



New River College



Autumn Term One - 2026



PRIMARY

Welcome back to all of our families and students this year so far. We have had a great start to Autumn one, with primary students continuing on with learning as part of our rolling curriculum. We have also been able to add a weekly Art lesson to each class' timetable each week, which has been a creative and positive addition to the pupils' timetables.

As part of our weekly class assemblies, students learnt about Harvest Festival. A couple of students walked down to St Andrew's Church in Thornhill Square to donate some store-cupboard staples as part of the local community's efforts to help those in need.



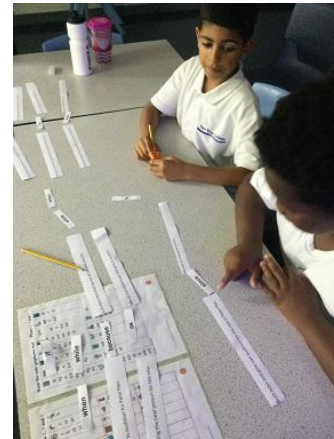
Willow Class:

Autumn term has been busy in Willow class! The children have worked incredibly hard and should be very proud of all they have achieved. They have enjoyed lots of exciting trips this term, including swimming, Hackney farm and The Science Museum. Here are some highlights from our learning across the curriculum:



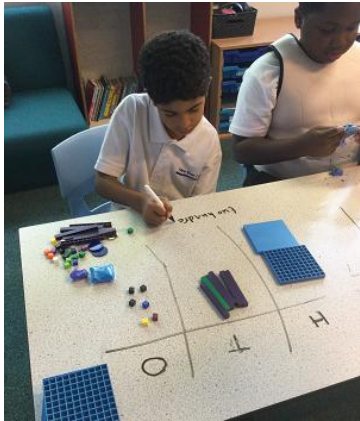
English

This term, we have been inspired by 'Amazing Grace'. The children have explored the story in depth and used it as a springboard for their own writing. They have written some fantastic, persuasive letters. We were particularly impressed with their use of fronted adverbials and subordinating conjunctions.



Math's

In math, we have focused on place value. The children have really enjoyed using all of the manipulatives. More recently, we have begun calculation. The children are working hard to master their timetables to support learning across all areas of maths.



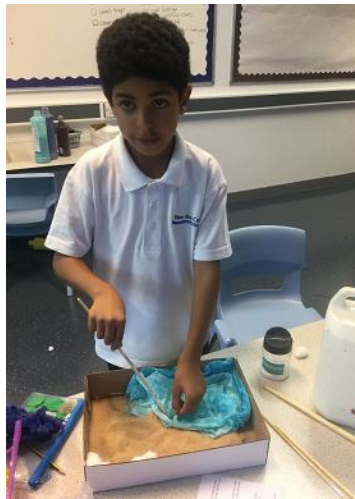
Science

This term in Science, we have been learning about animals including humans. The children have teeth, the digestive system, and food chains. The children have been working hard on their ability to work as a scientist and have been planning their own experiments, making predictions and recording their findings.



Topic

In Topic, we have been learning all about Coasts. The children have enjoyed learning about the economy of coastal towns and how the coast can change over time because of erosion . The children got very creative and have been making their own dream coastal city.



Thank you for all of your support this term. Have a restful October break.

Guava Class:

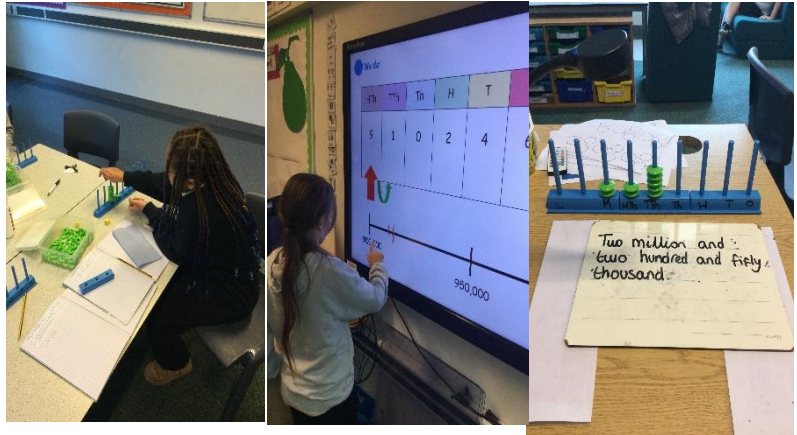
Guava class have settled in well to their new class and new routines. We've had a lot of fun getting to know one another and have achieved lots of excellent learning over the past term.

