



COLLEGE PARK SCHOOL

SPRING TERM NEWSLETTER

2024



C – Collaboration **P** – Positivity **S** – Success



**Message from our Headteacher
Claire Shepherd**



We are very excited to announce the opening of College Park Pimlico after Easter. This new provision is on the old Westminster Cathedral Primary School site. We have worked closely with Westminster to adapt the school to be suitable for our children. We will be sharing the site with Tresham to offer short breaks for pupils living in the South of the Borough. This site will be for Primary children in the South of the Borough. We are starting with 16 children in April, and 8 more will join in September as we will slowly grow each year. We will share more photos of the building once opened!

We are also going to be site sharing with George Eliot Primary from September 2024 to increase our secondary provision. We will be taking over some of the classes and are working with Westminster to make adaptations to the space. In September, we will be starting with 14 pupils.

It is really fantastic that we are continuing to grow and provide additional spaces for children and young people with autism in the borough. As we grow, you may notice some changes in staffing. We are delighted to appoint Carl Humphries, an experienced teacher at College Park, to Assistant Head. Carl will be supporting across sites but will focus on the secondary department.

Tanja Zeljic will continue to oversee primary, but will mainly be based at Pimlico. We welcome Eva Diaz to our team to support Tanja with primary. Eva has worked at our sister school QEII for 20 years and is an experienced leader. She is an assistant head and will be based at our main site, but will spend time at Hallfield and Pimlico.

All leaders, senior and middle, will attend all sites to ensure the excellent quality of education persists and we continue to provide consistently and the good practice that makes College Park. All our sites will follow the CP curriculum and will maintain our vision and ethos. The therapy service will also continue on all these sites, with many therapists working across our different sites.

This term has been busy with lots of wonderful visits. Classes go on many local visits and are often out visiting our many museums, galleries, shops, and parks.

I would like to thank all the staff for their continued work and dedication.

I hope everyone has a wonderful Easter break!



BEAVER CLASS NEWS



This term Beaver Class have continued to progress very well in communication, emotional regulation and life skills. In Maths, our children have been learning about patterns and symmetry and have been practicing sequences, matching shapes/pictures. The children have enjoyed visiting the library in the cafe, sitting at tables or on the bean bag to look at various story books with staff, they are anticipating it and accepting it as part of their routines.

This terms Topic we have been learning about plants and gardening, the steps and items needed for growing a plant; the children have really enjoyed visiting the Sensory Garden to explore watering the soil. Beaver Class has also planted individual pots of cress for each student and we have watched them grow overtime.



DRAMA

This Spring term in drama we have been discovering fashion, culture, and expressing ourselves. We have learnt new stories all the way from Ghana about a troublesome spider named Anansi, listening to the magical beat of Ghanaian drums as we follow Anansi on his travels.

Other sessions were a whirlwind of creativity; not just picking clothes, but designing masterpieces! Transforming from students to runway royalty, each outfit a one-of-a-kind creation that would leave Milan speechless.

Using iMovie, my actors created a short film showcasing all the scenes we have learnt from William Shakespeare's "The Tempest". Again using Kelly Hunters technique. The scene was set and they conjured a piece that brought the tempestuous world of The Tempest to life.

In a recent trip that sparked imaginations, our class ventured into the world of Studio Ghibli's beloved giant forest spirit, My Neighbour Totoro at The Barbican Centre. We learned about its playful personality and deep connection to nature, a reminder of the importance of respecting and protecting our environment. This cuddly giant left a lasting impression, inspiring creativity and a sense of wonder in our young minds. We were lucky enough to meet some of the cast and puppets which deepened our appreciation for this timeless story about friendship, nature, and the power of imagination.



SUNSHINE CLASS NEWS



Spring term in Sunshine class has been busy and full of fun with our topic of Fashion and Culture! For World Book Day we joined forces with Rainbow class to hold a Hallfield fashion show with dressing up, catwalks and immersive sensory experiences. In Topic, learners have learnt about the seasons and have celebrated cultural events such as pancake day, Chinese New Year, Ramadan and Easter. As well as meeting a new friend who joined after half term, Sunshine class has continued to develop their independence throughout the day in their self-help and social interaction skills. Jess the Speech and Language Therapist has been working closely with the team to focus on Intensive Interaction strategies, people-play skills and structured turn-taking opportunities.

