COLLEGE PARK SCHOOL NEWSLETTER-SUMMER 2020



Message from our Acting Headteacher Claire Shepherd

As this school year draws to a close and we approach the last day of the term, we would like to thank all families for the support the school has received this year and particularly over this challenging period of COVID-19.

This final term has been challenging for families, pupils and staff to be in lock-down and not have a normal school routine. Everyone has adapted to the current way of working and we are hopeful that we will start to fully return to school in September.

Staff have worked hard to provide an online offer of activities to do at home, sent home work packs and we currently have 40% of pupils in school on a two day offer.

Families have been incredibly supportive of school and what we have been able to offer. We appreciate all the communication from families, using the online offer, home learning packs, email and telephone communication.

This year we started with a new curriculum offer- formal and semi- formal. This has allowed staff to adapt their teaching to be able to offer a more personalised curriculum for each pupil. Sessions focus on communication, problem solving, life skills, ensuring that each pupil is actively engaged in each activities. The move from national curriculum for some pupils means we can focus on what is important for that pupil to be able to function in society as best they can. We will continue to work on the offer through this next year.

We have had some amazing grants this year that have supported our curriculum. We have had money from *My Westminster Fund* that provided us with the funds to regularly take our children to our local coffee shops. We have also provided training for the staff so that they can meet the needs of our pupils whilst they are ordering a drink.

We have received a grant from *St Giles in the field and William Shelton and the Westminster Foundation* that has enabled us to buy items to support home leaning and active engagement at home. The class teams considered each child and what they would enjoy. We will also be able to provide a tablet for families in need.

Westminster had their Local area inspection in March which was rated Outstanding, with specific reference to the special schools being good and outcomes are judged as strong. We are incredibly proud of our school community.

Our aim to get all children back in September in line with government guidance and as guidance is released we will provide more information!

Thank you again for all the support throughout the year and I hope you have a lovely Summer holiday.



Dates For Your Diary

Last day of term:

Friday 17th July

Start of the New Academic Year:

Thursday 3rd September

INSET Day (school closed to pupils)

Wednesday 2nd September

Wednesday 9th September



OUR
CO-CHAIR OF
GOVERNORS

First of all the Governors would like to wish all parents and carers a summer holiday that we hope will be restful and be a time when more of the covid19 restrictions are lifted to give more opportunities for you and your children to do more activities over the Summer break.

Each term we contribute to the newsletter and although we fully accept this may not be something you think about at this challenging time we thought it might be helpful to let readers know how governors are identified and how they got to be on the Governing Board.

The Federation has governors representing or appointed by various groups and this is how the Federation Governing board is made up. All governors are volunteers and give their time freely to support the Federation. They serve for periods of office of either three or four years.

Two governors are elected by parents (I governor is the parent of a child at College Park and one of a child at QEII) One is nominated by City of Westminster Local Authority (This is because the Federation schools are maintained by the City of Westminster)

One Staff Governor (nominated by all Federation Staff)

There are ** co-opted (community) governors. These are individuals with a wide range of expertise, knowledge and experience in many different areas including business, education, commerce, knowledge of the community etc which they use to benefit the Federation and to ensure that all pupils get the best education possible.

The Executive Headteacher is also a governor.

Please do not hesitate to contact us via QEII or College Park School if you would like to know more or have any questions.

June Simson and David Dyer Co-chairs of Governors

For more information and news from College Park School, please visit our website: http://www.ge2cp.westminster.sch.uk/





SILVER CLASS NEWS

We have done some wonderful work in Silver house this year! Throughout the school year our focus was to practice our communication as well as emotional regulation and independence skills. We learnt how to make requests, to play alongside our peers, to share and use our individual timetable. In Literacy we



had been exploring the stories 'The very hungry caterpillar', 'Elmer', 'We are going on a bear hunt', 'From head to toe' as well as 'The rainbow fish'. We learnt about animals and story sequencing and we had been practicing tracing story key words. We also loved making story inspired crafts and enjoyed exploring sensory props while practicing our requesting skills. In Maths we had been learning about the concept of measurement, numbers, shapes and time through practical meaningful activities. We had also been exercising our fine motor skills on a daily basis through space inspired motivating activities where we had been using tweezers, scissors and everyday items such as cereal, spaghetti and straws. Looking forward to meet each other again and have more learning adventures in September!

Silver Class Team







 $Silver\ class\ having\ fun\ at\ the\ swings!$

RED CLASS NEWS

Red Class have had a tremendous year. We've had so much fun and have explored all areas of classroom learning. Red class have particularly enjoyed our termly trips out. From London Zoo, to Santa's Grotto, to Wagamama, Local Library and weekly community walks. A huge thank you to all the Red class parents for supporting Home Learning during this Pandemic. It has been a huge success and without your help and enthusiasm, we wouldn't have persevered.