In Science, we dissected a real flower to find its parts, using magnifying glasses to look closely at it. We investigated asexual and sexual plants, dissecting a flower to see the male and female sex cells. We also took cuttings from a Cheese Plant to see how asexual plants reproduce. We have been monitoring our plant each week. So far, the plant has started to grow its own roots. Next term, we will plant it in some soil and keep it as a class plant!



In topic, we have been learning about Magnificent Mountains. We built 3D mountain models and labelled the summit, slope and base. We had a lot of fun designing outfits for a hiker climbing a mountain, thinking about layers needed for each height.

In maths, our place value learning was hands-on, with concrete resources and place value charts for partitioning big numbers. We developed our independence and set challenges to help students extend their learning. We particularly enjoyed looking at house prices when exploring numbers to and beyond one million. We were able to compare different properties by price and recognize the value of each digit. I hope Guava class feel proud of the progress they made in maths this term, their positive attitude towards practical maths lessons has really helped them make progress.



In English, our model text was *The Secret of Black Rock*. We explored a range of language features, such as: parenthesis, expanded noun phrases and similes. The class were able to act out the story map, and used freeze-frames and hot-seating to answer questions as the main character. We innovated the story with our own new creature or setting, some of our ideas were really creative! Finally, we planned and wrote a brand-new return narrative of our own, your child will send a copy of this home with them at the end of the term. Alongside this, we have been reading *The Boy at the Back of the Class* for pleasure.

