKET STALL IN CLASS THIS TERM AS WE WERE READING "BABY GOES TO MARKET". EACH WEEK OUR CLASS MARKET VISITED A DIFFERENT COUNTRY AND WE TRIED A VARIETY OF FOODS FROM THAT COUNTRY. THE CHILDREN WERE VERY EXCITED TO FIND OUT WHICH FOODS WE WOULD BE TRYING EACH WEEK AND BY FAR THEIR COLLECTIVE FAVOURITE WAS MEXICO WEEK.

THEY ENJOYED LISTENING TO MEXICAN MUSIC, MAKING NACHOS TACO'S AND GUACAMOLE, AS WELL AS, CREATING THEIR OWN PIÑATA.



Blue Class

Blue class has been on a fantastic food adventure! We have explored so many new ingredients from around the world and we all used our senses to explore these ingredients! Our favourite has been the mango coconut dessert that we made, we used lots of yummy ingredients from different countries in Asia and Africa. We used mango, coconut cream, honey and our new discovery... tapioca!

Here is our secret recipe to making the most amazing dessert, ENJOY!



Mango coconut dessert



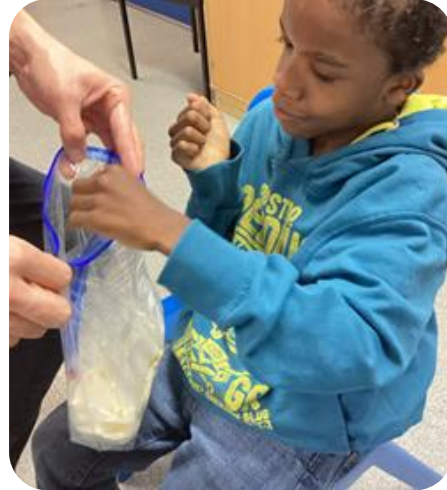
Mango coconut dessert instructions



Mango coconut dessert instructions



Violet Class



This Term Violet Class have been exploring lots of different recipes, inspired by some of the wonderful books we've been reading in class, including Lima's Red Hot Chilli, Kitchen Disco and The Disgusting Sandwich.

We really enjoyed a hands on session making ice cream, using this simple recipe:

Ice cream recipe

Ingredients:

125ml cream

1 tablespoon caster sugar

½ teaspoon vanilla extract

A few handfuls of ice cubes (about 20 ice cubes)

4 tablespoons of salt

Ice cream toppings

Getting it all together

1. First of all, measure out and pour 125ml cream into the small zip-seal bag. You could use a funnel to help you.
2. Now, carefully add your 1 tablespoon caster sugar and ½ teaspoon vanilla extract.
3. Carefully seal the bag. Remember to gently squeeze out any excess air before sealing it. Make sure that is closed securely and none of the liquid can escape.
4. Take a larger zip-seal bag. Add around 20 ice cubes and 4 tablespoons of edible rock salt into it. You need enough ice to cover the smaller bag, while leaving space for everything to shake around.
5. Put the small zip-seal bag of ice cream mixture, inside the large zip-seal bag of ice. Carefully seal the larger bag.

Shake it up

1. Wrap the bag in a tea towel or pop on some gloves, and start to shake it!
2. After about 5 or 10 minutes of shaking, your mixture should have frozen into ice cream.
3. Pour the zip-seal bag of ice cream into a bowl or tub. Serve with toppings of your choice. Enjoy!



In **Pink Class** we have been communicating and being independent . We have been creative and we have had fun!!





Orange have really enjoyed the different sensory stories on offer this term, especially 'Lima's Red Hot Chili'! We touched, smelled or tasted all the foods that Lima tries in the book, tried using the can opener and reaching up high for the sticky sweets. We were all excited to open the little fridge to find out what Lima was going to try next.... All our Oranges demonstrated fantastic resilience and engagement!





Silver Class

As we approach the end of our food glorious food term, it brings me great joy to share the remarkable progress made in Silver class. This term we have been super busy making yummy dishes and delicious discoveries!

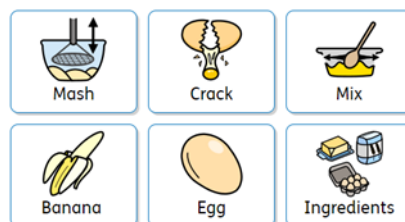
All of our cooking sessions this term have been nothing short of delightful, filled with delicious aromas and the joy of exploring and tasting new foods!

Cooking is not just about individual skill; it's also about collaboration. Everyone has embraced teamwork during our cooking sessions, learning to communicate effectively and appreciate the importance of working together. It has been fantastic to see Silver class practice these invaluable life skills that will serve them well beyond the kitchen!!

Our cooking sessions have been a testament to the incredible progress everyone in Silver class has made. Have a look at some of our yummy recipes we made in class below and try and recreate them at home!

