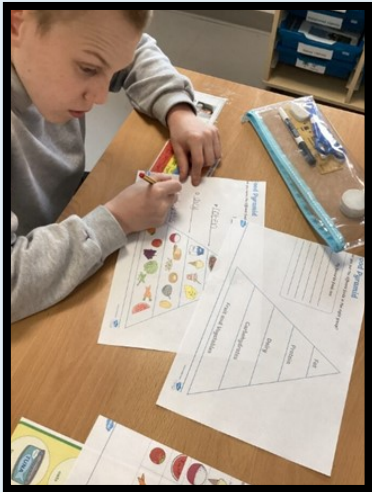




**COLLEGE PARK SCHOOL  
NEWSLETTER  
AUTUMN TERM  
2023**



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



**Message from our Headteacher  
Claire Shepherd**



As we reach the end of a busy Autumn term, we would like to thank you for your continued support. We really do value our relationships with the whole school community.

We have had many exciting things happen this term:

We have had many lovely visits to the local community like Costa, the zoo, work experience. Some classes have been to the Royal Albert Hall for a sensory experience, had Flamingo Chicks in to provide dance sessions, Abundance Art for drumming and Aurora Orchestra for music. Some secondary classes have been involved in the Tri-borough music Hub and performed in their Christmas production.

We continue to work closely with our local providers to ensure our children and young people have access to a range of activities.

We look forward to next term and all the exciting opportunities for learning.

Our College Park @Hallfield satellite continues to be a success and we have grown from 8 pupils to 16 pupils. The space only has capacity for 16 in total and we look forward to welcoming Rainbow class to main site in September 2023, when we get new reception children into the satellite.

We are also working with the local authority to develop a satellite provision in Pimlico. The planning permission has been agreed and we are taking over the old Westminster Cathedral Primary School site and developing a primary autism provision there. If the construction works continue as expected, we are hoping to have 16 new pupils at College Park Pimlico from Summer 2024. This provision should provide an additional 48 spaces for CYP in Westminster with autism.

As you would have heard in the news, staffing continues to be a concern across the education sector. We are very lucky to have stable teachers and a number of stable teaching assistants. Unfortunately there will always be change as people move onto new adventures but we so aim to have consistency as much as possible.

Our coffee mornings have been well represented and we hope to continue to offer learning opportunities about our school for our parents to attend. If you have any suggestions of coffee mornings you would like us to have, please let Jane know.

A reminder that we will be returning to school on Tuesday 9th January 2024. We look forward to seeing our pupils return.

I hope you have a wonderful and restful holiday break.

## BEAVER CLASS NEWS



This term Beaver Class have continued to progress very well in communication, emotional regulation and life skills, continuing the gradual improvements around toileting and personal care.

In Maths we have been learning counting 1-5 through the 'Five Little Ducks' song. Engaging in sensory trays counting 5 little ducks and working on matching numbers following a number line.

For Topic this term we have been exploring different pets; we have practiced our phonics identifying sound animals between choices of two; pictures of our students with pets were shown during lesson and they enjoyed seeing themselves. With puppet play and Sensory Trays we practised matching and signing for the different animals.

In Cooking and Food Group they have engaged really well with making cheese sandwiches and designing faces on rice cakes using different fruits and vegetables. They followed steps in making meals using Chat-boards to request ingredients.

In a busy classroom environment there are a lot of positives to celebrate and we are very proud of our children. We are excited to see what they continue to achieve!



## DRAMA

Our Autumn term has been a productive and expressive one here in drama. We have explored the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears, and have delved into their world using games props and puppets. Over in Eagle and Kangaroo we indulged ourselves with 'Mr McGee and his big bag of bread'. Here we discovered different animals at the zoo, whilst waking up from our slumber and facing the day ahead.

This takes us to the enchanted remote island where William Shakespeare's The Tempest takes place. Here in Giraffe and Owl we used the techniques of Kelly Hunter to explore their world and the many different characters involved. Acting out the scenes with focus and dedication. Our winter season led us to watch and enjoy 'Fairy-tale on Church Street' at the Cockpit Theatre. We laughed, booed and wondered at the characters as the fantastical story unfolded. 'He's behind you!' and 'Oh no he's not!' echoing around the theatre in good cheer.

Onwards now to the Spring term, have a restful break!





## SUNSHINE CLASS NEWS



We have had a very busy and fun first term in Sunshine class for our newest learners at College Park School! As well as settling in and getting to know new friends, Sunshine class has been making great progress adapting to the daily routine and having a go a wide range of learning activities around our topic of animals.