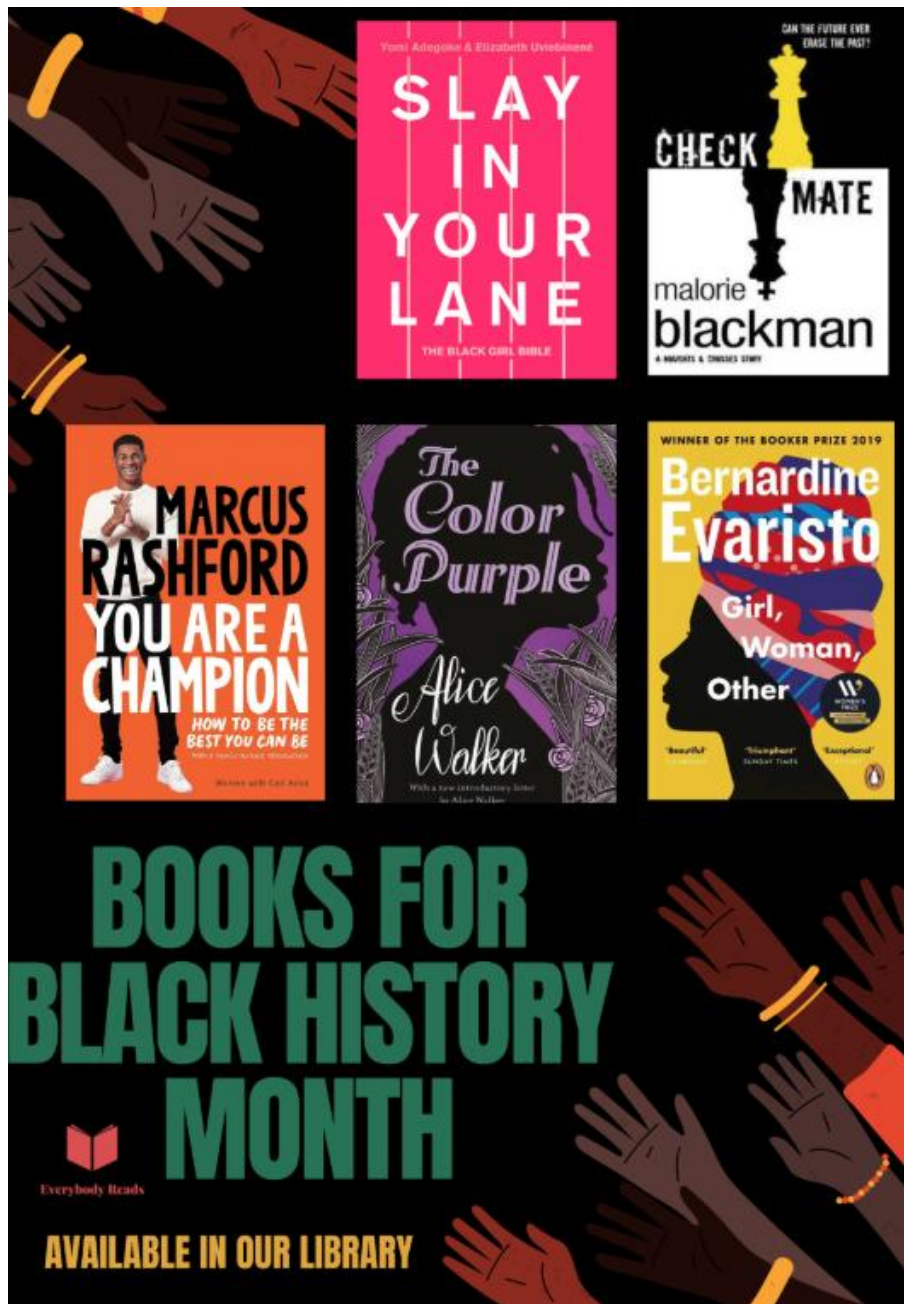


Primary Art students have been developing their observational drawing skills through studying sea creatures and well-known characters. They have used their imagination to create monsters inspired by googly eyes hidden around the classroom, encouraging creative thinking and storytelling. Students have also explored character design by combining features from different characters to invent their own unique creations through drawing and collage, building confidence in both their artistic skills and imaginative ideas.



MEDICAL

Reading for pleasure at Medical



Our Reading for Pleasure programme is ongoing, with students receiving their first books of the academic year. Students who shared their preferences with their form tutors have received books of their choice, while books are being selected for those who have yet to choose. It's been great to see students around the school enjoying their books and engaging with reading.

Black History Month

Students have attended two trips to celebrate and develop their understanding of why it is important to raise awareness of Black History Month. Year 10s and 11s went to Somerset House to see the Contemporary African Art exhibition. Students had the opportunity to see the work of over 100 established and emerging artists from Africa and its diaspora in a variety of media from painting, photography, sculpture, mixed media, textile and ceramics.



Students also enjoyed a river boat trip to Greenwich, where they attended a workshop at the Maritime Museum. Here they all learnt about the Windrush migration, trade routes and food culture. They also visited the Atlantic worlds gallery.





Green Futures Trip



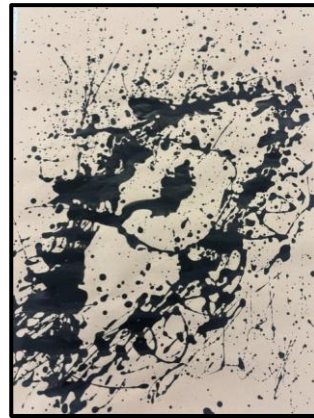
Students have attended a Green Futures Careers Fair. The day was split into 3 areas, where the students were able to learn from and ask questions about career opportunities and pathways. The three sections to the day were;

1. **Career Fair:** Students could ask questions, gather resources, and learn about work experiences, internships, apprenticeships, and training programmes.
2. **Industry Talks:** Students attended inspiring talks by industry professionals – from climate scientists and ecologists to entrepreneurs and green tech innovators – who will share their journeys, insights, and the impact of their work on the planet.

