



# Watergate Newsletter

Spring 2024

**Welcome to Spring 2024 edition of our school newsletter.**

It may have been a short term, but we have managed to squeeze a lot into it. You will see in this edition of our Newsletter that we have been going Absolutely Animals with our topic this term and it has been great fun, we even had a mobile farm appear in the Sensory Garden for a day! We have also been letting our creativity shine with puppet making, warming up by the campfire in Forest School, getting active with new sports and dressing up for World Book Day – to name but a few things. We hope you enjoy seeing a taster of the Spring Term at Watergate inside our Newsletter!

**Wishing you all a lovely break and we look forward to seeing the children back on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024.  
Linda and everyone at Watergate**

## Summer Term dates

Summer Term starts: Tues 16<sup>th</sup> April  
May Bank Holiday: Mon 6<sup>th</sup> June  
Half term week: 27<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> May

## Summer Term Topic

Next term we will be setting sail, blasting off and looking at far away places with our topic:



We will also, in this Olympic year, be getting ready for Paralympic fun and games.  
On your marks, get set...GO!

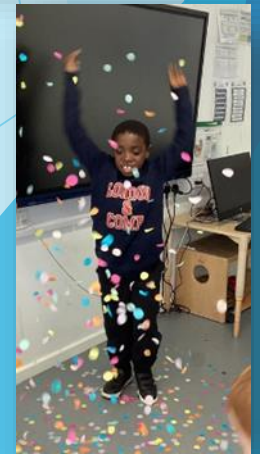
## Sky Class

The children in Sky Class have enjoyed so many amazing activities this term related to Amazing Animals. One of our favourite activities has been our sensory food exploration sessions on a Wednesday afternoon. Every week we have changed the topic and have some sensory food exploration related to that topic. For example, on the week of Chinese New Year, we constructed a big monster dragon out of lots of edible colourful food items like red spaghetti, orange beansprouts, herbs and other vegetables. The children were so engaged as we plopped all the different ingredients on to the tray to make our creation and lots of them tasted the different parts of the dragon too. Through these Wednesday afternoon sessions, we have introduced lots of different textures, flavours, colours and types of food from around the world and related it back to the different animals that the children like to see too. We had a particularly successful session where the adults all put on animal masks and the children had to feed us food that the animal likes, like banana for the monkey, seeds for the bird, honey for the bear and tuna for the cat! It was a very interactive and fun session and the children loved it.



# Ruby Class

This term in Ruby Class, the children have been exploring the story 'The Rainbow Fish'. We have explored the story through a range of sensory play activities and creating large scale fish through our creative art work! We have also explored the topic of 'Under the Sea' and the children have made their own habitat boxes linked to the ocean. Take a look at our pictures below to see how much fun the children have had!



## Lavender Class

Lavender class have thoroughly enjoyed our topic "Amazing Animals". We have made a variety of animal themed art, exploring habitats and looking at where different animals live. So far, our favourite classification has been jungle animals where we made a variety of animals that live in the jungle for our classroom display. We have also really enjoyed looking at the book "The Rainbow Fish" in multi-sensory ways, making our own aquarium and story umbrella that we used to retell the story too. Jacob was able to take all of the scales off of the Rainbow fish and share with the other fish that live in our aquarium! and Orion placed his hand on top of supporting adult's hand to make a lion – huge success all round



# Chestnut Class

Chestnut class children have had an amazing term exploring many different animals from around the world. First, we went to the Artic to learn about the animals that live in the snow, following the beautiful Polar Bear Polar Bear Story. We then stayed in our gardens to learn about snails and their trails, while reading The Snail trail lovely book. We travelled to the Jungle to explore all the different animal textures and we made a great Jungle book: frogs, tigers, lions, toucans, monkeys were our favourites. We have had a great time with Molly's animal puppets, we enjoyed role playing Walking in the Jungle song in the park and we LOVED the farm animals that visited out school. Wishing everyone a great holiday!



# Olive Class

We have enjoyed the animal topic. Look at our food art creations.

Olive class used different foods to make animal faces. We used rice cakes, pink cream cheese/angel delight, raisins, strawberries and bananas. We loved mixing, spreading, arranging and most of all tasting!



# Amber Class

This term we have been learning about different animals. We looked at different types of animal and made different animal arts and crafts. We learned about jungle animals, farm animals and mini beasts. We saw rabbits, pigs, goats, a guinea pig, dog and a Shetland Pony at Bellingham. Some of us went to the local park and all of us went swimming, we loved it!





