



# Park Lane School

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

The end of the first term of this academic year. It has flown by!! It is lovely to see how well our new pupils have settled into school. As you will have seen on Facebook and in this newsletter, there has been lots going on this term.

Due to the success of the Animal Therapy sessions last term, we have commissioned more sessions this term which the pupils really enjoy. We have continued our music Therapy sessions too. We have been fortunate to have a trainee therapist this term who has been very good and has supported pupils' access to music therapy.

The Student Council have been very active this term with fundraising. They have also chosen the name of the new KS2 class which will be Tatton.

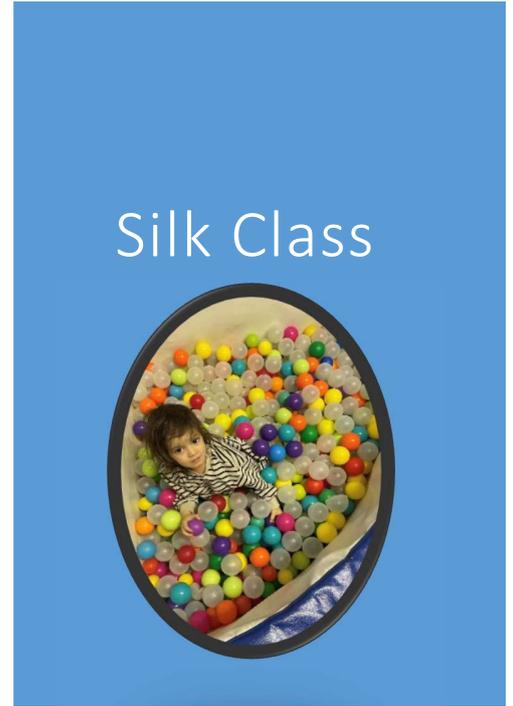
Over this term we have said "Goodbye" to some members of staff who have left to try new things. However, we have also welcomed several new staff to our team. Change can be difficult for pupils but because of the way the school is organised with staff, those difficulties can be kept to a minimum for pupils.

The final highlight of the term was the Christmas Concerts. Some were more chaotic than others as some children got stage fright! The pupils did well in their first live performance since 2019. Well done to them all. I don't know if you got a chance to watch the Christmas Message video but when you do you will enjoy it! Thank you to Katy for filming it and putting it together. Thank you to Emma and Tiina for organising the concert this year and of course thank you to all pupils and staff for all their hard work in planning and practicing for their class performance.

I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and send best wishes for 2024.

Now please read on....





We have been on two fabulous trips out, we visited the Christmas Tree festival at Gawsworth church and also to Chester Zoo where we had a great time looking at all the animals whilst practicing lots of skills.

THIS TERM OUR TOPIC HAS BEEN: CELEBRATIONS

AUTUMN TERM 2023



This term we have worked very hard on our individual targets for reading and communication across the week and in everything we do. We are all growing in confidence.

We have all worked very hard on our physical targets in PE and the hydrotherapy pool. We have used the big apparatus to climb and balance as well as playing together in the ball pool and light room whilst practising spatial awareness and being aware of our friends playing around us.



We have also done a lot of work on mark making and exploring lots of different sensory items in the process.



One of our sensory activities was playing in the pretend snow from a snow machine one of our lovely parents lent to us. It was a big hit.



The light room also gives us lots of opportunities to communicate with staff and each other about the different sensory activities.



Have a Merry Christmas from all of Silk.



THIS TERM OUR TOPIC HAS BEEN CELEBRATIONS

# Forest Class

## Autumn 2023

### Newsletter

AUTUMN 2023

What a fantastic start to the year we have had. All our new students have settled into class and life at Park Lane School very well, we are proud of them all. They have developed some lovely relationships with staff and friendships with peers.

We have spent this term learning about different celebrations. Our favourite had to be learning about 'A Scarecrow's Wedding'. We had our own wedding celebration in class and it was lovely. We had a go at different parts of a traditional Christian wedding like getting dressed up, walking down the aisle, throwing confetti, catching the bouquet, having

a formal meal, cutting the cake and having a dance. All the students had a great time and it was a such a lovely celebration.