3. **Interactive Workshops:** Students were able to get hands-on experience of sustainable jobs. Previous years have included workshops about estimating energy production at solar & wind farms; calculating embodied carbon; and using stickers and lego to build a sustainable city.

Art at Medical

This half term, **Year 10 GCSE Art** students have started their Identity coursework project. They have explored the theme through mind mapping and creating visual mood boards, before collecting images linked to their own interests and experiences. Students have begun experimenting with a range of techniques and processes to transform these images into creative and personal pieces of artwork.



Year 11 GCSE Art students have continued developing their coursework projects, creating original artwork based on their individual themes and refining their ideas through experimentation with a range of techniques. As part of this, all students explored **drip painting** to develop their skills and investigate new ways of working.

Medical KS3 Art students have been exploring experimentation and creativity in art. They began the term by contributing to a collaborative artwork, using drawing prompts and their imagination to create a large, shared piece. Students have also experimented with a range of unusual drawing techniques, including timed sketches, blind drawing, drawing with their non-dominant hand, and using pencils attached to long sticks. These activities have encouraged students to take creative risks and helped them understand that successful artwork does not always need to be realistic or represent a recognisable subject.



Hair and Beauty

This term in Hair and Beauty, we have started looking at health, hygiene and safety and why these are important when working in a salon. Students have also learnt about the different roles within a hair salon and what each role involves. We have started doing some role-play activities around customer interactions, where students are practising how to welcome customers, communicate professionally and respond to different situations. They have also had some hairstyling practice on mannequins. Students have started to have a greater understanding of the course as a whole and are beginning to build their confidence.

Construction



In Construction, students have been working on a range of practical skills as part of their GCSE course. They have made and painted their own toolboxes, giving them the opportunity to practise measuring, cutting and putting everything together. Students have also been learning about and making different types of joints, as well as learning how to connect wires to make their own plug extension. This term has started off with introducing various types of practical work, and students have been developing their skills and confidence along the way.

The Food Room

This half-term in Food Skills, KS3 have prepared different dishes using their learnt skills. We have made a variety cuisines from around the world including, Stir Fry from China, Fajitas from Mexico, British Apple Crumble and Jamaican Jerk Chicken.



Bikes



Our students are working towards City & Guilds Level 1 in Cycle Mechanics. This term they were learning how to change and fix tyres, fix the breaks and to name parts of the bicycles. Our students showed enthusiasm to learn and also enjoyed bike riding.





Community and Culture – Key Stage 3

During Friday's Community and Culture sessions, Key Stage 3 students have been learning how to construct papier-mâché sculptures. Working alongside a professional artist, students have been developing their own techniques and putting their new skills into practice by creating a papier-mâché throne. The project is progressing well, and the throne is really starting to take shape!



Staffing News and Dates for your Diary

This year we have welcomed Lydia on to the staff. Lydia will be teaching Art at Medical , whilst Becky is on Maternity Leave.

Autumn Term

Half Term Monday 26th October- Friday 30th October

Last Day of Term Friday 18th December 1pm.

Christmas Break – Monday 21st December – Tuesday 5th January

Spring Term

Structured Conversation Tuesday 5th January

First Day of Spring Term Wednesday 6th January

SECONDARY

Go Ape Team Building Trip



We kicked off the new school year with a trip to **Go Ape at Alexandra Palace**. Students showed great courage and determination as they tackled the high ropes and zip lines, with many pushing themselves well outside their comfort zones.

It was fantastic to see students supporting and encouraging one another throughout the day. The trip was a brilliant way to build confidence, strengthen relationships and start the term as a team.

Guest speaker: Matt Brown - *She is not your rehab*

We were privileged to welcome **Matt Brown**, author of the bestselling book *She Is Not Your Rehab*, to New

River College. Matt delivered a powerful and thought-provoking session that challenged students to think about relationships, personal responsibility and emotional wellbeing.



programme.

