## COLLEGE PARK SCHOOL NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2021



Message from our Head teacher Claire Shepherd



Dear Parent/Carer,

This has certainly been an unsettling term and I am sure like us; you are all looking forward to some restrictions lifting and some aspects of normality returning but still adhering to COVID-19 guidance.

Since January we have operated on a rota system and we had almost 80% of pupils attending across the week. Now that schools are fully open, we have most of the pupils back in school. The pupils and staff have adapted well to the changes that were put in place over lockdown and it is great to

see how happy and resilient all the pupils are since returning to school.

We have had some exciting developments over this last term which includes installation of a soft play room. We have also used our OT space to provide a sensory diet area where pupils have a number of obstacles to climb and walk over. The pupils absolutely love having these areas to self-regulate and play.

The younger pupils have also loved having access to their small playground and it is great to them having fun.

We are also looking forward to the installation of our front playground over Easter and we are sure that the pupils will be happy to see and use the space.

Jo Petch has also joined the federation as the Executive Head. She is working with the senior leadership on school development and continuing to provide the best education and support for our young people.

The end of term also sadly comes with goodbyes and we are saying goodbye to Mariam who has been a fantastic support in the finance department especially sorting all the free school meals vouchers over the last year. We wish her all the best for her next adventure.

As always if you need any support please do not hesitate to contact us and we will be happy to help during these challenging and uncertain times.

I hope you all have a good Easter break and we look forward to welcoming the pupils back on the 19th April.





# A Message from Our Executive Head teacher, Jo Petch

As we come to the end of the Spring term, we have to acknowledge that it has been a most unusual start to my new role as the Federation's Executive Headteacher! It is incredible to think that we started January 2021 in the grip of another national lockdown. Happily, we are now feeling more hopeful as we begin to see the easing of Covid restrictions.

Despite the need for social distancing, and the fact that I have not been able to interact freely with staff and pupils whilst we have maintained our safety measures in the school, staff and pupils have been extremely warm and welcoming to me. The next step will be for me to get to know more of you all, and I hope to be able to do this as we go into the summer term.

Although this term has meant lots of pupils learning remotely (or even a blended offer of some face to face in school time, and some time at home) It has been fantastic to see that the focus on pupils achieving their best has continued. The strong partnerships between home and school are what has made this so successful, and are evidence of how integral those partnerships are to enable our pupils to flourish.

Finally, all this has only been possible as a result of the extremely dedicated staff team who have worked tirelessly, to ensure that our children and young people have not only been kept safe, but also encouraged and supported in their learning and wellbeing. I would also like to thank you for your continued support. I wish you all a safe and pleasant Easter break and I look forward to getting to know everyone more in the summer term.

Kind Regards,

JO



## SILVER CLASS NEWS

We have done some amazing work in Silver house this term! In Literacy we had been exploring two stories: 'Brown bear, brown bear, what do you see?' and 'The very hungry caterpillar' while learning about animals, colours, days of the week and butterfly's life cycle. We had been practicing making choices and requesting motivating story props and crafts resources to improve our communication skills. In Maths we had been practicing connecting numbers with actions, such as counting while pouring cups of flour to make playdough and counting fruits as we were feeding the caterpillar.

In Fine motor skills sessions we had many opportunities to use our fingers to make pasta necklaces, squeeze tweezers to catch pompoms, catch bottle lids with fishing nets and much more exciting activities! Finally in Topic we made lots of craft activities regarding space and dinosaurs! We are looking forward for more fun in Summer Term!







## RED CLASS NEWS

Red class this term has been into so many trips on earth and on other planets.

Throughout this term our focus was to maintain our learning even if our students were at home or at school.

We practiced our fine motor skills, our communication as well as emotional regulation and independence skills on a daily basis. We continue using our timetable, making requests, sharing and playing with our friends/family at home or at school.

In Literacy we had been exploring the stories Snow Queen and The Smeds & the Smoos.

We learnt we had been exploring the different states of water, winter, ice, space, day and night, rockets, constellations, planets, gravity, etc in our Science session.

We also travelled to many countries and learnt information about them, tasted their local foods and explored their traditions (Iraq, Brazil, Greece, South Korea, Poland, etc) We also loved making crafts inspired by our topic and enjoyed practicing our requesting skills while creating the space, planets, characters from our sensory stories, astronauts etc by trying new drawing techniques, new materials and learnt to tolerate new textures.

In Maths we had been learning about day and night, we introduced the concept of time and tried to get familiar with clocks and watches through experiential meaningful and fun activities.

We also tasted and made so many new flavours and food during our food exploration that we can't wait to continue after Easter. Our students practised their communication and fine motor skills by making pizza, milkshake, cookies, cakes etc.

We cannot wait to explore new things and live new adventures, next term, all over London.

## BLUE CLASS

This term Blue House have learnt how to tell the time in Maths. We made our own clocks and played 'What's the time Mr Wolf?' this was Blue class's favourite game. We also looked at fractions (halves) to support their understanding of 'half past'. Blue class continued to visit countries around the world, this term blue class have visited America, France, Iraq, Kosovo and Jamaica. Visiting different countries has Blue classes favourite lesson, as they explore with different foods and cultures through arts and craft.

