Autumn Term Newsletter

Serenity School

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of another term, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and cooperation throughout the year. It has been a busy and productive term, and we are proud of the achievements and progress our students have made. It is a privilege to be part of this community and working alongside committed staff and wonderful pupils.

Over the last seven weeks, there have been so many achievements of which the children and indeed the whole school community should be immensely proud of. We continue to celebrate and reward those students who uphold Serenity School values through our Investor in Me Awards programme. We want to celebrate and reward the students who achieve their 5 qualifications, 95% or more attendance, attend all their therapy sessions, adhere to our school values and more. This term has been packed with activities, visitors into school, educational visits outside of school and of course many trips and visits.

We are working hard to improve communication, attendance, and punctuality. Remember that punctuality and attendance are a simple life skill that applies to all aspects of life. We are aiming for at least 95% attendance. I am confident that with the support of my hard-working team, parents, and students, we will continue to provide the first-class education for all our students. Our school continues to grow with additional children starting all the time which is a wonderful compliment and testimony to the team here.

The pupils are engaging well with the school and continue to make us proud each day. It has been great to see them doing well in lessons and in extracurricular activities. This term will continue to challenge students to achieve their best and explore their talents within the curriculum here at Serenity School.
With this in mind, we are pleased to give you an up-to-date report of your child's current progress. Please find enclosed, along with their attendance certificate and our termly newsletter. Your child's attainment report reflects the grade or level they received for assessments and work completed so far.

Understanding the information provided is our end of term report is key to supporting your child through this part of their academic journey. If a pupil has received a green code, then they are producing work consistently at or above their minimum expected grade. If they have an amber code pupils are producing work consistently in line, just below their minimum expected grade. This will give an indication of where pupils need to focus their attention for progress to be made. If they have received a Red, then pupils are not achieving what they are capable of.

Looking Ahead: We are excited about the upcoming term and the opportunities it will bring. Our focus will remain on providing a high-quality education and supporting the well-being of all our pupils.
We are all looking forward to the festive break and our whole staff team would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year. Enjoy the festive break, and we look forward to welcoming the pupils back in January.

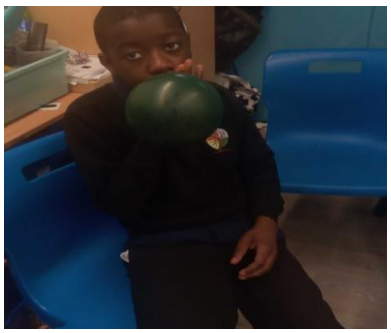
Finally, as ever, I would like to thank you, parents and carers, for your continued support.
Kind Regards and warm wishes
Claire Pettman & Monty
Headteacher & Therapy Dog

Lower school

Holyrood class has visited the donkeys to recognise what animals need from their environment and how we care for living things to keep them alive and well.

In science, Thatched House were learning how to recycle materials to make different sounds. They made drums, shakers, string instruments and clips. Then they played in a band. They have noticed the volume difference when we put more beans and less beans in the bottles. They also can notice the difference in the sounds when rubber bands were stretched and loosened.

The children in Nottingham class enjoyed exploring our sensory story, which was 'The Monkey Puzzle'. The children demonstrated great teamwork as they confidently blew up balloons to create a tree. As a class we also focused on the adventure that the monkey goes on to find his mummy and along the way he meets new friends. The children enjoyed using different animal masks to represent each individual animal the monkey meets.

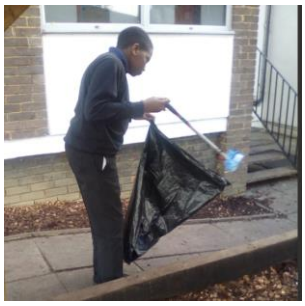


Kensington Class took part in boxing lessons. The children really enjoyed their sparing activities and their warmup and cool down tasks.

Students in Leeds castle had fun engaging in farm activities, interacting with animals, and learning about life on the farm.

In Craigowan class we have been learning different shapes and recognising the different animals that live in our country

Upper school



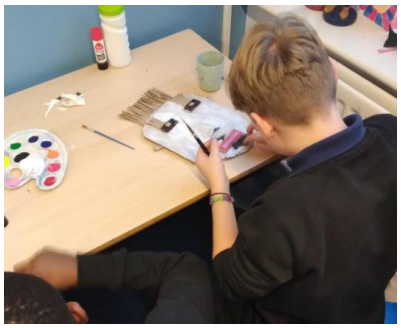
In St James class the students have been working on their PSD project - The environment. The students discussed environmental issues in the school such as paper waste and lights not being turned off. They then researched how we can raise awareness about these issues and inform students and staff. To do this they created posters and placed them in the dining hall where everyone would be able to see. To tackle the issue of paper waste the students in the class created DIY paper recycling bins using discarded paper boxes and scrap paper and then placed them in different classrooms so students can see how much paper is wasted and be more conservative. Students also went around school after lunch to pick up litter.

This term, students from Gatcombe class participated in a variety of engaging activities. They visited the maritime museum, where they explored exhibits and learned about history and culture. They also took part in a baking project for Macmillan Coffee Morning, helping their charity. Additionally, students practiced using a compass, enhancing their navigation skills and their understanding of direction. We enjoyed reading The Garbage King by Elizabeth Laird, acting out scenes from the book and analysed the characters. These activities combined fun learning experiences with valuable life skills.

In Art class this term, we made textile sculptures inspired by the work of the artist Takashi Murakami. We created our own character from a 2D drawing that we turned in a 3D shape .

