



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

9TH OCTOBER 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

We have had a busy week at Kingfisher. We have been recruiting and have successfully appointed a number of new TAs to support us in the classrooms. We did have a few resignations over the summer holidays and there are some other members of staff who will be leaving at half term. Some have retired, moved onto other roles within childcare where there are more hours on offer, and one is relocating to Devon. We have had the usual discussion about Jam or Cream first.....

I have been alerted to a letter that has been sent to parents of children who use OCC transport setting out the expectations of using face coverings on transport to and from school. There are concerns across the county that pupils who use transport across the county are wearing face coverings to get on transport, when parents and school staff are around and then removing them as soon as they are out of sight. Therefor OCC transport did spot checks which highlighted the issue further. Some of our older pupils do wear face coverings, however, this is not a requirement for our pupils. I hope this alleviates some of the stress caused by this letter.

A small group of pupils from Purple and Gold Classes have planned an 'alternative' Macmillan Coffee Morning. They are holding a cake raffle on Friday 16th October. Tickets are 50p each and the winners will take home a box of cupcakes, that have been made under strict hygiene rules.

Jill, an ex-member of staff, completed the Virtual London Marathon on Sunday. She now works at Helen House and continues to support some of our pupils there. She raised money for Helen House and Breast Cancer Charities. Well done Jill.

Dates for your diary

Friday 9th October

Friday 23rd October

Monday 2nd November

Virtual Macmillan Coffee Morning – see flyer at the back

Last Day of Term

First day of term

Have a great weekend

Lorraine

Our Kingfisher View

Kingfisher-a place where everyone is valued to develop independence through an enriching curriculum which is worthwhile



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News from Spring Cluster

Green Class

We have had a calm week in green class, and everyone has worked hard as always. It has been lovely to talk to parents and carers this week for parents evening to discuss ILP targets.

Our story this half term is 'Super Duper You', this book is about how amazing we all are. We have been exploring what loud and quiet noises we can make; everyone made some great loud noises banging on drums and tin trays. We also listened to some quiet noises from the wind-up music box, we finished our story by looking in the mirror at ourselves and our fantastic smiles.

Some of Green class have been working with our music therapist Lizz. One of our favourite instruments was the piano, it is lots of fun experimenting with the different keys and what noises they make. Our other favourite instrument was the tambourine, using intensive interaction we made some great patterns tapping, banging and shaking.



Alicia, Kim, Amanda, Jackie, Julia, Maria and Clare



News from Spring Cluster

Yellow Class

This week Yellow class have continued learning about Autumn and how we see it from our own point of view. We have done some amazing activities, but everyone especially enjoyed creating their own Autumn trees. We collected some natural objects and some art resources to create an amazing piece of art using our different senses, mixing an art and a Sensology lesson together. Getting their hands dirty with paint and other natural resources was great fun and a brilliant experience for some of them.



This term we are also going on a bear hunt, we have been exploring the famous book and we are creating a sensory-adapted story to it. Everybody has really enjoyed our new sensory story and they all have their favourite parts which we have taken into account in order to create our own bear hunt (grass, snow, wind, mud, water...). They have also really enjoyed some relaxing book times and this week we would like to make a big mention to Francesca and Roman for their attention to book time, particularly their skills to turn pages and to sign through the book.



Another highlight has also been learning more about our big topic "ourselves" and learning about the likes and dislikes of taking care of ourselves. As seen on the photos we have also been role modelling how to take care of others. It has definitely been a busy week for Yellow Class.



News from Spring Cluster

Finally, we would like to share that this week we have also taken a wonderful picture of the entire classroom and Yellow Class we will like to share it with all of you so you can see our amazing team!

Have a wonderful weekend,

Gal, Sally, Kerry Ann, Emma and Carrie



News from Summer Cluster

Pink Class

It has been another busy week in Pink Class. Our lovely students enjoyed a super Sensory Cooking session. As the sieved flour fell on to their hands, the students looked with excellent concentration at the falling flour. Toby liked listening to the sound of the carrot being grated and Ryan was able to hold the carrot, which he then grated independently. Louisa loved the sensation of the oats and raisins being poured on to her hands. It was certainly a fun learning session for all of the students.





News from Summer Cluster

Katie and Yujan have been starting to help to prepare food by making some toast. We used their communication boards to assist them with this task. Yujan was excited when the toast popped up from the toaster. Both Katie and Yujan were happy to choose what to spread on their toast (with the choices being butter or jam.) It is so pleasing to see Katie and Yujan helping to prepare snack foods.