This term Blue also took part in blended learning, accessing school resources from home. A big well done to Blue for adjusting to some big changes. Have a wonderful Easter.

## ORANGE CLASS NEWS

Unfortunately we spent most of our new term in Lockdown, however that did not stop Orange Class! We welcomed our pupils who were able to attend school with fun and sensory learning activities, and for the pupils who were at home we provided them with home learning packs which included all of our lessons.

Our Topic in Class is about Space and Time which is why we chose the following for our lessons.

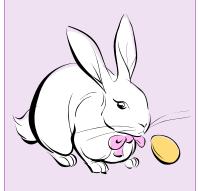
In English we based our sensory story on 'What's the time Mr Wolf', this gave us the opportunity to educate our pupils on their day to day routines. Helping them to associate time with daily routines such as 'breakfast', 'lunch' and 'bed time'. We also included activities like 'bathing a baby doll' and 'dressing a mannequin' to allow them to physically learn.

In Maths we focused on opposites. Our lessons included 'hot and cold', 'heavy and light' and 'big and small', we followed this by using items that resembled these term and allowing the pupils to explore and feel the difference. We also decided to take a fun turn and we created an Orange Class shop, where the pupils are given coins like '1p' and '2p' and their favourite snacks are laid out on a table with price tags, the pupils then take turns to come up and pick a snack and 'pay' for it. This has given them to chance to learn about numbers and how to differentiate between coins.

In all our lessons we encourage our pupils to communicate directly with the member of staff leading the lesson, for some pupils this is via PEC's and for other pupils it's via communication books and chat boards. We in Orange Class feel communication is important because it builds trust and understanding between staff and pupils.







## Check Out Our School Website

for lots more information about College Park School,

such as letters to parents/carers, how to

access Evisense,

Our latest calendar,

**Remote Learning** 

Resources, School Lunch ideas and much more, please visit our school website:

https:// www.qe2cp.westminster .sch.uk/

(If you need printed copies of any information linked on the website, just call, or send us an email)

## PINK CLASS

This term the children in pink class have come back feeling very excited to see each other after a long time and we have welcomed a new friend!

We have been exploring Time and Space. We have been learning about how people lived in ancient times and how people have change through time. We have our own time machine that show us clothes, buildings and other interesting things from the past.

In Math we have been exploring the length of different objects around our class. We have been learning how to use a ruler on paper and on real objects. We have been comparing objects to see which was longer than other, and finding the longest object from a box!

Our sensory story is called "the dinosaur who lost his roar". We have described the feelings we could see in the story and had fun practising our roars!

In science we have been learning about how the light and sound works. We have been testing our voice with different experiments and watching how the light travel through different ways. But most of all, we have been practising our communications skills to share, play and learn together!.







#### PURPLE CLASS NEWS

Our term started in January with a national lockdown which made us work hard to ensure home learning packs were delivered in time.

With these home learning packs we were able to cover students' needs and to keep working on their outcomes by offering them relevant activities that would be doing at school. Houssein, Joehan, Mehreen and Yassir, they attended the school in a part time basis so they could combine home and school learning. During this term, Purple Class introduced two new sensory stories "Whats's the time Mr.Wolf" and "Purple Class and the eight planets".

Through the activities followed by these stories the students learnt life skills such as cooking a breakfast consisted on making orange juice, butter and jam toast and a fruit salad as well as developed their communication skills by participating in an adjectives quiz and sensory structured games. Following the space topic this term, students were engaging in messy play experiments consisted in making moon rock, making a sky at night time and building a rocket out of fruits. Students were also introduced a new activity in food tech, consisting in cooking a vegetable pizza, which they really love. In Maths the students explored the concepts of hot and cold, heavy and light and full and empty, our most sensory students by experimenting with materials with these features and our most communicational ones by participating in a quiz. The Students of Purple House are loving these new activities and topic and we keep working hard to reduce the effect that the lockdown has had on everyone.











#### INDIGO CLASS

This term, Indigo class have been learning all about space and what we can find out there like the moon, the starts and other planets!

For our sensory story this term we've been reading Bob on the Moon, we even made our own rocket ships zoooooom!

For Maths this term, Indigo class have been looking at time, we started by looking at the different times of day and now we're learning about the terms "First,

next and last", We enjoyed using these to request sensory items in different orders in lesson.

Our favourite lessons have been food tech where we have been working hard on our cooking skills to make some yummy Pitta Pizzas, some of us like cheese and tomato, and some of us love mushrooms on our pizza!



## GREEN CLASS NEWS

Green Class team are welcoming students coming back to school after lockdown. Although some of our students have not been able to come to

school and have had to stay home on the beginning of this term, they have been engaging in home learning resources and on live sessions. 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! Joel and Emma have even been able to have live sessions on (Language of thinking) with class teacher and our Speech and Therapist Language. They were very positive sessions to show their parents about the way of teaching some resources at home.