We have also enjoyed a visit to see Father Christmas in his grotto at Peak Wildlife Park, whilst the weather was not on our side, Father Christmas was lovely and even knew BSL so he could sign to us as well as talk to us. We also got to see the Polar bears, penguins and reindeer, so it really got us in the Christmas spirit.

We hope you all have a lovely break and a very happy new year.

Forest Class x





THIS TERM OUR TOPIC HAS BEEN: CELEBRATIONS

AUTUMN 2023

Wow. It has been a long but certainly eventful term. It goes so quick doesn't it? I look at all of my students and even in a short space they have come on so much. We have welcomed some new classmates to Granelli class. It has been lovely watching friendships develop. It was noticed that Granelli students are so caring and inclusive. They really are amazing.

Our topic has been 'Celebrations' for this term. We have enjoyed some great books including 'Never invite a pirate to a party', 'Dipals Diwali' and 'Dear Santa'. We have learnt lots about different festivals around the world and we loved our Halloween Sensory Story.

In Maths, we have focused on numbers and have enjoyed number rhymes and songs. We have counted objects, learnt about more and less and worked hard on writing number words.

Every Tuesday, we have loved PE circuits where we have developed and refined our balance and coordination. On Fridays we have introduced Sing, Sign and Symbol and played with a range of instruments.

We have been extremely physical this with weekly PE, daily morning warm up routine and Swimming, all of which has helped us improve our motor control skills. The pupils have all displayed excellent participation during these activities.

During our PSHE sessions we have been focusing on selfcare and independence. We have developed our handwashing skills, and worked hard on our dining manners.

We have had animal therapy, met Pudsey and baked cakes for the Park Lane Market. We have worked on our Speech and Language and loved our communication lessons.....3.....2....1.....GO!!!!

We have celebrated birthdays, made beautiful poppy collages to commemorate Remembrance Day, and loved decorating our room in time for Christmas. We helped raise money for Cheshire hospice and contributed to a Christmas performance. We have been very busy and enjoyed every minute of it.

We wish you a restful break and look forward to seeing you 2024!



# Jodrell Class



AUTUMN TERM

2023



Well, in September we were a brand new class at Park Lane School! Some of our children came from Silk and Forest; others were completely new to the school. None of the Jodrell team had worked together before, but we've created a strong and dedicated team with the children at the heart of everything we do. Charlotte joined us as a Teaching Assistant later in the term. She is a wonderful addition to our team and has developed such warm and nurturing relationships with the children. What an adventure it has been!

Gradually we have grown together, creating caring bonds and friendships. As a team we now refer to our class as the Jodrell family. It has been wonderful to see the children learning from us and from each other. We have been amazed as the children have developed their skills, particularly their communication and social skills.

We are so proud of our children and what they have achieved in such a short space of time.

From September to now, we have been on an adventure. We've had lots of fun and some challenges along the way but overall the children have thrived. I believe that every child in Jodrell has a sense of belonging and feels valued and supported. Strong foundations have been built for further development.

This term, our theme has been celebrations. We have focused on Diwali (festival of light) and Christmas. Both were approached in a multisensory way to promote engagement. We've done lots of arts and crafts such as creating diwali patterns using coloured rice.

In Challenge we learnt about the natural world around us and focused mainly on fruits and vegetables. A highlight of this block of lessons was a food tasting session provided by Sheena King. Wow, I've never

seen such a lovely spread of fresh fruit. It was so appetising and lots of the children enjoyed trying different fruits including blueberries and raspberries. In one of our lessons I cut up a huge watermelon – that got very messy, very fast and a little more sensory than I'd anticipated!

The children have enjoyed sensory stories in English, particularly 'The Tiger That Came to Tea' and 'The Stick Man'. We've brought the stories to life by providing sensory experiences that help the children to understand aspects of the story. For instance, for the Stick Man we had a 'stick man', a river (water in a long narrow tray) and a beach (sand in a tray with shells and sandcastles). The children have really enjoyed engaging in the sensory elements.