Our sensory story at the beginning of this term 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' was a wonderful opportunity for the learners to experience thick oozy mud, deep cold rivers and not so scary bears! We did lots of requesting using visuals and objects of reference to create elements from the story as well as learning new vocabulary along the way. This half term we have explored 'The Gruffalo' and all the other forest animals in the magical story through storytelling, roleplay and craft activities. Learners have also developed their reading skills through turning pages of the book, answering 'who', 'what' and 'where' questions and anticipating what comes next in the story.

In maths learners have been developing early number skills through fun activities such as playdough, making fruit kebabs while learnings maths vocabulary such as one and lots as well as securing our knowledge of counting to 10.

Sunshine class has been fortunate enough to have taken part an African drumming workshop at College Park school, which involved our first school trip together on the bus; a great day was had by all! We have also enjoyed a trip to the Royal Albert Hall for a sensory experience as well as a classical music workshop and performance from Aurora Orchestra. Sunshine class has also had two dance workshops from Flamingo Chicks dance company where we explored different



## LION CLASS NEWS

This term Lion Class has continued making progress in their communication, emotional regulation and life skills, continuing making the steady improvements on using their independent skills around toileting and personal care.

All of the students have settled very well and are making some great relationships with their peers and teachers. We have seen some wonderful examples of play, taking turns, and working collaboratively together. It has been truly lovely to observe and play alongside them.

This terms topic was 'Animals' and we have been exploring this in English and Maths. In English we have been focussing on the story 'The Wale and the Snail', and have been teaching the story through interactive and engaging through Attention Autism Bucket. Students have really enjoyed the sensory story and have been doing an amazing job at the matching activities and solving problems throughout counting the animals and sequencing the numbers and event from the story book.

Thank you for all the support during this term. We hope you all have an amazing Christmas Holiday and we will be looking forward to seeing you after the break!



## KANGAROO CLASS NEWS

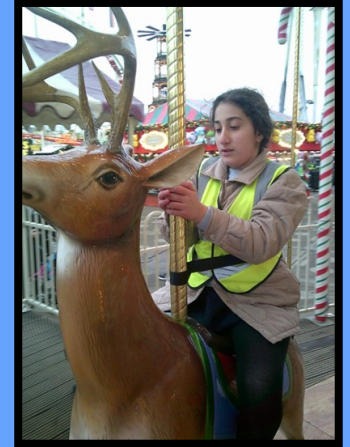


Kangaroo Class has had an extraordinary term, demonstrating remarkable progress across all learning areas.

From exploring the sensory story "The Tiger Who Came to Tea" to acting out the main character role with confidence, Kangaroo Class has engaged with the topic of animals in a truly imaginative way.

Students have sharpened their calculation and money recognition skills, and even dabbled in food tech sessions in Maths. Their geographical adventures have taken them on virtual tours of Somalia, Australia, Spain, and Brazil, broadening their understanding of the world and even trying some of the most typical foods of different countries. In science, Kangaroo Class has delved into the fascinating world of animals, exploring animal groups, habitats, diets, and even extinct species. Kangaroo Class explored Winter Wonderland as part of our first trip this year and everyone greatly enjoyed it!

We are incredibly proud of Kangaroo Class's achievements this term and look forward to seeing them continue to excel in the future.

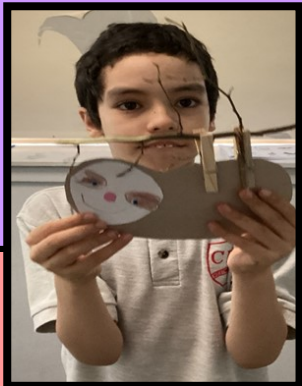


This term has gotten off to a great start to the School year!

Eagle Class have settled in really well and have started their topic on animals. We have been reading The Teeny Weeny Tadpole and learning about mammals. The children have learnt some interesting facts about sloths and been working on their communication.

In maths, we have been looking at number and place value. We have been learning how to identify and compare numbers, as well as how to add and subtract two-digit numbers. We will continue to work on these skills in the coming weeks, as well as introducing multiplication and division. We are all excited to continue learning and growing this term!

## EAGLE CLASS NEWS



## CHEETAH CLASS NEWS



This term...

Topic: Animals

During topic this term we have learnt about animals according to their habitats, diets and types as well as we took a trip in history and discovered the amazing world of dinosaurs! Cheetah class pupils have been expanding their vocabulary on animals throughout written tasks and beautiful crafts!

PSHE: In PSHE this term we have been focused on the understanding of emotions, identifying feelings and managing emotions. We promoted healthy lifestyles by learning about healthy eating, healthy

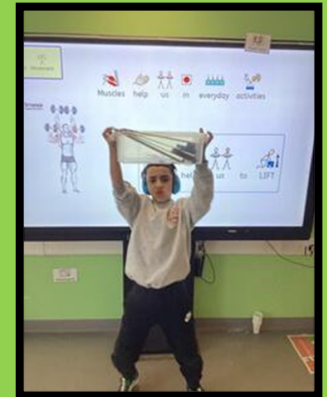
habits and good personal hygiene. We have also looked at the concepts of public and private and the concept of consent. Pupils in Cheetah class have worked hard on their reading comprehension and writing following these lessons, well done Cheetahs!