In Maths learners have been developing an awareness of sequencing and time as they learnt about the progression from babies, to children, adults and then elderly. Learners used a 'now and next' board to follow a simple schedule of feeding and then washing the babies, all with gentle hands of course!

This half term we have explored 'Brown Bear Brown Bear, what do you see?' through storytelling, roleplay and craft activities. Learners have also developed their reading skills through daily phonics sessions focusing on learning initial sounds s,a,t,p,i,n.

Happy Holidays from Eva, Jake, Sara, Clara, Lekshmi, Nadia, Muna, Mengsha, Elisa and Hasna.



LION CLASS NEWS



This term was full of fun activities and events! Here is what we have explored:

Lion Class has had a fun time activity throughout the topic of 'Fashion and Cultures' we have been exploring this in English and Maths. In English, we have been focussing on the stories 'Handa's Surprise' and 'The Culture Cloths'. Students have learnt about different cultures around the world, for example, learning about Ramadan supported by highly motivated activities.

We have also celebrated the World Book day by creating the poster around The Toilet Time Machine as preparation for Royal Albert Hall Summer Festival. Lion Class students had their first trip walking in local community by visiting Hallfield School. Students did amazing walk and had fun exploring new environments.

Furthermore, we took part with whole school enjoying Science week by making volcanos and changing colours and materials during Attention Autism Bucket.



KANGAROO CLASS NEWS

This term in Kangaroo Class, we've been exploring fashion and culture in a fun and interactive way! We've been reading exciting stories and practicing our reading skills, as well as learning how to build better sentences doing our Language for Thinking tasks. In Math, we've been tackling subtraction, creating our own pretend

shop, playing with money to learn how to budget. We've also been discovering different shapes, both 2D and 3D.

In our Geography and History lessons, we've been learning about ancient civilizations and how they compare to life today. We've also been on some cool trips around our community, like visiting Kensington Palace, going swimming at Porchester Swimming Pool, and exploring books at Paddington Library. These trips help us understand different cultures and how things have changed over time, making learning a really interesting and exciting experience!



EAGLE CLASS NEWS

This term, Eagle class has been doing great work discovering and exploring different countries, and the cultures and fashion within these. We have looked at the ancient cultures of these countries and then compared them with their contemporary cultures; what has changed and what has stayed the same.

We have explored Japan, New Zealand, Peru, and the USA. We have investigated the food they eat in these cultures in food tech, and created crafts related to these cultures such as tepees, statues of liberty, geisha masks, llamas, and korowais in topic.

We have been reading The Emperor's New Clothes for our sensory story and learnt about shapes and prepositions/positional language in maths. In PSHE we have learnt about diversity and relationships which our young learners have loved.

Well done Eagles!



CHEETAH CLASS NEWS



This term...

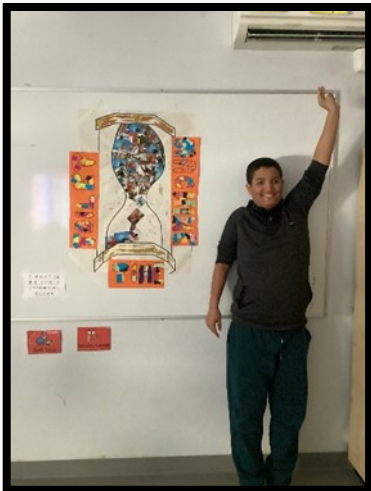
Fashion and culture: During this topic, we have learnt about fashion and culture in different countries. We have explored traditional clothes, monuments, and foods that they eat around the five continents.



PSHE: In PSHE, pupils in Cheetah class learnt about managing our feelings, different types of relationships and the importance of consent. Pupils in Cheetah class have worked hard on their reading comprehension and writing following these lessons, well done Cheetahs!

English: Reading and Communication: In English we have continued to read Oxford Reading Tree books as well as developing our reading comprehension throughout individual reading, guided reading and reading for pleasure focusing on the pupils individualities and needs. Pupils had also the opportunity to develop their communication skills throughout fun group activities, cooking and craft making!