**Merry Christmas,**

**Liz, Zoe, Jacqui, Charlotte, Anna & Katy**



# Hovis Class Autumn 2023 Newsletter

TERM TOPIC: CELEBRATIONS

AUTUMN 2023

It's the end of the first term of the academic year, and it's been a busy one! We've all gotten settled into our class routines and have enjoyed getting to know some new friends that have joined Hovis. We have been very proud of how every student has progressed this term with their communication, social skills and target work. Here are some snippets of what we have been up to this term!

and exploring all the stages of bread in a sensory journey for the story of the 'Little Red Hen'. We have also worked hard in our Phonics sessions, taking part in relevant sessions to meet their stage of the Reading Pathways. Some of us have developed their understanding of symbols in fun core word sessions, for example, whereas others have worked on writing CVC words.

#### Community:

We have enjoyed learning about lots of different celebrations and festivals this term in Community, such as Harvest Festival, Halloween, Diwali, St Andrew's Day and Christmas. We learned lots of new vocabulary and symbols related to all our celebrations, and loved crafting our own Scottish flags for St Andrew's Day and painting Diyas for Diwali.

#### Maths:

This term we have been working on Number & Place Value, and we have been linking this with our class texts and the celebrations we have been exploring. We used our knowledge of number to count out hedgehog spikes, just like the hedgehog in our story 'It Was A Cold, Dark Night', and some of us have been practicing the concepts of addition as well as 'more' and 'less' using Christmassy penguins.



#### Challenge:

In Challenge this term, pupils have been exploring their senses. They have taken part in Sensology sessions, as well as discrete sessions about each sense and the body parts we need to use them. We have touched, tasted, smelled, heard and seen lots of sensory materials, as well as using the Computer Suite and switches to develop our ICT skills and answer questions about our different senses.



#### Individuality:

We have been learning new Signalong signs related to celebrations this term in Sing & Sign sessions. In PSED sessions, we have been looking at what it means to be a good friend, and have been given the chance to put this into practice with turn-taking games as well as everyday in the playground. In PE, we have been focusing on balance and coordination when practicing our jumping skills, using circuits, hoops and stepping stones to help us.



#### English:

We have looked at lots of class texts this term, including 'Little Red Hen', 'We're Going on a Pumpkin Hunt', and 'Part of the Party'. We have explored these stories through colourful semantics work, related Look & Listen sessions, sensory stories and crafts, such as making our own party invitations when reading 'Part of the Party'





**Creativity:**

The focus this term in Art has been cutting skills, so pupils have had lots of chances to practice using scissors and improving their grasp. We have looked at the work of several artists, such as Giuseppe Arcimboldo and Lynn Flavell, who use fruits and vegetables in their artwork. In Music, the focus has been the Waltz, and we have had great fun playing along to the Waltz songs and learning some new dance moves.



We have done a fantastic job in swimming this term, and have consistently listened well to our swimming teacher – it’s definitely something the pupils look forward to each week! We have had fun at some lunchtime clubs such as Sports Club, and we have even had some visitors, such as Pudsey Bear and Santa himself!

We hope you have a lovely Christmas break and we look forward to seeing you all again in the New Year!

From Emma and the Hovis team.



## English

This term in English the children have enjoyed visiting the library to choose books to share at home. They have learnt about the story Peace at Last, the innovated story, 'The Christmas Bop Just Won't Stop!' and Elf on a Shelf.

