

UNICORN SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER
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www.unicornschooll.org.uk

No 920

WEEK COMMENCING: MONDAY 3 FEBRUARY

SPRING TERM 2025

'Unicorn children are courageous, reflective and, above all, kind'

MONDAY 8.45am Whole School Assembly – parents are welcome to attend
2.00pm Violet and UV hockey match v Prospect House (a) Goals New Malden, 7
Beverley Way, London SW20 0UJ

TUESDAY 3.45pm Thomas Franks and parent volunteers for charity cook – in the school hall

WEDNESDAY 8.45am Junior Celebration Assembly – parents of those children being celebrated
have been emailed and are welcome to attend
3.30pm New Red Class Stay and Play in Red Class

FRIDAY 8.45am Infant Celebration Assembly – parents of those children being celebrated
have been emailed and are welcome to attend

To book wraparound care, please click: [Richmond Rugby Club \(WAC\) Booking](#)

Breakfast club: **Run by school and NO need to book in advance**

To report a child absent, please click: absences@unicornschooll.org.uk



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:
Frances (B) and Bebol (B)



Red Class September 2026 - Cindy will shortly be making offers for **Red Class 2026**.

If you have a child born between **1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023** and you would like them to join Red Class in September 2026 but have not yet registered them for a place, please follow this [link](#).

If you have any questions, please let her know.

2 or 3 Parent volunteers needed for charity cook at school
Tuesday 4 February at 3.45 – 4.45pm

We are doing another event with 'Feeding Communities', the charity that our caterers, Thomas Franks, support: <https://www.feedingcommunities.co.uk/>

Essentially, the idea is that the charity gathers together food that would normally be sent into landfill, despite being perfectly edible, and remakes it into hot dishes for vulnerable people in the community. Last year staff and parents managed to assemble over 300 apple and berry crumbles in about an hour!

If you have a little bit of time between 3:45 and 4:45 on Tuesday 3rd February it would be lovely to see you - about 15 adults would be ideal. Children are welcome to watch what we are doing, but due to the nature of making food for others only the older children can actually help I'm afraid. We are happy to supervise children in the playground. Please let Mrs Jones know if you are able to support lisa.jones@unicornschooll.org.uk

Happy New Year of the Snake! Gong hei fat choy - 恭喜發財

Yellow Class have enjoyed learning about Chinese New Year. They loved learning about the twelve animals and especially finding out which year they were born in. Candice gave them all a blessing at the start of the day and they were so excited to have Mrs Lo visit the class (all dressed in red finery) to tell them more and to show them some fabulous items, while reading from a magnificent pop-up book. She was readily helped by her wonderful assistant, Candice.

At the end they were all given a good luck message and an envelope with coins inside. They also learnt how to accept the gift and practised saying "Gong hey! Gong hey!" (恭喜! 恭喜!) with the special hand gesture which is best used for greeting someone we see during the Lunar New Year.



Some Red Class children had fun in Mrs Fraley's office on Tuesday!



We have had a very special week in Red Class As part of our *All Around the World* topic we have welcomed guests from Hong Kong and Nigeria! Leo A's mummy, Leo C's mummy and daddy and Candice and Caitlin's mummy came in to teach us about Lunar New Year. We made dragons and lanterns and mixed up a very special salad together as we all shouted 'Happy New Year!'.

On Wednesday, Abiola and Eniola's mummy joined us to talk about Nigeria and make seriously delicious jollof rice. We learnt that, in Nigeria, there is no Forest School because there are cheetahs in the forests! And when you go into a Nigerian school, you can *always* hear children singing.

Do go and have a look at our Instagram page @unicornkewnursery to see even more photos of our wonderful week!



Indigo Science - How much carbon dioxide is in fizzy drinks?

Did you know that fizzy drinks have been in existence since the late 18th century, when Dr Joseph Priestley discovered a means of artificially carbonating water.

Indigo enjoyed comparing the amount of carbon dioxide in fizzy drinks. They weighed them, shook them for a minute to make them flat and re-weighed them. Indigo had varying results but generally, coca cola had the most carbon dioxide as it contained the most sugar. We also enjoyed seeing the carbon dioxide visually with balloons!



Orange Class' Chinese New Year

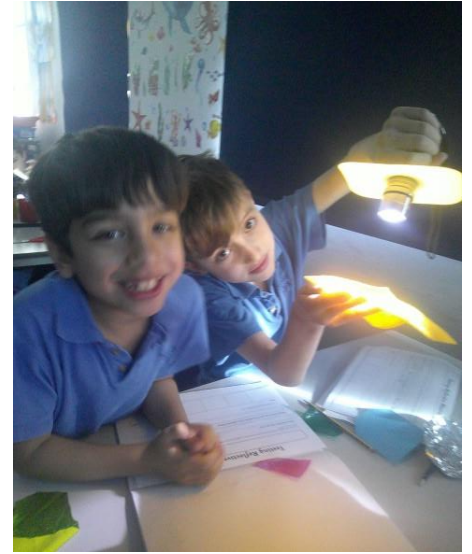
In Orange Class this week we enjoyed learning about Chinese New Year very much. Flo, Ted, and Nora skilfully showed us how to use chopsticks, so we'd be ready for a delicious Chinese feast cooked by Chef Sergio.