Science: Reproduction and Health: In Science we have learnt about human and animal reproduction and looked at ways to keep our bodies healthy.



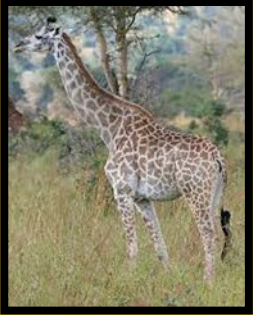
ZEBRA CLASS NEWS



Zebra Class has had an exciting term filled with the discovery of cultures and countries, where we explored their unique fashions and traditions. Through our 'clash of the cultures' activity, we creatively combined elements from different cultures, celebrating diversity.

Our weekly community walks have taken us to various local areas, including shops and parks, where we learned about the importance of community safety. In school, we've also focused on essential life skills such as dressing, organizing clothes, and developing valuable daily routines. We continued to encourage our students to use their communication devices to comment, request, and describe throughout the day, fostering further development of their communication skills.

GIRAFFE CLASS NEWS



For this term Giraffe Class have been working on independence, functional skills and continuing going to College. This is in order to build our learners confidence for the future, road safety and preparation for a potential career.

Giraffe Class have been engaging in all lesson activities including PSHE, Science, RSE and Geography. We have been looking at unkind comments, how to be safe online, and

journey planning for trips within the community!

In Giraffe Class we have explored a number of places within the community including trips to Waitrose for our learners understanding of budgets, purchasing, and choosing for a healthy meal. We attend Westminster College on a weekly basis in which there are a number of different opportunities to build confidence, choose a potential career path, and enjoy making new friends!



OWL CLASS NEWS

What a busy and fantastic term it has been with Owl. In English Owl class have looked at the William Shakespeare classic, Romeo and Juliet, and although it was a challenge for them, they enjoyed and understood the story incredibly. In Maths we looked at budgeting and telling the time. Owl class have been incredible in Science, they have shown great enthusiasm with all experiments, particularly with understanding the different type of germs. Last but not least, Owl class have continued to

travel around the world, celebrating culture, life, music, festivals and food. A big well done to everyone in Owl.

Happy Spring Holiday!



POST 16 CLASS NEWS

It's been a very creative term in Post 16+ with our learners having a great time exploring fashion. They created clothes from newspapers and designed prints for their own t shirts.

The class also looked at trends in dance and hairstyles – past and present - and tried on medieval armour in a workshop with the Wallace Collection.



ELEPHANT CLASS NEWS

This term, Elephant Class has enjoyed learning about fashion and culture! During my communication, we've been expanding our vocabulary about clothing, colours and materials, and we loved to learn about the evolution of fashion throughout history. As we learned that the

first colours were made by mixing minerals, our goal was to explore nature and arts and how they are connected, experimenting and letting our creativity flow!

We learned arts and fashion is also way to communicate feelings and thoughts! Our visits to museums have served as inspiration, making our creativity grow. Like some artists that we have explored, we also wanted to use our art to demonstrate commitment to environmental responsibility! We chose to use recycled fabrics and natural materials such as food and flowers. It was very fun to see how food and plants can make colour, are very proud of our commitment to help our planet.

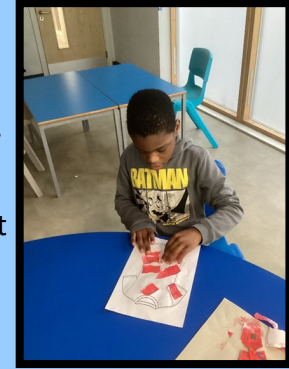
We also planted some seeds that we have been taking care of, increasing our independence and sense of responsibility. We also made delicious sandwiches with them. Elephant Class is not only embracing the beauty of fashion but also our responsibility to the environment and society. Our last message has been communicated through making a new song: TELL THE WORLD - talking about how our differences make us unique.