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. Pupil had also the opportunity to develop their communication skills throughout fun group activities, cooking and craft making!

Science: Skeleton and muscles.

In Science we have learnt about the human body looking at our skeleton, muscles and organs. Kids have learnt and expanded their vocabulary of our body, also making fantastic crafts!



## ZEBRA CLASS NEWS

Zebra Class this term has been developing our community skills by further exploring 'what is around us?' and more importantly venturing into our local community to meet helpers and explore. In doing so we visited London Zoo and Paddington station where we would use this time to apply our developing communication. Students took their communication devices to these different locations and applied vocabulary when commenting.

We have also been on walks that have allowed us to demonstrate our road safety skills, putting into practice our 'Stop, Look and Listen'.

On these walks' opportunities arise where we are able to speak to local police officers, tube workers and postal workers. While in the community students were putting into practice loads of skills they had developed over the year around strangers and uniformed helpers, road safety and local shops.





## OWL CLASS NEWS



Owl have had a very productive term. With lots of trips and learning opportunities happening in class. We are all ever so proud of Owl class with and far they have come. This term we continued to perfect our creative writing skills in Literacy.

In Maths we learned about geometric shapes, and their areas/perimeter. In Science we have been looking at nutrition and the human body. We have been consistently visited other countries and learning about their History.

Owl class taken on a new language, Spanish. Overall, our wise Owls have been a great delight, we wish you a very happy and restful holiday!

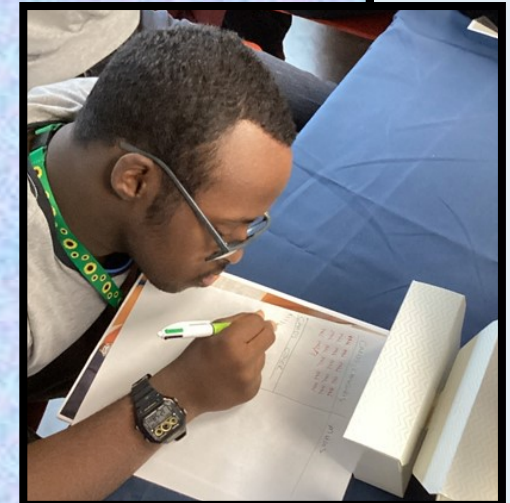


## POST 16 CLASS NEWS

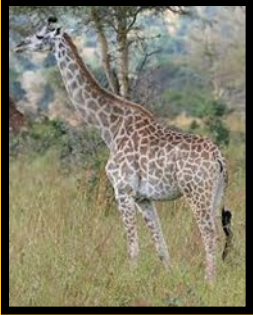


Going out in the community is always a major part of the Post 16+ curriculum and this term as well as our study visits and workshops we had a free ice-skating session at Somerset House and a free trip to Winter Wonderland thanks to Westminster's City Lions. Another highlight and a first for a small group of learners, was going to the offices of the Central London Careers Hub in Southwark to sell Christmas cards and mugs.

Learners created greetings card designs for their Young Enterprise company GoldPost, and also used their artwork for customised alphabet mugs to raise funds to support the business. We are excited to see what great things they will do in 2024.



## GIRAFFE CLASS NEWS



Giraffe Class have had a busy, but successful Autumn term. All of our students had the opportunity to attend Kingsway College where they have enjoyed experiencing different opportunities for the future. For example, taking part in Beauty, Enterprise, Media and Construction.

We carried on working on our independence in daily tasks, having opportunities to travel within the community and our students had the prospect of attending an Open City workshop in which the students created buildings, cars and plants. This series of workshops led to a trip to Kew Gardens and drawing different plants that we saw!

Giraffe Class are very proud of ourselves as we have attended trips within the community for example College, museums, Kew gardens and Kensington Town Hall! We are doing excellent work in using public transport and road safety.



## ELEPHANT CLASS NEWS

Elephant class has had the most amazing term! We've been having fun and learning. This term has been extra special. We wrote our very own song, filled with all our personalities, and guess what? We went to a real music studio and recorded it! It was an incredible experience to hear our song come to life, and listen to each voice shining. We are very proud of ourselves, not just for the awesome song, but for the way we support each other and grow our friendship every day.

So next time you see us, be sure to ask for our musical masterpiece!







## ART

This term, our students delved into the captivating world of animals, exploring their uniqueness through the lenses of artists such as William Hawkins, Henri Rousseau, and Gwen John. Inspired by their distinct styles, our students were guided through a journey of exploring their individual creativity, each creating a piece resembling one of the artists we focused on.