This term Green Class has celebrated World Book Day by reading 'Mr Magnolias has only one boot'. Students sat in groups with whole class listening to the story, we have looked at the rhyming words within the story, answering simple questions about the book and creating Boot using their own ideas as

## WHITE CLASS NEWS

The Spring term was a challenging one with another National lockdown but most of White Class attended school on a reduced timetable. Our topic this term was Space and Time. In the first half term, in English, we read two stories, 'The Darkest Dark' by Astronaut Chris Hadfield and 'Here come the Aliens!' By Colin McNaughton. We learn about space and planets and lots of space vocabulary. We made a few alien crafts and even the solar system made from cookies with colourful icing.

This half term, we read 'Ada Twist, Scientist' and 'Rosie Revere, Engineer' by Andrea Beatty and learned about inventions and discovering through science. We have written lots of sentences about our books. In Maths, we have been learning about 2D and 3D shapes and learning to recognise them in real life or combined with other shapes.

We also worked hard to improve our number bonds and understanding of place value, addition, subtraction and multiplication. In PSHE, we learned about safe strangers and safe places in our communities to ask for help if needed.

We learned vocabulary words and phrases we can use to express ourselves when we're ill. We also discussed emergency numbers and what an emergency is compared to a non-emergency. We made cinnamon rolls in food tech which were a big hit with White Class students and staff!

We're looking forward to the Summer Term!

## YELLOW CLASS NEWS

Yellow Class have once again had an excellent term and we are very proud of our notable progress.

We have enjoyed looking at the topic of Space and Time, learning about the planets of the solar system. We looked at which planets are the nearest to the sun, which are the furthest, which are the biggest and which are the smallest. We have produced some excellent work, completing exciting activities such as making models of the planets out of papier mache, as well as the Mars Rover – Perseverance.

In our Communication sessions we have been putting a lot of effort into familiarising ourselves with, and using vocabulary, including – "First, Next, Then and Last", as well as using visuals to operate the controls of cause and effect activities with great success.

Yellow Class has also been using a new Independent Work strategy during part of our Communication sessions, and we have seen our student's independent participation increase as they complete activities according to their set work system.

Exploring Money has been a topic Yellow Class has very much enjoyed. We have looked at making shopping lists, identifying £5, £10, £20 and £50 notes by colour, size and value and have been using shop role play to purchase goods and exchange currency.

Circle time has brought us a lot of fun and enjoyment,

as we work on learning to interact with our classmates individually and as a team, building relationships through play and games, such as ball passing, table tennis and target practice with soft toys.

Yellow Class looks forward to continuing our efforts next term with new Topics to explore, such as the Landmarks of London and reporting on our progress.





## GOLD CLASS NEWS

Gold class have been exploring outer space this term, learning about space travel, aliens, planets and stars. In science, we learned about the order of the different planets in our solar system, and in art we made a cardboard rocket as a class.

Most of us have been unable to come into school in 2021, which has been sad for everyone. However, gold class pupils have been doing great work from their home packs, and we've been so proud of all the work we've been receiving from home. We've been doing video calls to catch up with our friends, and students have been able to join in with school music and drama lessons from home.

We've got some new equipment in the playground, including beans bags and a ring toss. It's been a lot of fun playing with them and with all our friends at College Park. We're looking forward to school being back to normal

## POST 16 CLASS NEWS

Despite the Lockdown, Spring has been an exciting term for Post 16. There is a strong focus on learning about careers so students participated in the Discover Creative Careers Week in March

As part of this, they listened to professionals in creative industries talk about their jobs. The students then held their first virtual interview and spoke to their dance teacher about her career. They thought about their interests and jobs they might like to do and put together mood boards

Students also learned about the skills needed for stop motion animations and had great fun making aliens from Plasticine and creating their own short,

animated films. Creativity was the theme in Music too and Post 16 made a soundtrack and wrote lyrics for an original song.

In other learning, the class discovered the unique features of the planets and their order and created a range of crafts to demonstrate their understanding including versions of the Mars rover, rockets and planets

and seeing all our friends again so we can play and learn together.



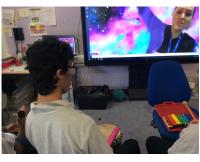






## MUSIC NEWS

As we have settled back into school, we have made some adjustments with music at College Park. All music lessons are currently delivered via eams within school. Pupils have been responding really well and have enjoyed learning songs about space and going on virtual adventures in their rocket ships. It has been so lovely to include pupils who are still isolating at home during these sessions, and it has been a great opportunity for them to make music with their classmates. This term we have been inspired by the music of Gustav Holst "The Planets" and have been learning the Makaton for Sky full of stars by Coldplay. Special mention to Indigo class who have been learning a rearranged version of Man of the moon by REM, which is now fondly known as Bob on the Moon.





Find Out More about the Westminster Parent Participation Group by visiting their website:

https://www.wppg.org.uk/



Westminster Parents Participation Group



## We look forward to welcoming you all back to school after the Easter Holiday on Monday 19th April



# City of Westminster