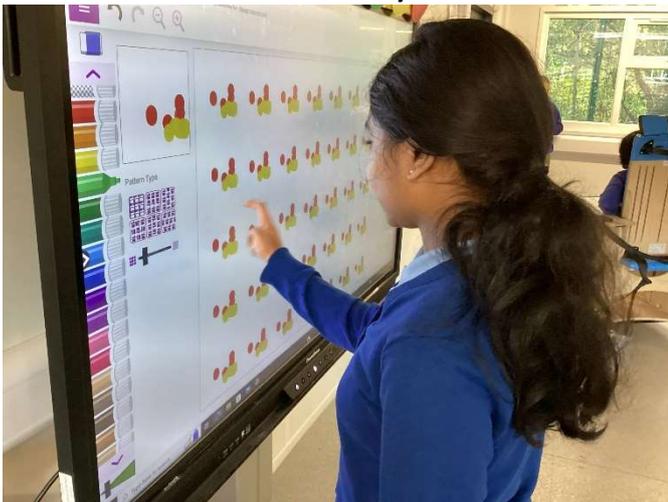


## Mathematics



This term the focus has been on Number and Place Value. The children have enjoyed using song and practical resources such as Numicom to support their mathematical development.

## Community



Celebrating lots of different religious festivals has been lots of fun. The children enjoyed learning about Diwali through song and different activities and Christmas through story and dance. Learning the signs for the Christmas song 'Merry Christmas Everyone' was lots of fun!



## Challenge



The children have enjoyed exploring how materials change. They melted chocolate and watched it set to make Peppermint Bark, which was sold at the Christmas Market as part of their enterprise project.



### Individuality



The children have participated in lots of mindfulness activities to help them regulate and calm their bodies. Circuits have helped them explore how to move in different ways. They have enjoyed dancing and practising their fundamental movement skills.

### Creativity

Learning about the work of different artists and trying to replicate their work has helped the children practise lots of different art techniques like ripping paper and making marks. They enjoyed exploring different positions to make marks, for example lying under the table or working on the floor.





# Arighi Class Autumn 2023 Newsletter

THIS TERM OUR TOPIC HAS BEEN CELEBRATIONS

AUTUMN 2023

## Literacy

We have read Supertato and used the symbol boards to support our reading. We have discussed features such as author, illustrator and made predictions about the book. We described characters, wrote a wanted poster and enjoyed watching roleplay. We have just finished 'Hannukah Bear' where we used props to support the story and explored the Hannukah festival.

## Community

We have discussed different celebrations. We have talked about babies and looked at our own baby pictures. We have learned about Christian, Hindu, Jewish and Muslim wedding celebrations, Diwali and Hanukkah.

## Maths & Numeracy

We focused on Number and Place Value, we did work on adding and subtracting numbers within 100. Developing skills to apply number bonds between 10 and 20.

## Individuality

We enjoyed some excellent active math's sessions in the hall and great PE sessions. We have enjoyed yoga sessions on a Friday morning and recently Table Cricket in the hall. Next term, we will be having swimming sessions at Macclesfield Leisure Centre.



## Challenge

We focused on the theme of Celebrations. We made wrapping material for birthday presents and used ICT skills to make birthday cards. We used different tools to make a Halloween mask and toffee apples. We also enjoyed using ICT skills such as dragging and moving icons when playing Christmas ICT games.

## Creativity

We performed the song Allah-hoo, a call and response song. We discussed what sort of music we like and sang at different speeds and volumes. We have also worked on different printing techniques, using sponges, vegetables, fruits, and different colours.

## Enterprise

We have worked as a team this term to produce our items for our Autumn markets such as Halloween treats. We have also produced some fabulous decorations for the Christmas Markets.



## MFL

We continue to speak and sign as part of our daily lessons. We worked hard to learn the signs for the School Christmas song.

## Happy Christmas to you all and a great New Year!

It has been lovely getting to know our new students this term and we are so proud of how hard all the students have worked this. Thanks to all our team for your hard work. We hope you enjoyed our Christmas concert and message.

Laura, Tiina and Arighi Team



# Bollin Class

## Autumn 2023 Newsletter

THIS TERM OUR TOPIC HAS BEEN CELEBRATIONS

AUTUMN 2023

### Literacy

In Literacy we have enjoyed reading Supertato, Hanukkah Bear and the Nativity story. We loved the poem Talking Turkeys by Benjamin Zephaniah and have had some interesting discussions around Picture, News, Symbols sessions.