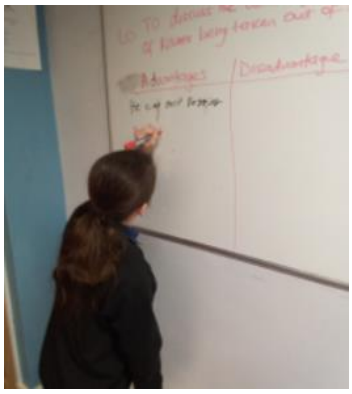
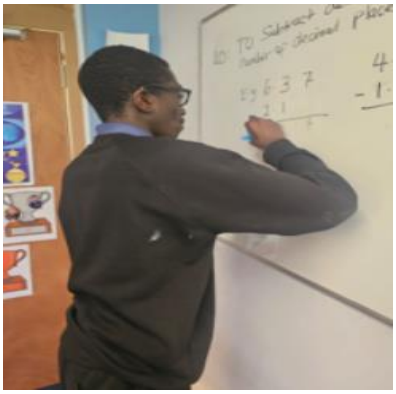
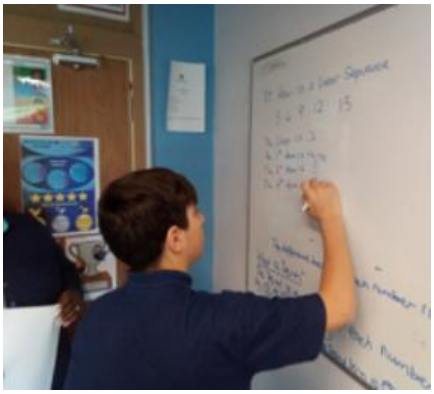
We learn hand stitching and also how to use a sewing machine and we started to work collaboratively and sharing ideas.

Some of us started the Masks project, linked to the book CAN YOU SEE ME that we are currently reading.



Birkhall class and ST. James went on a trip to visit the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich where they learned about the exhibits and learned about the appalling conditions the slaves suffered during their time on the boats.

Tamarisk have been working with the book the Garbage King and have been writing the advantages and disadvantages of being in hospital which relates to one of the characters in the book. In maths we have been learning how to subtract numbers with decimals and working on our linear numbers.

The students at Capel manor college have been lucky enough to work with the following; Rabbits, Goats, lizards, Frogs, Guinea pigs, and chickens. They have been feeding, watering, cleaning their cages, holding and cuddling the animals.

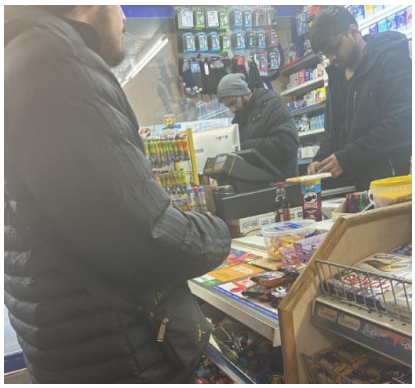
Serenity Eltham enjoyed cooking this great British classic Shepherd's Pie, we then stepped up our cooking skills with healthy chicken, pineapple, pepper and zucchini skewers. We decided to go on to make our version of a Chinese takeaway "Sweet & Sour chicken balls with special fried rice. This was an absolute winner!

Students in Sixth form have worked hard toward their qualification and they have taken part in work experience within the primary classes and have supported once a week the site manager in the school.

Some of the activities we have implemented in Sixth Form include gym sessions on Friday and life skills sessions.

Gym sessions were carried out by the PE teacher on Friday period 4 and period 5. The session was an opportunity to visit our local community in Eltham and allow students to exercise in a public place. The session also included walking to the gym, crossing the road and being aware of their surroundings.

The life skills sessions have been implemented by visiting shops and facilities in Eltham High Street. The sessions aim to give them some independent skills, including getting on the bus and using an oyster card, being able to shop and pay, using money or a card, making enquires on how to open a bank account, go to the local Sainsbury shop and buy ingredients to make a simple meal like a sandwich.



We have had many workshops and activities this term one of which was Hormones for Teens girls. This was very informative and engaging for them. We had great feedback from Adele the trainer who worked with the girls.

‘It took me back to my youth justice days where I specialised in working with complex young females, before I knew I had ADHD…Having spent time with these awesome humans today. They came as they were -no masks or people pleasing. Complete openness. No filter. Curiosity. Desire to learn more. Passion. Truth. Honesty. Humour. Wow, I am in awe of how absolutely brilliant they were & a total pleasure to spend time with.

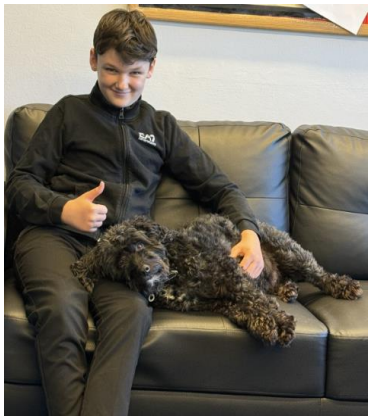
Thank you so much for trusting me with this group of magical young women.’

Adele has asked to return in the Spring Term to complete some more work with the pupils/.

We also took part in a Serenity football match across the schools with Crawley turning up with their team of budding footballers. We had a great match with lots of team spirit and cheering for the young men.

Serenity school have taken part in the Macmillan coffee morning raising funds for their charity. We have worn a Christmas jumper for Save the Children and at the end of Black History month, we celebrated by enjoying some international dishes by both students and adults.

Monty, our school dog, has been having lots of fun with us, he is there when we need a break and just want to chill. He is happy for us to take him for walks, he has encouraged us to do the daily mile, and he even got involved in our Christmas jumper day!



Wishing you a restful break and looking forward to the pupils returning on the 07.01.2025.

Happy New Year