Have a wonderful and restful summer break!

Red Class Team











ORANGE CLASS NEWS

In Orange Class, we explore new things every day. We have been going on educational adventures through our *sensory stories* such as: 'The Rainbow Fish', 'Going on a bear hunt', 'Walking through the Jungle', and our latest sensory story 'The Colour Monster' were we learn about all our different and exciting feelings. We like to connect our *structured play* activities with our sensory stories by allowing our pupils to independently explore and learn.

We engage our pupils in different types of fruits and vegetables during our *food exploring* lessons. Our pupils are encouraged to "feel" and "taste" fruits and vegetables such as: strawberries, celery, blueberries etc. With support our pupils also follow schedules, use PEC books/chat boards to request and engage in making smoothies and ice lollies.

We implement exercise into our curriculum by adding a 'movement' class which allows our pupils to follow instructions such as 'jump' 'pull' and 'push' to also get them moving. In

Orange Class, we like to make every lesson fun and exciting that's why even in our English, Maths and PSHE lessons we like to involve games and sensory toys to interest our pupils and engage them. Let's not forget we are also here to teach our pupils about lifestyle

skills which is why we use our PSHE time to teach our pupils about personal hygiene such as 'brushing teeth'.

Orange Class Team



Due Covid-19 we had to start making our learning from home. Recording videos of our favourites songs and also making our favourites activities.



BLUE CLASS

Although we have had a short year in school we have taken part in lovely activities in and out of school.

The students all looked forward to the park on a Friday where they were able to run around, exercise and practice their motor skills as well as their requesting skills e.g. "Push me please."

During the Spring term Blue house went to Costa every week where they practiced ordering and paying for a drink. They then sat with their drink in Costa. Our visits to coffee shops allowed the students to practice their maths and communication skills.

Blue house students have been learning to request from each other and some children have been working on adding more information when they are speaking.

All blue house students enjoyed learning about capacity, they filled up different sized objects with different materials.

As our students are learning to mature, they have been figuring out how to problem solve and be independent. Students have been collecting equipment before and after the lesson.

it has been wonderful to hold video calls with some of our students where we have been revising our learning.

Thank you to all parents for sharing how the students have got on on at home with home learning and thank you for your continuous feedback and support with home learning materials.

Many thanks, Blue Class Team



PINK CLASS NEWS

Over the year in Pink House we have learnt a lot! We've explored measurement and numbers in maths, The Circus in topic and learnt about different cultures in enrichment. We've also been working on our fine motor skills, doing threading, sorting, and handwriting.

At Forest School we explored nature by planting bulbs, pressing leaves and watching popcorn cook on a fire (then eating some)!

In our sensory story lessons, we've had great fun learning about pirates, witches and George with his Marvellous Medicines. We used these opportunities to direct staff and request items that we wanted.

We've also been learning to independently make sandwiches and cookies this year in food tech. Making them was fun but eating them was even better.

During lockdown, staff have been working hard at home and making some videos. We've done sing-along videos, cooking tutorials and sensory experiences.

Pink Class Team



"My son has such an amazing teacher. I mean I had tears when I saw all the hard work she puts into providing children with such amazing online resources and materials." Current Parent of pupil in College Park

PURPLE CLASS NEWS

This academic year has been a difficult time for everyone! Before lockdown, Purple House was in full swing with a settled routine and students thriving off the routine and variety of learning opportunities throughout the week. In literacy, students explored the sensory stories of Hansel and Gretel by Dan Taylor, and Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl. Both stories provided a range of sensory experiences that the students thoroughly enjoyed.

Purple House has also been very fortunate this academic year to have had countless opportunities to go to Forest School. Students appreciate being able to explore the outdoors while engaging in gardening experiences and watching food being cooked over the fire.

Developing community skills for our pupils is of importance and therefore students have also been going to Sainsbury's to learn how to shop for ingredients for food tech lessons During food tech students have been learning how to make a cheese sandwich. Costa trips have also been another beneficial experience

for students. Buying hot chocolates or a juice and sitting with their peers in the café is an occasion that students become excited about.

Fine Motor Skills was introduced in the Spring Term and students enjoy these hands on and visual tasks that focus on strengthening the muscles in their hands.

During lockdown, it has been great to receive feedback about how students are interacting with the home learning and how they enjoy to see the videos of staff delivering activities or reading stories.

The staff and I have been so lucky to have such a wonderful and lively class and we look forward to seeing everyone in September. We hope that everyone has a wonderful summer and continues to stay safe.