### Community

We have learned about marriage celebrations in different cultures.

### Maths

In maths we have focused on number and place value. We have worked in different groups across Key Stage 3 and as a class in active maths.

### Individuality

In ASDAN we have covered different topics to work towards the New Horizons qualification. In PE we have played tag rugby, worked on teamwork, played barrier games and made great progress with swimming.



### Challenge

We have worked on our ICT skills. We have programed beebots, discussed algorithms, used inPrint to write recipes for gingerbread and made gingerbread.



### Enterprise

We have worked well in teams to develop marketing skills. We have produced Christmas decorations and treats to sell at the market. We have worked out costings and produced the catalogue for the market.

### MFL

We have continued making good progress with signing and have learned signs for different celebrations.

### Creativity

We sang songs relating to different celebrations and played dreidel. We have completed a project on printing and produced some lovely work.

We hope you all have a lovely Christmas and wish you all a healthy and happy 2024!

From Jackie and the Bollin team.





# Middlewood Class

THIS TERM OUR TOPIC HAS BEEN: CELEBRATIONS

AUTUMN TERM 2023

## A brilliant start to the year!

By Letitia

We have had an exciting Autumn term, filled with learning and new friends!

In Literacy some of us have read the book 'Giraffes Can't Dance', while others have enjoyed exploring Supertato! We have also worked on number and place value in Maths.

This Autumn term has been filled with many celebrations: Halloween, Bonfire Night, Children In Need, Diwali and of course...Christmas! The children have enjoyed trying new foods, learning about each one's history and making many themed crafts for the Enterprise markets. They have recently taken a vote on what they would like to spend their enterprise profit on, the children chose sensory equipment for the class!



We have continued to enjoy our animal therapy sessions which remain a firm favourite amongst the children.



In Challenge, all pupils have been refining their ICT skills by programming BeeBots and accessing computers, they have all made excellent progress!

In Creativity, many of us have been looking at music from different cultures and some of us have enjoyed a sensory trip to India, filled with smells, tastes and sights of this beautiful country! This year, Middlewood class have definitely found a firm love for music and it has become engrained into our daily timetable.



This year, Middlewood managed to perform a live Christmas Concert! All the children did so well, they have worked so hard and put a lot of effort into learning lines and recognising when they are

expected to participate at certain times. Although the children were very proud of their achievements, I think they were more excited about performing to parents (and other pupils' parents!) in a live audience! Thank you so much to the parents/guardians who came to watch our performance - it really meant a lot to us all. I hope that everybody has a safe and restful Christmas break and I look forward to welcoming everybody back to Middlewood class in the new year!





# Treacle Class Winter 2024 Newsletter



THIS TERM OUR TOPIC HAS BEEN HEALTH & TREATMENT

WINTER 2023

## The winter term...

Happy Christmas holidays from all the students & staff of Treacle Class. We have had an action-packed & fun winter term. Our overall topic has been 'Health & Treatment' and within this topic we have managed to incorporate a range of diverse & interesting lessons & topics. We have all worked hard on our individual PLG goals & undertaken a range of personalized numeracy & literacy activities. Here is some more information on a small selection of the work & activities we have undertaken.



### English & Literacy

In English & Literacy our focus has been on developing our reading & writing skills. We have undertaken a range of activities to support our PLG's including doing phonics work & focusing on our selected text 'The Witches' by Roald Dahl. We have all worked very hard on extending our vocabularies of words & using new words, phrases & concepts to better access our reading books & our class reading book. We read for 25 minutes each day and made lots of progress.

### ASDAN

In our ASDAN lessons we have focused on updating & completing our portfolios of work. We have impressed everyone with the pride & care we have taken with our

work folders to make them a true reflection of our talents & potential across several different areas.



### Math's & Numeracy

In Math's & Numeracy we have focused on learning via the ASDAN Towards Independence topics with have in part focused on using coins/notes to pay for things. We particularly enjoyed using money to pay for things in the fantastic sixth form café. We have all made progress and are more confident and familiar with using coins.