ART



This term the students have been creating patterns and shapes from influences from Africa and India. They have been looking at the countries and the different styles of patterns on the clothing. The students have been gaining confidence in drawing shapes by tracing over dotted shapes and zigzag patterns. They have been creating abstract patterns of their own using references from Piet Mondrain and Gustav Klint and using different tools and materials from paints, crayons, chubby markers, paper cups, and foam brushes. They have also been cutting or tearing up their work to create more shapes and sticking them down onto patterns or on blank T-shirt prints to create their own abstract T-shirt designs.



RAINBOW CLASS

We have had a busy and fun time learning this term with lots of interesting activities and experiences! Through our topic “Fashion and clothes”, we really enjoyed learning about the four seasons and what clothes to use in each season. We also explored the smells of each season, such as the scents of lavender for Spring, and cinnamon for Winter. It was a great topic for our students to explore the world around them.

Moreover, our sensory story this term was “Max and Lemon travelling around the world”. Our students have been really enjoying this book as we have been reading the book in a fun and exciting approach. We have been exploring each country from the book by using props and doing communication sensory activities, for example when reading about Peru we created Nazca lines with sand and made flutes with straws and string. We have also been looking at key words from the book with flash cards. We also got to travel the world during our Geography lessons, visiting France, Belgium, Mexico, Malaysia, and Greece. We had a little approach to the cuisine and music from all these countries. We are looking forward to discovering more countries next term!

Phonics lessons have been spectacular as there is so much fun being had with exploring new sounds! We have also started to do some matching and continued practicing our tracing skills. In maths, we have discovered our students have an incredible interest for grouping numbers. We used a new approach with some students called “grouping” which they really enjoyed.

World Book Day went off with great success, where all our students and staff had dressed up as their favourite characters. We had a really fun afternoon outing on a catwalk show—it was a beautiful and memorable day filled with lots of laughs.

We hope you have a lovely break! With all the best wishes, Estela, Inga, Ayisha, Davina, Letay, and Ke.





PE

Primary

Students from Rainbow and Sunshine groups have continued exploring equipment and distinct motor and coordination patterns during Physical Education (P.E.) lessons in the Spring term. In order to develop foundational skills, they kept carrying out balancing and gross-motor-skills exercises, as well as lower-body and hand-eye coordination tasks. Rainbow class consistently attended P.E. sessions at Hallfields Pavilion, having a new experience within the school context. Pupils from Beaver, Penguin and Lion class groups, followed the long-term plan set for them, progressing in motor and coordination skills development. Learners from Eagle

House, have got a great improvement in terms of engagement, taking part in activities linked with different sportive specialties, such as handball, basketball, and table tennis.



PE

Special Activities

In the Spring term, children and young people (CYP) from Kangaroo House had the opportunity to enjoy swimming pool sessions at The Porchester Centre.

CYP from Post-16 have stopped attending sport activities at Seymour Leisure Centre as it was temporarily closed, being P.E. sessions delivered in the sports hall at College Park School. Owl and Giraffe groups attended Panathlon at Moberly Sports Centre this term in March.



PE

Secondary

Secondary class students from Zebra, Giraffe, and Elephant houses have improved their basketball skills, keeping their high engagement level in the sessions and taking new routines and exercises in a good way.

In line with this, most of the pupils from Cheetah, Dolphin and Elephant groups have consistently been involved in group dynamics during P.E. sessions. Also, young people from Owl class groups have been working on basketball and football skills.





Federation of Westminster Special Schools

Thank you for your support at our Christmas fundraiser on 20th December 2023.

We would like to thank all our supporters

Babylon Park	Beverly Hills Bakery	Scissors Palace	Headmasters
Upside Down House	Clink Prison Museum	Queens Queensway	London Wetland Centre
Battersea Children's Zoo	Birdie Mini Golf	Twist Museum	Otherworld
The Cherry Tree Compa	Bakerdays	Viking Direct	The Goodness Project
Dan Bakers	AESOP	Badiani Gelato	Oddono's Gelato
Hatchards Book Shop	Jo Hansford	Emma bridgewater	Queens Park Rangers FC
Gurkin Catering	Wenzels bakery	Vibe	Pines and Needles
	Mama Nature	Laing O Rourke	



**We look forward to welcoming
you all back to school after the
Easter Holiday!**

**We will be back 15th of April
2024.**



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