Bon appetit!

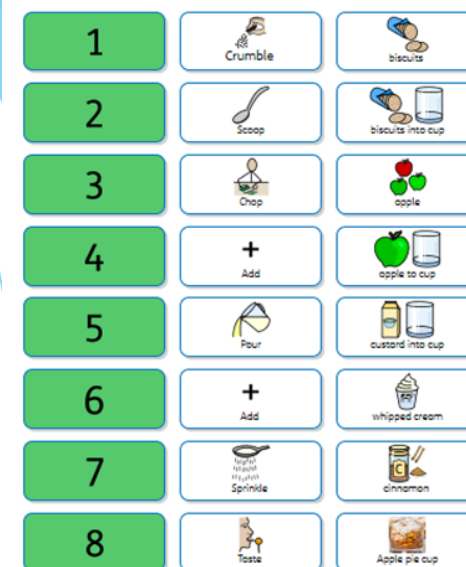
Banana bread



Coconut biscuits



Apple pie cup



Veggie Samosa



Peach Class

Peach Class have had an amazing term. We have loved getting stuck into forest school, making mud pies and some amazing natural artwork. We have really enjoyed learning all about different foods from different cultures, this has been so fun to experiment with in our range of cooking sessions. We have tried so many new tastes and flavours! We have created some excellent food themed artwork but particularly enjoys making our Wind rush display based on our Wind rush Child poem. We have loved our Yoga sessions and incorporated lots of different food shaped moves, our favourite is go bananas. We have really enjoyed a range of different stories in the story shed all about food and animals that eat different things. We especially enjoyed going to the Unicorn Theatre, we saw a show all about the different things a hungry wolf can eat! An amazing term together!



Lime Classes Favourite Food Themed Activity!

During this Term, Lime Class has enjoyed many different food themed activities but our favourite has got to be The Disgusting Sandwich Sensory Story and Cooking Session.

We turned The Disgusting Sandwich into a fully edible sessions by rolling a sandwich in sand (Cheerio's), mud (Oreo's), swamp goo (icing) and worms (jelly worms)! All of the children sat around the tray and explored the different elements to our story through touch, smell, sight and taste.

After the sensory story, the children all participated in making their own not so disgusting sandwich for their afternoon snack.



Aqua Class

Aqua Class enjoyed exploring various foods this term. We have been tasting different fruit in snack time and we have been following step-by-step simple recipes in Cooking. We made Caribbean Reggae wrap, upside-down pineapple cupcakes, cookies, Naan bread, jam sandwiches, fruit salad, fruit kebabs and much more. In Art we painted fruits, made fruit printing, we cut pictures of different foods to make Pop Art collage. We made a Pop-corn machine by decorating large boxes. We have enjoyed role play, making a tea party and serving tea to our friends and teachers. We went to Godstone Farm and we met Santa, who gave us presents. We also looked at farm animals. Some of them were big like horses, lamas and pigs and some of them were small like rabbits and guinea pigs. We had lots of fun this term.



Gold Class

Gold Class has been very busy and happy this term! We had lots of music activities and games, sensory stories, MOVE activities, art and cooking! All the children are well settled in class and developing fantastic new skills!

Well done everyone!



Sedgehill Academy wow us with their talent!

On Monday 11th December we were lucky enough to have 27 students from Sedgehill Academy come and perform to us.

We were blown away by their talent and our pupils loved listening to the music which was sung with confidence and skill.

The reactions from our pupils were wonderful - smiling, clapping, dancing and singing along.

We are hoping that this concert will be the first of many and we look forward to welcoming Sedgehill students back to Watergate.

Some of them have already signed up to come and do their work experience here.

Well done Sedgehill!





Audio Universe at the Royal Observatory

There was a trip to the Royal Observatory in Greenwich for some of our children with visual impairment to experience a planetarium show called Audio Universe; a virtual trip through the solar system through the use of sound and light. Olivia, Joanie, Juno and Amin really enjoyed the experience, particularly the workshop in which they packed a bag for Mars! Well done to the children who took part in this trip, it was a lovely day!



...and
finally...



CREATIVE LEARNING

THIS TERM, WATERGATE SCHOOL HAVE BEEN GETTING VERY CREATIVE INDEED. OUR BIGGEST CREATIVE CHALLENGE WAS FOR DEPTFORD X, WHERE WE TOOK INSPIRATION FROM A LOCAL ARTIST TO PARADE AROUND THE PLAYGROUND FOR A "TECHNO HARVEST". WE HAVE ALSO BEEN INVOLVED WITH BOW ARTS AND HAVE A PUPPETEER COMING TO SCHOOL NEXT TERM TO SHOW US HOW TO MAKE OUR OWN SOCK PUPPETS.