Students engaged exceptionally maturely with what was a sensitive and challenging topic. Following the visit, many have continued their learning through a series of four follow-up workshops, where they have continued to participate respectfully, ask thoughtful questions and reflect on the themes discussed. We are incredibly proud of the maturity and openness our students have shown throughout the

Careers trip to Green Futures Career Fair

As part of our ongoing careers programme, a group of Year 11 students attended the **Green Futures Careers Fair** in Victoria. Students had the opportunity to meet employers, explore a range of careers linked to sustainability and the environment, and take part in workshops and talks delivered by industry professionals.

The visit helped students gain a better understanding of the opportunities available to them after school and encouraged them to think about their future ambitions. Students represented New River College brilliantly and engaged positively throughout the day.

Celebrating Black History Month

We have enjoyed marking **Black History Month** through a range of exciting activities. In Food Technology, students have been busy preparing and tasting dishes that celebrate Black heritage, including jollof rice, jerk chicken with plantain and ginger cake.

Students also visited the **V&A Museum** to explore *The Music Is Black* exhibition, which celebrates 125 years of Black British music. The trip gave students a fantastic opportunity to discover the artists, sounds and stories that have shaped British culture, while sparking lots of discussion and reflection back at school.

It has been wonderful to see students engaging so positively with Black History Month and celebrating the rich contributions of Black communities both past and present.

KS3 Art students also began the year by creating a large collaborative artwork, working together to produce a shared piece. Their main topic this term has been **Explore and Play**, encouraging creativity and experimentation through a range of fun drawing activities.

Students have explored character design by describing characters to one another and drawing them based solely on verbal descriptions, leading to some imaginative and often humorous results. They have also learned about the artist **David Shrigley** and created artwork inspired by his distinctive style, developing their understanding of contemporary art and creative expression.



Requesting Time Off for your child

Should your child require time off school for any reason.

Please contact victoria.lizarazo@nrc.islington.sch.uk, and make a request in writing.

You will then be expected to attend a meeting with the Headteacher, Nigel Smith. He will discuss the request with you and explain how the school will mark the absence whilst you are away.

Please note

Any unapproved absence will be marked as unauthorised and is subject to a possible fine in line with the Islington absence policy.

Holiday information and activities from Islington and the NRC Family Support Team

Please see the posters below for free clubs and activities for your child. Book your free place using the QR code on each poster,

October Half Term 2026



the ACCESS to SPORTS project

26 October - 30 October

OCTOBER HALF-TERM

AGES 5-16 | FREE OF CHARGE

The Access to Sports Project are offering a range of Sports Activities for young people aged 5 - 16

 **SCAN ME TO REGISTER**

BOOK ONLINE
WWW.ACCESSSTOSPORTS.ORG.UK
INFO@ACCESSSTOSPORTS.ORG.UK



All-Play Football Competition



the ACCESS to SPORTS project

ALL-PLAY

7 A SIDE FOOTBALL COMPETITION

North Millfields Park, Casimir Road, E5 9NX

BRING YOUR TEAM!

WEDNESDAY 28TH OCTOBER
REGISTRATION
11AM - SCHOOL YEARS 9-10

THURSDAY 29TH OCTOBER
REGISTRATION
11AM - SCHOOL YEARS 5-6 & 7-8

 **SCAN ME TO REGISTER**

EMAIL US:
INFO@ACCESSSTOSPORTS.ORG.UK
REGISTER ONLINE:
WWW.ACCESSSTOSPORTS.ORG.UK



NFL Flag Football



FREE

the ACCESS to SPORTS project

NFL FLAG FOOTBALL

FINSBURY PARK ATHLETICS TRACK

26 - 29 OCTOBER 2026

10.30AM-12.30PM | AGES 8-11

1PM-3PM | AGES 12-16

EMAIL US:
INFO@ACCESSSTOSPORTS.ORG.UK
REGISTER ONLINE:
WWW.ACCESSSTOSPORTS.ORG.UK