### Science

In Science we have focused on the 'Health & Treatment' topic. We have undertaken extensive work on understanding our bodies, understanding how to keep our bodies healthy & understanding germs and how to be safe around medicines.



### Humanities

In Geography we have studied the important sites and landmarks of both the UK and our local area of Macclesfield and Cheshire.



### Art & Creativity

We have had a fantastic term in Art & have been able to undertake a range of exciting & varied creative activities ranging from clay sculpture & model making to many different styles & methods of painting.

### PE & Swimming

It has been fantastic to have George as our new swimming teacher and we have all really enjoyed our swimming lessons with her. We all continued to develop our confidence in the water & had lots of fun. We have had the chance to take part in a wide range of team sports & exercises in PE including table cricket, tag rugby, football and an assault course.

# Sixth Form 1

## Autumn Term 2023

Sixth form 1 students have taken part in a wide range of activities both in school and in the wider community. Whilst engaging in these activities they have been collecting evidence towards their ASDAN Personal Progress Qualifications.

In ICT sessions some of learners have been exploring cause and effect games on the interactive whiteboard, tablet and the desktop. As they have become more familiar with the games they have been able to understand how to interact with the games and anticipate events. Another group of students have been learning how to access, write and send emails. In addition they have been learning how to recognise scam emails.

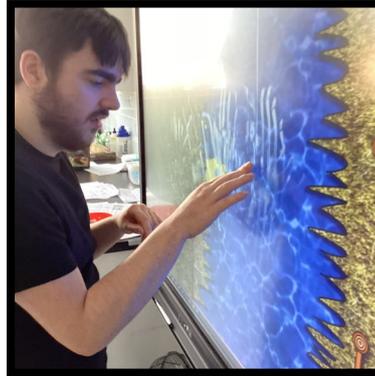
We have continued our weekly shop, cook and eat lessons and our students have demonstrated significant improvements in their independence.

Sixth form 1 have participated in different Charity events including the Macmillan Coffee morning and a Children In Need bake sale.

This term Cheshire Cricket have provided table cricket for all upper school pupils. Sixth form 1 students really enjoyed these sessions where all our learners can engage and play together.

Sixth Form students have continued external work experience placements at Hope Café, Macclesfield Library and the Co-Op. They have been very successful in their placements, developing new work related skills and having the opportunity to interact with employers.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!





AUTUMN 2023

We have all had a great start to the year. We have settled into class routines and made some lovely new friendships. We are all working hard on our ASDAN qualifications and have completed our 'ICT' units and 'Money skills' units. Some of us have been making excellent progress in our work experience sessions, sorting and delivering the school stock and working in the school reception.

The focus this term has been on 'Community'. We have had lots of visits to the local parks to walk and gain laps for our exercise charts.

We have been visiting cafés and the local shops to buy ingredients to make our own lunches. We also had a visit from Sheena from Tesco's who gave us the opportunity to try lots of different healthy foods.

A highlight of the term has been taking part in collaborative work with the Silk Museum in Macclesfield. We have taken part in two workshops – 'Victorian Toys' and 'exploring the work of the local artist Charles Tunnicliffe'. We made our own bird prints using printing techniques. We all got to visit the museum and see all the wonderful Egyptian artifacts and see the how silk was made.

*Hope you all have a fantastic Christmas and see you in the New Year.*



# Barnaby

Barnaby have had a busy term. We really enjoyed learning about India and exploring all our senses

through spices and fabrics and videos of Indian Markets.

We've also enjoyed learning

about Hannukah, through our story Hannukah Bear.

We've explored the Menorah/

Hanukkiah, a yamaka/kippa and enjoyed using the switch to be the Bear!



We've also continued to work really hard on expressing our preferences in music, and Sensology

through our expressions, our gestures, eye pointing to symbols or vocalising.



Our physical skills continue to

be really important, stretches, standing frames and sitting skills all happening.

We've also developed our switch skills in cooking and in story times.