As the weeks progressed, our focus shifted to the hands-on creation of collages, influenced by the abstract expressionist Lee Krasner. This medium allowed students to refine their skills, experiment with composition, texture, and layering over many weeks—an essential step in the learning process. By revisiting their own pieces each week, students added to their work, giving them the opportunity to imbue meaning, form memories, and develop a sense of each piece's value and significance.

This term was brimming with artistic exploration, where our students not only learned about animals but also discovered the power of their own creativity.

## RAINBOW CLASS



We have had a busy and fun time learning in Rainbow Class with lots of interesting activities and experiences!

Through our topic “Animals”, we enjoyed so much learning about them and their habitats. We had so much fun recreating the different habitats as the jungle, the Antarctic, dessert, forest or farms through structured and sensory activities.

Our first sensory story “Rumble in the jungle” has been an absolutely success! All of us enjoyed doing the story telling with a sing along song. We enhanced our knowledge about animals and their habitats through this sensory story.



Our second sensory story “Brown bear, brown bear what do you see?” has been a great sensory story that it helped us to work in our memory skills. We worked on the sequencing of the story using animal masks, asking other peers what they could see? We also learnt about the different sounds of the animals can make e.g. bear – roar, frog -croaks, dog-bark, etc.

Phonics lesson has been spectacular! So much fun exploring more sounds (Phonics phase 2: Set 1 and 2). We started to do some matching and also, we kept practising our tracing skills.

Maths has been super fun! We found that our students had an incredible interested for shapes! We learnt to look at our environment and find shapes in every where!

We did travel around the world during our Geography lessons. We went to Ethiopia, Nigeria, Spain, India, China, Jamaica, Egypt, Morocco, Thailand, Turkey and Georgia! We had a little approach to the cuisine and the music from all these countries. We will keep discovering more and more countries next term!

We hope you have a lovely break!

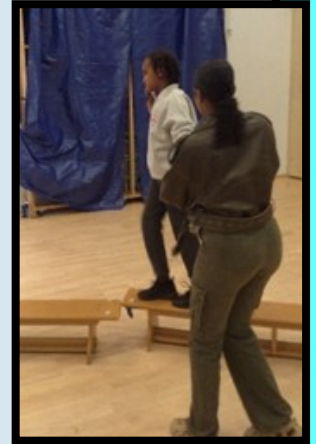




## PE

### Primary

Students from Rainbow and Sunshine groups, have been exploring different equipment and dynamics when attending Physical Education (PE) lessons during this Autumn-term, working to develop basic and foundational skills, carrying out tasks which involve balancing and gross motor skills, as well as lower-body and hand-eye coordination ones. Our children and young people (CYP) from Beaver, Penguin and Lion classes, have continued following their learning progress line, practising different motor and coordination skills, showing a consistent engagement in PE activities, and being invited to explore new ones. In Kangaroo and Eagle houses, students have been improving his motor and coordination skills, applying them into handball elements, and being introduced to some basic basketball technique.



## PE

### Secondary

Within Secondary class groups, Zebra House has showed a great generalised improvement in regard to the previous academic year, showing a high engagement during the sessions and responding well to new routines and exercises. In this sense, many students in Cheetah, Dolphin and Elephant houses have also had progress, having fully jumped into basketball sport learning after showing good handball standards. Also, in a similar way, CYP from Giraffe and Owl class groups have been learning basketball and football skills.



## PE

### Special Activities

Throughout this Autumn-term, first Beaver House then students from Penguin group, have been attending the swimming pool at The Porchester Centre, having a nice aquatic experience and developing life skills in this outdoor activity. On the other hand, pupils from Post-16 have resumed attending their sport activities at Seymour Leisure Centre during PE sessions



## **Federation of Westminster Special Schools**

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

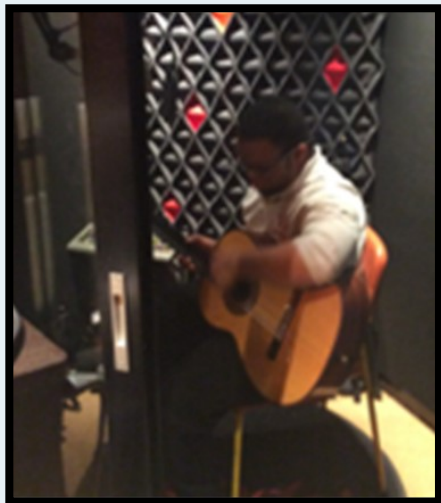
**We would like to thank all our supporters**

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





**We look forward to welcoming  
you all back to school after the  
Christmas Holiday on Tuesday 9th  
January 2024**



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