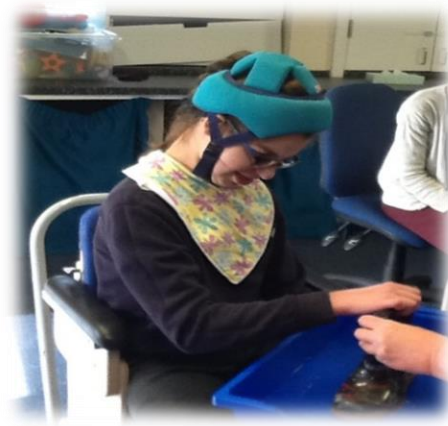
A weekly highlight for Pink Class is our Music/Dance session that takes place with Gina. Chloe responded very well when she was shown her object of reference for Music. Yujan was really engaged in the dance session and showed great focus. Toby listened intently to the music and was able to tap the tambourine to the beat of the music that he was listening to without missing a beat.





News from Summer Cluster

The students have been really enjoying our Sensory Story, which is called “Ben visits the Park.” Sienna loves when Ben splashes in the puddles- it always makes her giggle. Ryan enjoys taking the welly and splashing it in the water. Chloe loves reaching for the bubbles, and with support, Yujan has been using his index finger to pop some bubbles.



We hope that you all have a great weekend.

Siobhan, Tor, Maria, Liza, Sue, Norah, Daniel and Clare



News from Summer Cluster

Blue Class

Happy Friday everybody, I hope you've had a positive week.

This week Blue Class pupils have achieved well at school with a broad mix of activities going on!

In literacy we have been listening to and reading 'I like my White Shoes' by Pete the Cat. This has been very well received with pupils particularly enjoying the songs in between some mucky moments! Did Pete the Cat cry when his shoes got dirty?



"Goodness No!" Pupils have used the story to encourage sentence writing and mark making and have participated in retellings promoting communication.



In numeracy we have worked on sequences. We started with active sequences (e.g. clap clap, stamp stamp, clap clap etc.) – which were enjoyed by all – and then moved on to visual sequences with all pupils able to continue 2 colour sequences with varying levels of support and some even generating and continuing their own 4 colour sequences!

P.E. continued with instructors as per usual this week and pupils enjoyed icing biscuits in cooking. Swimming however, was cancelled, so pupils instead got the opportunity to access bikes and scooters from the shed. In 'messy play' we took the opportunity to think about different clothing and build communication to do with describing garments following our work on Pete the Cat.



Phew, what a busy week! Have a fantastic weekend.

From Richard, Sarah, Teresa, Lynette, Ellie and Helen,

~ The Blue Class Team



News from Summer Cluster

Purple Class

This week seems to have shot by, particularly as Monday was an INSET day. We started Tuesday similar to how we would start a normal week, by recapping where we are in the term, which week we are on and anything happening that week. A student's name was then picked from the tub to choose Friday lunch. This week Harry picked his own name and so chose his favourite meal of all time – Macaroni cheese with bacon, garlic bread and salad (apparently Purple Classes Macaroni Cheese is as good as the pubs in Cornwall!).

The Enterprise Group took on a *new* challenge this week to sort and organise the Cooking Room. This is Purple Classes weekly responsibility, so they wanted to make sure they had done a great job. The students helped to empty all the cupboards onto a central table so items could be sorted and put back into the 4 work-station areas and main cupboards. They were able to use the lists and photographs to know what should be where and Sam took photos of new organised baskets of utensils and sorted cupboards – great job guys!

Tuesday afternoon we continued our topic on 'Ourselves' this week focussing on relationships and those relationships most important and close to us.

Harry, Kayah, Chan and Brandon shopped at Tesco for the Friday lunch ingredients whilst the other students focussed on individual targets and group work using the interactive whiteboard. Ben took responsibility for going around school by himself to sell entry sheets for the 'Guess the Baby' competition run by Purple Class. The class then visited Radley Church where we were this week met by Reverend Rob. Students wore their masks and applied the sanitizer as we entered the church. Reverend Rob told us about the food donations being shared out to help people in need. We had a look around the church at all the different objects and students were able to have a go on the organ and go up in the pulpit. Reverend Rob told us about what it was like to be a vicar and was happy to answer all the questions. Ceri particularly had lots! Apparently, the church is over 800 years old!

We had another great time at OXSRAD and this week the spinning bikes had been safely positioned back inside. We do all love a visit to the café!