We learnt that children are given new clothes to start the new year, and Nora showed us her beautiful new coat. We created some intricate and beautiful lanterns as well as snakes and we watched some spectacular dragon dancing and then had our own dance afternoon accompanied by a rather loud 'orchestra'!

We've had such fun and as CNY goes on for 15 days, we're set to have much more 🥳

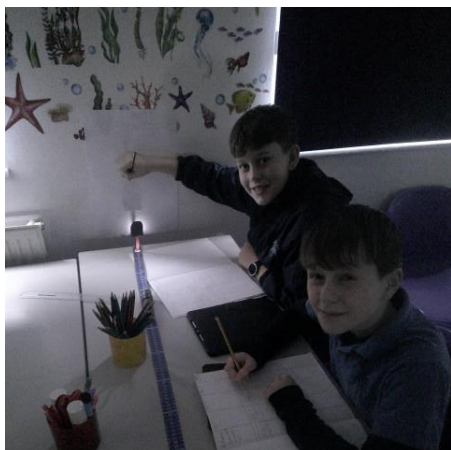


Blue Class Science Blue Class enjoyed investigating a variety of materials using a reflection tester made from a torch and white card. They found that the most reflective materials were shiny, smooth and bright. Blue then designed their own reflective bag so that drivers could see the book bag easily when their car headlights shine on it. We also talked about Percy Shaw and his invention of cat's eyes.



UV Science - Shadows UV enjoyed investigating how to make the biggest shadow possible from their puppets. They kept the torch 30cm away from the shadow puppet to make it fair and only changed the distance from the screen in 5cm intervals up to 25cm. UV concluded that as the puppet was moved further from the screen, the shadow got bigger – well done!

They also performed a short scene involving the scientists Newton and Hooke. Isaac Newton made many important discoveries about light. However, one of his contemporaries, Robert Hooke, did not agree with his ideas so they became enemies and rivals.





NEWS FROM 'THE POT OF GOLD'



Having recently stepped back from my role as SENCo at Unicorn School, I'm now able to focus on my position as a specialist learning support teacher. I'm keen to combine my previous experience with my Level 7 teacher assessor skills in order to understand each child's unique learning profile and deliver personalised, impactful lessons that address their individual needs.

My interest in working with children who benefit from a different approach to their learning grew from my early career as a teacher of English as a foreign language and teacher trainer, where I developed a strong foundation in phonetics and appreciation for the richness and playful unpredictability of the English language! The dynamic and communicative methodology I used then laid the foundations for the multisensory approach I use now when supporting children with learning differences.

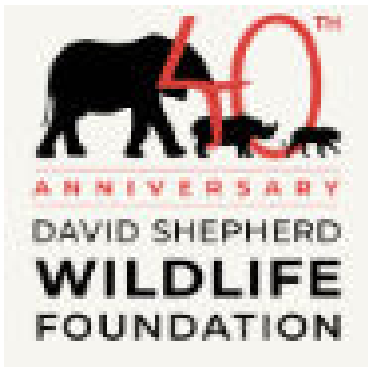
My time as a producer at the BBC World Service, where I created programmes for learners of English, taught me how to communicate key elements of a broadcast in an entertaining and informative way. This skill is directly applicable when working with children with reading and processing difficulties. Today I draw on this diverse range of experiences to help children at Unicorn who require extra support with their learning which takes place in the welcoming environment known as the 'Pot of Gold'.

As SENCo, I cherished the collaborative relationships I built over the years with staff and parents and I am eager to continue this partnership by submitting bi-weekly contributions in this newsletter. These will offer techniques, tips and strategies aimed at ensuring that your child continues to approach their challenges in fun and imaginative ways, both in school and at home.

JENNIFER RENNA

Padel Tennis - Thursday afternoon club





Calling all Budding Wildlife Artists!

The Conservation Charity, The David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation, runs an annual art competition, so please do consider entering.

The Global Canvas children's art competition is an international art contest run by DSWF, to encourage creativity from young people, to display thought and concern for our planet's environment and the incredible wildlife that inhabits it.

The theme for 2025 is: *"Coexistence – how can humans and wildlife live in harmony?"*

Competition winners will receive a cash prize or vouchers for art supplies, digital animal adoptions, and certificates.

For more information: <https://davidsshepherd.org/wildlife-art/competitions/global-canvas/global-canvas-2025/>

Details about the theme: <https://davidsshepherd.org/wildlife-art/competitions/global-canvas/global-canvas-2025/#competitiontheme>

How to enter Global Canvas?

Create your artwork

Any art techniques can be used to create entries; including painting, sculpture, textiles, collages and we always like to see recycled materials.