## Primrose Class

We have been very busy in Primrose class, this term. We have been learning about different animals, exploring their noises, shapes, sizes and colours. We enjoyed learning about polar bears and their habitat, in the North Pole. We have spent time reading 'Dear zoo' and 'The tiger who came to tea', and exploring different animal themed arts and craft activities.







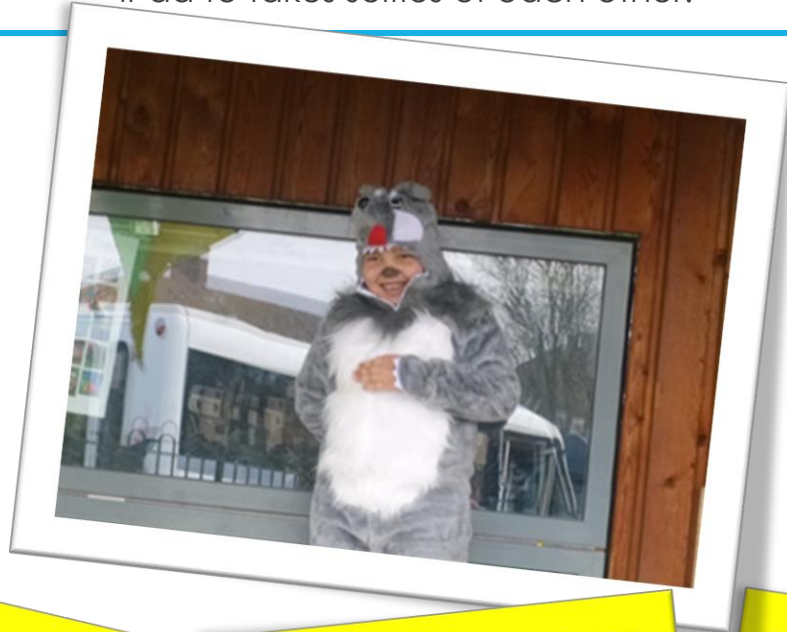
## Red Class

In Red Class this term we have been reading the story Rainbow Fish. We have been exploring the story using a range of different sensory props which have included the rainbow umbrella, shiny foil, bubbles and different textured fabric. We have then completed art activities linked to the story by making collage rainbow fish using tissue paper and shiny paper, glitter fish and a large sea scape using paint and rollers. We really enjoyed exploring the bubbles which we enjoyed watching and popping them!



## Yellow Class

Yellow class have enjoyed many things this term including a visit from the farm, exploring some minibeast in and around the Forest School area and recreating them in art sessions. Some of us have even had the opportunity to take part in Tennis lessons. In yellow class we enjoyed dressing up for world book day and we have recently all started to request the use of the iPad to take selfies of each other.



## Green Class

Green Class's favourite animal-themed session was when we made animal print cookies out of fondant! The children chose their colours and followed the visual instructions to create their own designs, and some of them tasted their creations too! It was so much fun!



# Blue Class

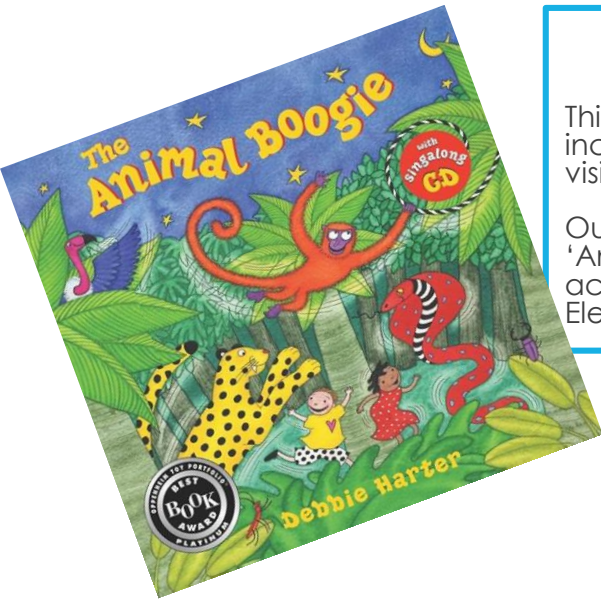
We love going out and about here in Blue Class! We went to Battersea Park Children's Zoo and had so much fun looking at some of the animals, we stroked some of the pigs, donkeys and sheep. Some of our very favourite animals were the cute little meerkats and we were able to go and see them up close through a tunnel! The playground at the zoo was unbelievable and we loved to run around, climb on the equipment, swing on all the swings and explore the sand pit. We also found a massive yellow helicopter and big red fire truck which we all rode together. It was a very busy day but we had the best time together and we also sat around on the picnic table and had our lunch and a lot of other sweet treats too! We hope to be back to the zoo again and have more and more fun!!