Purple Class Team

INDIGO CLASS NEWS

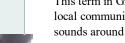
This year started with a bang and we did some very exciting things! In the Autumn tern, Indigo class participated in the OpenCity Art project and made some wonderfully creative buildings and pieces of art. We went to the amazing Pitshanger Manor in Ealing to see an art exhibition and the stately home. Indigo was given the opportunity to go swimming at The Porchester Athletic Centre which was a very firm favourite of all Indigo students. We also performed a song in the Christmas gala. We enjoyed our trips out to the garden to tidy and enjoy some time in the sun and sometimes, the rain.

We've worked very hard on our lessons this year and had some fun learning too! We learned about space and planets and Circus fun during our English lessons and improved our reading and writing skills.

In Maths, we improved our understanding of numbers, 2D and 3D shapes as well as learning about British coins and notes. We worked very hard to improve our skills in addition, subtraction and multiplication. In Science, we had some fun experiments like learning about how planets orbit, mixing liquids and materials, and planting seeds to grow plants. We learned lots of new skills in our Cooking class, and we all enjoyed making cookies and our noodle soup in the cold weather.

Sadly, our academic year was interrupted with the Global pandemic but we continued learning at home and watched a weekly online book, practised our handwriting and writing skills, as well as lots of Maths activities online and in learning packs. We also practised our fine motor skills and cooking skills at home.

.Indigo Class Team



GREEN CLASS NEWS

This term in Green Class we have really enjoyed going out of school and visiting the local community. Students really enjoy the journey to the shops and noticing all of the sounds around them.

In Tesco we have practiced lots of different skills. For example, following a shopping list and making sure we have everything we need, looking through the shelves to find what we would like to buy, pupils exchange money for our groceries using communication board.

We also really enjoyed trips to Costa Coffee this term and became very good at communicating with new people to order a drink of our choice. Lauren and Viona did really well at using a communication board to communicate exactly which drink they wanted to have and pupils enjoy tasting their hot chocolate and discovering that they like it!

Since we have not been able to come to school and had to stay home this term we have decided to make some videos to send to our students so that they could still engage with us and with their learning from home. Our students really liked these.

It has been so wonderful to see how well our students are getting on at home and how grown-up and mature they have been while they have had to stay at home!

We love hearing this! Pupils have even been able to have some group video-calls with our whole green class team where we have been able to say hello and even do some arts and crafts online together!

Green Class Team



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WHITE CLASS NEWS

Over the year, White class has been exploring the local community and have been on many trips to different places. We loved going boating at the Westminster boating base and practicing our kayaking skills. We enjoyed visiting the Natural History Museum and exploring all the animals especially the dinosaurs and the fish.

At the Science Museum, we were entertained in the WonderLab exploring different forces and motions and had great fun on the slides seeing which were fast and which were slow. In the classroom we have discovered many fun facts about the circus and had fun having a go at different circus skills including juggling and creating different dances.

During our unit on Charlie and the Chocolate factory, we enjoyed creating our own chocolate bars and lollipops and using our senses to explore different chocolate experiences. We have engaged with the local community weekly, by going to Sainsbury's to practice our functional shopping skills and have improved our cooking skills through making many different recipes in food tech and including pancakes, wraps, omelets and minestrone soup.

White Class Team



This year Yellow house students have been developing our independence in class and through a number of off-site trips. We have been regularly going on community walks engaging with members of the emergency services (e.g. police, ambulance, fire officers, etc.) which we have also been learning about in class.

Boating on Thursdays is helping us understand water and travel safety, as well as dressing; Forest school is where we learn about the environment and nature, as well as road safety when travelling there. And lastly, gardening, where we use our time to plant seeds and look after our garden.

Yellow House has been reading the story 'The Lion King'. We like to hear how Simba grew into a King and helped those around him once he was an adult. Many of us in Yellow house are growing into young adults and have been learning and developing a number of self-help, independent and living skills. We do this through our individual communication tasks, visits to our local community, for-

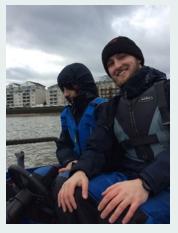
est school at Hyde Park and Flat skills. Yellow house have been working hard all year on our communication, using our communication devices, flashcards, conversation prompts and requesting tasks.

Within flat-skills we have been learning skills that will help us at home or later on in life. In food technology we have been making healthy choices when choosing our ingredients, making a snack and when in Sainsbury's. We have also used this time to develop our cooking skills such as spreading, cutting, pouring and sprinkling food. As well as employing our good hygiene practice in the kitchen from flat-skills. On our walks to Sainsbury's, we have also been communicating with shop workers to help us in a store. Yellow House pupils have been working amazingly hard this term and this year. I am very happy to have taught them and wish them the very best.