All artwork will then be reviewed by our judges and the winners will be announced online at the live Awards Ceremony on 30 April 2025.

Entry details:

If you wish to enter. You can either:

1. **Send yourself:** Fill in the form (see link below) and submit your entry directly to the DWF Foundation

<https://davidsshepherd.org/wildlife-art/competitions/global-canvas/individual-entry/>

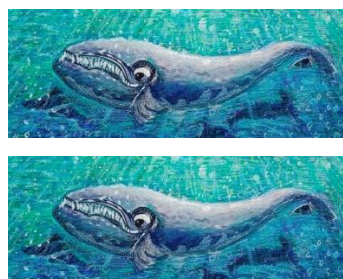
OR

2. **Send your entry to the school to submit for you.** Please fill in the form (see attached file – labelled Submission form) and send up to 3 photos of the image to:

emma.daw@unicornschoool.org.uk

DEADLINE: MONDAY 10th FEBRUARY 2025

Any queries, please email: emma.daw@unicornschoool.org.uk



Unicorn Sport week beginning 3 February

For Directions to Sporting Venues

[Directions to Barnes Hockey Pitch, Dan Mason Drive, Chiswick, W4 2SH](#)

[Directions to Old Deer Park \(London Welsh\), TW9 2HN](#)

Date	Sports information	Parents information
Mon 3 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Violet and UV MATCHES v PROSPECT HOUSE (hockey) 14:00 – 15:00 <p>Match address: Goals New Malden, 7 Beverley Way, London SW20 0UJ</p> <p>Spectators are most welcome.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Violet and UV to WEAR KIT TO SCHOOL: trainers, long navy socks, navy shorts/skorts, navy polo top, FULL Unicorn tracksuit, SHIN PADS, water bottle. CHILDREN MUST HAVE SHIN PADS and MOUTH GUARD. <p>Violet and UV parents to collect their child from school at 15:35 or from Goals New Malden at 14:50.</p>
Tues 4 February	<p>Swim Squad (selected pupils) 15:45 – 16:30</p> <p>Swimming lessons for RED CLASS 14:00 – 15:00</p>	Swim Squad parents to collect their child from Pools on the Park at 16:30 (in changing rooms)
Wed 5 February	Swimming lessons for BLUE CLASS 14:00 – 15:00	
Thurs 6 February	<p>SQUAD for Blue – UV Old Deer Park (London Welsh) 15:30 – 16:15</p> <p>Swimming lessons for YELLOW CLASS 14:00 – 15:00</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SQUAD - Parents to collect their child at 16:15 from Old Deer Park or back at school at 16:30
Fri 7 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swimming lesson for VIOLET - Parents to drop children to the pool for 08:45 Green, Blue and Indigo Games lesson 13:30 – 14:50 <p>Games address: Barnes Hockey Pitch, Dan Mason Dr, Chiswick, London W4 2SH</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green, Blue and Indigo to WEAR KIT TO SCHOOL: trainers, long navy socks, navy shorts/skorts, navy polo top, FULL Unicorn tracksuit, SHIN PADS, and water bottle. CHILDREN MUST HAVE SHIN PADS and MOUTH GUARDS. Green, Blue and Indigo parents to collect children from school as normal at 15:35 or from Barnes Hockey Pitch at 14:50.

Lunch Menu

Week commencing 3 February

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Morning Break	Mixed Fruit Bread (G, E)	Cheese and crackers (G, D)	Cucumber and avocado Sushi (G, E, SE)	Fruit Flapjack (G)	Cheese sandwich (G, D, S)
Mains	Chili Con Carne with Tortilla chips	Pork sausages with Mashed potato (G, SP)	WORLD FOOD DAY - Japan Chicken goujons (D, G) Katsu Tofu (G, S) Sticky rice Katsu sauce Edamame beans Chili, red onion and green Bean salsa	Fish Taco in soft tortilla Wrap (F, G)	Beef Bolognese
Vegetarian Option	Three bean chili with Tortilla chips	Vegan sausages with Mashed potato		Roasted vegetable frittata (G)	Mac n Cheese (D, G)
Sides	Steamed rice, Guacamole Sweetcorn salsa Soured cream + Salad bar	Garden peas, carrots Baked beans Onion gravy + Salad bar	+ Salad bar	Garden peas, baked beans Cauliflower cheese (G, D) Oven baked chips + Salad bar	Spaghetti (D) Sweetcorn, curly kale Parmesan cheese (D) + Salad bar
Dessert	Chocolate & raspberry Mousse (D) + fresh fruit	Orange & strawberry Jelly + fresh fruit	Mini fruit salad + fresh fruit	Mixed berries sponge cake (G, E) + fresh fruit	Plain yoghurt with Mixed berry compote (D) + fresh fruit

Contains:

G = Gluten

D = Dairy

E = Egg

F = Fish

SE = Sesame

M = Mustard

S = Soya

SF = Seafood

SP = Sulphite