# Violet Class

This term Violet Class have explored their love of animals through different sessions, including specialist dance sessions run by Magpie Dance and meeting farm animals that visited school.

Our favourite song, which has formed the basis of some of our dance and art sessions, is 'Animal Boogie' from Barefoot Books. We really enjoy singing along and doing all of the actions in the song including: Shaking like a Bear, Swinging like a Monkey, Stomping like an Elephant, Flapping like a Bird and Leaping like a Leopard!



## Pink Class

In Pink Class we have been exploring the beautiful world of animals.

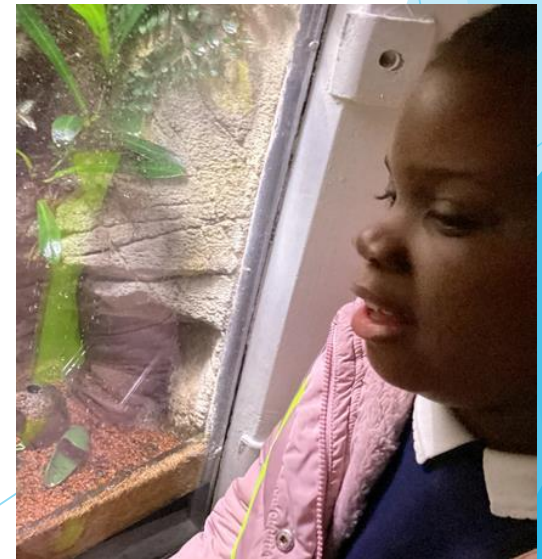
We have been learning how to write some animal names and engaged with animal counting too. We also visited the remote farm in the sensory garden to feed and stroke goats, rabbits, pigs and ponies. We dressed up to celebrate World Book Day and have been swimming in the pool like dolphins.





## Orange Class

Orange took a trip to the aquarium at the Horniman Museum. We looked for creatures in the big tanks, using our symbol boards and were entranced by the beautiful jelly fish! It was wonderful to see how much the pupils enjoyed being in such a calm and magical space, and they transitioned around the building with ease. We are so proud of them!



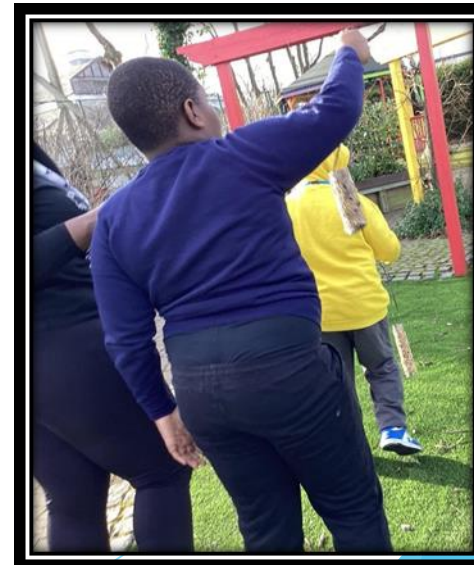
## Silver Class

It's time to reflect on some of the wonderful experiences we have had in Silver Class over the past few months. Read here about exploring nature's wonders and find out about our harmonizing with world-class musicians later in the Newsletter!

### Crafting Memories in the Sensory Garden:

One highlight of this term was our delightful creative session where everyone had the opportunity to make bird feeders. Everyone embraced their artistic sides, crafting beautiful feeders using a variety of materials.

Following this, we ventured into the sensory garden, where they hung up their bird feeders with pride. It was heart-warming to see faces light up as they carefully hung their creations, knowing they were contributing to the well-being of our feathered friends. It was evident that these simple acts of kindness had made a significant impact. Our sensory garden has truly become a haven for both students and wildlife alike, fostering a sense of connection with the natural world.





## Peach Class

This term, Peach Class enjoyed a wonderful day down on the farm! We travelled by bus as a whole class to visit Godstone farm where we played in the play barn, explored new environments and of course got to meet lots of different animals. We had a tasty picnic lunch in the fresh air and took part in an animal interactions workshop, we even got to help feed the pigs! We had a fabulous time and it helped us understand more about different animals and where they like to live.



## Lime Class

Lime class' favourite animal themed activity!

Throughout this term, Lime class have enjoyed a range of animal themed activities including, animal art, making food to resemble different animals, joining in with litter picking to help save animals and animal themed sensory sessions.

Our favourite animal themed session would be our sensory sessions! We made completely edible environments that animals may live in. We made a muddy/woodland environment with crushed up Oreos, Twiglets, mini eggs, and mushrooms. We also made an arctic environment with blue jelly, ice and corn flour and we made a safari with crushed Cheerios. The children were able to explore the different textures of the foods that were used in the environments and explore how they tasted!