Yellow Class Team









GOLD CLASS NEWS

This year Gold class have been doing lots of great work building our independence and getting ready for adulthood. We did a class recycling project, going around College Park and collecting each class's recycling. It felt good to be working on something as a group, and to be helping out in our community. Some of us will be leaving school this year, and so it's important for us to get used to going out into the world and acting safely and responsibly in public. We went on a trip to the Royal College of Music, as well as regular trips to a coffee shop near school. We can use buses and the tube like adults now. Going to college is also an important part of our week, where we've been getting used to how life will be when we leave school. We learn all sorts of cool skills there, like graphic design, construction and cooking.

We've been working really hard on our classroom skills as well. In maths we can use calculators, work with fractions and talk about different kinds of measurement. In English we've been practising writing letters and also reading to ourselves and out loud. Sadly, the Coronavirus has stopped us from sitting all the exams we'd like to, but we still made a lot of great progress. We're very sad to be saying goodbye to Ben, Danial, Moshtaba, Rebal, Remi and Tyla, but we're so proud of how smart and grownup they are. School can't last forever, and we know they've got exciting things to come in their future!

Gold Class Team







POST 16 CLASS NEWS

It's been a fun year in Post 16. The onus was on applying existing skills to everyday situations, learning through experience, and spending time walking and travelling in the community.

Students practised choosing healthy recipes, creating and costing shopping lists, recognising coins and buying ingredients in supermarkets, then cooking the chosen meals in Food Tech. All of which has been carried out with increasing independence. They regularly visited Kensington Gardens and went to Costa Coffee every week, to use their social skills and order drinks. The school supplied communication boards to the staff there, so they could support this.

At Clifton Nurseries, they learned about job roles in a garden centre and chose plants to grow in our classroom. Students also really enjoyed having the opportunity to attend 'Sport for Confidence' fitness sessions with professional coaches, at a local leisure centre.

For the school topic 'Circus and Entertainment', our learners planned the journey to and had an exciting day out at a Circus School where they watched performers develop their skills. They then had a go at throwing, catching and juggling objects - from balls to hats - and absolutely loved it

Post 16 Class Team











SCHOOL OFFICE NEWS:

For school to be open safely to pupils and staff, we have put in place the necessary social distancing signs and made sure that all pupils, staff and visitors can access face masks, hand sanitisers and are social distancing, etc., to make sure we can enjoy our school environment safely.

When you visit school, you will notice hand-washing, social distancing and "what to do if you feel unwell" signs, please take note of them.

Please make sure to follow social distancing and handwashing rules and guidance provided by our Government. We must all work together to make sure we can fully overcome this situation.

Thank you all for your support, Mark Middleton,

Federation Business Manager



DRAMA NEWS

This was an outstanding year of progress for our students in the drama department. Their attitude and work ethic has been exceptional and whilst we are disappointed not to embark on our annual journey to perform at the Lyric Theatre we are still delighted with the work we have seen.

Drama is giving all our students a platform to find their voice, express themselves and learn to understand the complexities of the world they live in. They continue to surprise and delight staff in the arts department and I hope the students confidence and communication skills continues to grow over the holidays. I wish you all a very relaxing summer.

James Rigby (The@trical) WSS Drama teacher

MUSIC NEWS

There have been some amazing musical adventures that have taken place at CP this year despite us losing a term together. However classes have had access to some fantastic online learning. There are an array of videos set up in a similar way to our in-school lessons that involve singing, Makaton signing and percussion playing. Please feel free to carry on using these over the summer.

We have classes attend an Opera at the Coliseum, West End Shows, Orchestral concerts and in-school workshops run by our incredible partners. Some of these included Aurora Orchestra and the Royal Academy of Music. Pupils have explored musical improvisation and composition during their lessons and have also become Makaton extraordinary! It is a shame that we were unable to have our Summer Arts Festival at the Lyric Theatre this year, but we look forward to resuming our amazing creative arts program next year.

Emily Stratford Music Teacher





HOME LEARNING

Although the Covid19 situation was an unprecedented situation, it provided us with an opportunity to explore new ways of teaching.

Home Learning has become the norm for schools throughout the country and the world!. Our class teams have worked hard to develop creative ways to teach our pupils and parents were vital to this, as essentially, you all became teachers too.

The following are just a few snapshots of the Home Learning videos that classes put together for their pupils. You can find these videos and many more learning resources in the "Class Pages and Home Learning" section of our Website.















ART NEWS

I am pleased that even through the challenges of recent months, some of our students still passed both Entry level art and GCSE art and will be receiving their grades in the autumn.

The art exams are an important part of some of our student's school experience and their progression beyond school.

We would usually be having a very busy summer period with the exams and our annual Arts festival.

The arts festival is temporarily on pause, but will resume and be even better than before.

We look forward to working with all our partner schools and cultural partners and celebrating with our families in the near future.

Paul Morrow Lead Practitioner of the Creative Arts (Art, Music, Dance and Drama



LOOKING FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU ALL BACK IN SEPTEMBER!