We then added animal figurines to each environment to show the children what animals might live there whilst enjoying songs that linked to each environment.



# Aqua Class

Aqua Class students really enjoyed a sensory story "The Rainbow Fish".

We made fish and other sea creatures using different techniques. We explored paint while finger printing colourful scales on a fish shape and we loved sprinkling sequins and glitter on sticky foil to make see through fish, jelly fish, starfish, octopus and sea horse. We also made sea creatures out of recycled materials, e.g. fish out of the plastic bottle and turtle out of the paper bowl. We worked in a team to make a large-scale jelly fish and octopus! We painted large boxes and used bubble wrap, tights, newspapers and foil to make them. We played fishing games to improve our hand-eye coordination, turn taking and sharing skills and it was fun. In our cooking lesson we made a pizza fish by using pita bread, ketchup and vegetables. It was so yummy!



## Gold Class

Gold Class had a busy and fun term. We have been enjoying our Dance and Drama project "Moving Stories" with Peoplescape and Trinity Laban artists every Tuesday. We enjoyed a special farm visit, lots of music sessions, sensory stories, cooking and parachute sessions in the PE hall. We are truly blossoming and developing new skills every day. Well done everyone in Gold Class!



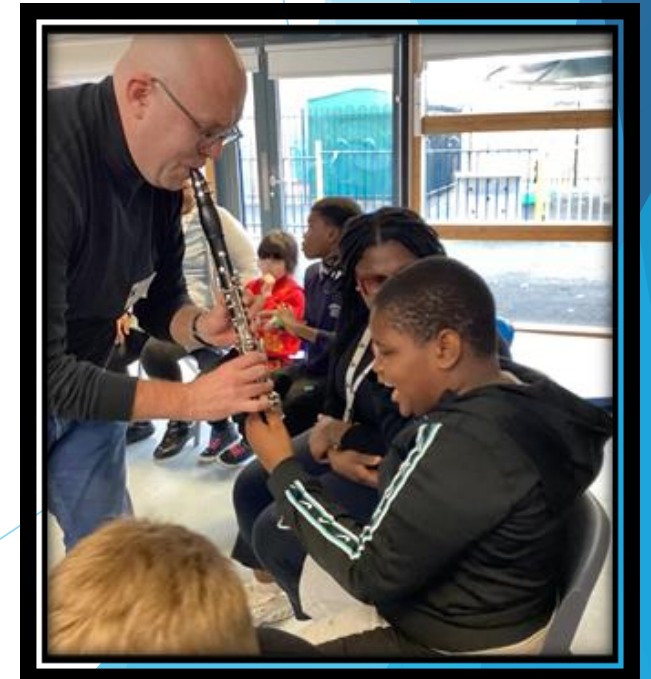
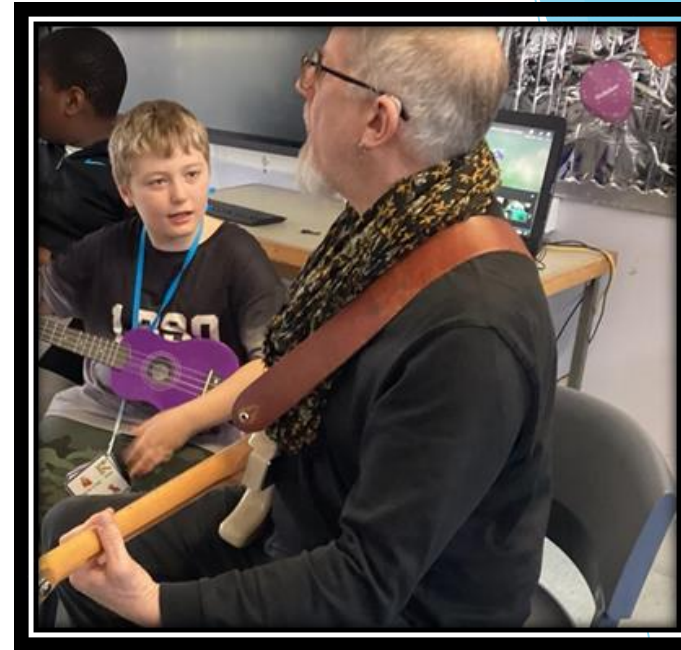


## Harmonising with the London Symphony Orchestra

An unforgettable experience for Silver Class this term was our collaboration with the renowned London Symphony Orchestra (LSO). Through our brilliant music project, everyone had the privilege of working alongside talented musicians from the LSO, exploring the magic of melody and rhythm.

Under the guidance of the LSO, everyone in Silver class immersed themselves in a wonderful uplifting performance. It was a joy to witness their dedication and passion throughout the project.

The culmination of this project was a fantastic performance that left us all in awe. From soaring symphonies to soulful solos, everyone showcased their musical talents with confidence and flair. It was a moment of pride for everyone involved, highlighting the transformative power of music and the rewards of collaborative effort.



# Spring Festival

What a wonderful afternoon of Spring creativity and fun we had when parent's and carers joined us this week.

Spring bonnets, animal themed hats, flowers and much more were made in classes before a playground parade with fun and games!

A lovely way to end the Spring Term.

Thank you to all of the families who were able to join us and to all of our fabulous staff for making the afternoon such a success!

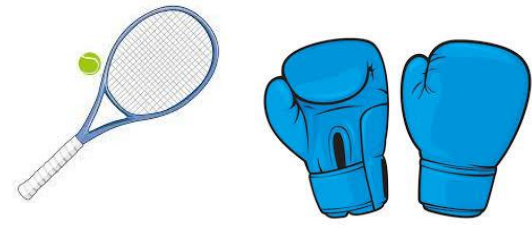




## Forest School Fires!

This term, a number of classes got the chance to explore a fire in Forest School. The children enjoyed toasting some marshmallows on the fire and then making S'mores using biscuits. Finally, they had the opportunity to eat the S'mores at basecamp.





## Team Watergate: Sports Report

We have had so many different opportunities to get active this term, including Tennis coaching, swimming, Rock Climbing, Hula Hooping and Boxing! Find out a bit more about our Hula Hooping and Boxing below...

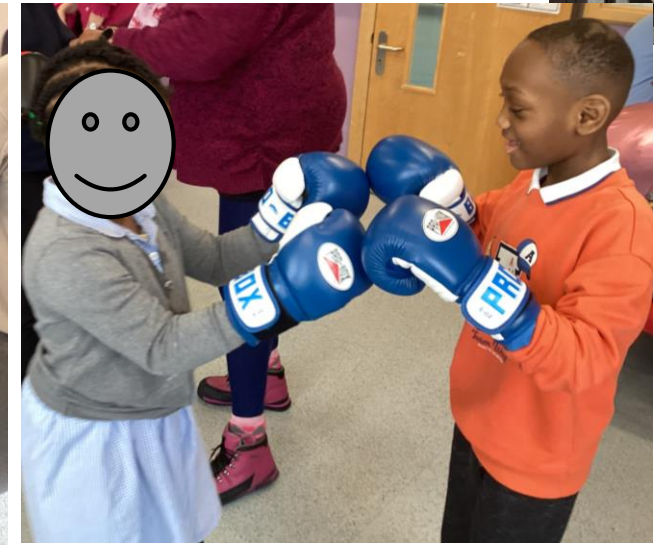
### Hoop-tastic Fun!

Clara from Planet Hoop has been showing us just how much fun (and learning) we can have with hoops. We have been able to work individually on our own skills as well as in pairs and even as a whole train of people! We now have lots more activity ideas to add to our playtimes and PE sessions. Thanks to Clara and funding from Access Sport.



### Seconds out...

There isn't much we won't try at Watergate, so when Bromley & Downham Boxing Club offered us a trial session, we jumped at the chance! Once again, we got stuck in and tried new things. It was a huge success and we hope to work with the Boxing Club to get some more sessions. We found the Boxing practice was great for our co-ordination, strength, interactions, balance and following instructions. Thanks Bromley & Downham Boxing Club!





# Puppets on Parade!

This term, Watergate school have been continuing to be very creative indeed. Our biggest creative challenge was with Bow Arts and we were lucky to have a puppeteer come to next to show us how to make our own sock puppets. We of course ended the week with a lovely parade to showcase all our amazingly creative puppets.





## Bake & Laugh

Just one of the many events for parents and carers this term...on Thursday 8th of February, our special chef, Raji, shared with our families a beautiful cupcake recipe. We had a morning full of laughs and special moments. We also danced and sang with Paloma our music teacher! We had great fun.



## Eileen

Our Watergate Family is mourning the very sad passing of our dear friend and colleague, Eileen, on 21<sup>st</sup> March.

Eileen joined Watergate 15 years ago and has made a difference to hundreds of Watergate pupils, both past and present, in that time.

Eileen was a great friend and support to so many of us at Watergate, always ready with her beautiful smile, a listening ear and a kind word.

Whilst we miss Eileen, we are grateful to have been lucky enough to have known her.

We know you will join us all in sending our thoughts and love to Eileen's family.