Harry, Sam, Chan and Ceri helped prepare and cook the Friday lunch whilst the other students went cycling. The class have enjoyed looking back at photos from last year and this new term and most have commented about an activity that we have done. Brandon said excitedly, 'Look, it's Brandon working in the café!'. Finally, we all enjoyed some Friday late afternoon Social Club!

Happy weekend everyone!

Purple Class – Leah, Mary, Dawn, Sean, Sian, & Julie



News from Summer Cluster





News from Autumn Cluster

Orange Class

On Friday last week we had a real treat – a Zoom call with Music for Autism. We were able to join with other classes to share in a concert performed just for us! Orange Class found listening to the classical music played on the piano and oboe very relaxing. Some children were intrigued to see themselves on the screen too!



We have embraced the start of Autumn this week. In the classroom, we matched trees, looking at their colour and shape. Then we went out into the Sensory Garden to find some leaves of our own. They will be used for some artwork next week. We are making the most of sunny days while we can and the children love being outside.



I was pleased to catch up with Orange Class parents on Wednesday and Thursday, even though parents' evening by phone felt a little strange! Thank you for making time to chat with me.

Enjoy the weekend!

Rachael, Tracy, Niki, Gill and Vikki.



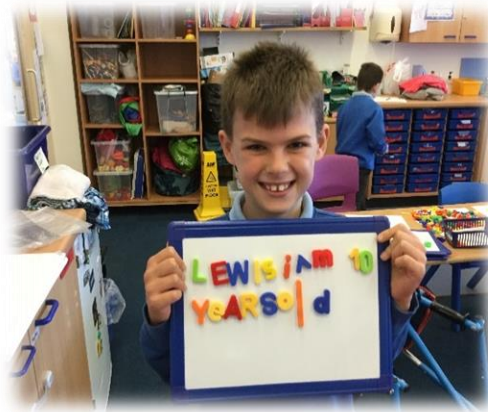
News from Autumn Cluster

Red Class

Last Friday was very memorable for those of us in Red Class; Holly was first to spot that there were some surprises on the visual timetable and the children were very excited that we were having surprises and tried very hard to guess what they might be.

Our first surprise in the morning was a Zoom call with the Oxfordshire Music Service, where they chatted to us and played their instruments – we all enjoyed it very much; particularly the piano playing by Ben. Our second surprise in the afternoon was a visit from our site manager Michael who brought lots of fireman's outfits for us to try on. The children had a great time trying on all the different styles of uniform and as always loved spending time with Michael. It was very surprising how heavy all the clothes were and made getting dressed and undressed in them really tricky.

We have also been busy writing, adding money, reading, spelling and learning about shapes.



Have a good weekend.

Lorna, Nicola, Laura, Pauline, Jo and Esther



News from Autumn Cluster

Gold Class

Gold Class have enjoyed making jewellery in DT this week and made personal necklaces. They have shown great perseverance in maths working out the inverse of calculations to check answers are correct.

On Thursday, we carried out our science investigation. Students were very engaged and after planning the investigation last week, they followed the plan and instructions. It was a fair test and so they could only change one thing, which was the different liquids that they used. They carefully measured 100mls of each liquid and poured it in a glass jar with the white eggshell. (We decided we didn't have any teeth to experiment on and so eggshell is a similar material.) We are leaving the eggshell in the liquids for a few days and then we will remove them and examine closely looking for any decay or damage from the liquid. They made some good observations and predictions on what they think may happen and so we will see.





News from Autumn Cluster

Homework: Over this week, please do some reading and practise times tables and counting in 5s, 10s or 3s. If there is an opportunity, pupils can practise measuring liquids or weighing ingredients for a recipe.

Have a lovely weekend.

From Maria, Marie, Tess, Julie, Esther and Sarah



News from Winter Cluster

Silver Class

Despite the weather not being great we have managed to continue with lots of fun learning both indoors and outdoors this week.

We have started our new story 'Pete the cat, I love my white shoes'. We enjoyed exploring the different colours in the story and especially enjoyed tasting the strawberry sauce. We continued to work on symbol matching and sentences linked to the story as well as mark making and writing about the different clothes in the story.

Following on from the story we made our own people where we chose different items of clothing for them using our communication boards and symbols.



In maths we have been working on patterns, matching and working different types of toys. Some of us have been busy making alternating patterns using bricks, stamps and colouring. Others have been sorting objects by colour onto different mats and into different bowls. Some of us have also been working out how to use our hands to operate a toy using different switches.





News from Winter Cluster

We also enjoyed messy play exploring jelly, imitating mixing and stirring the jelly. We had lots of fun and got very messy. In cooking we made and decorated biscuits using different toppings and icing. We did really well using our communication boards and symbols to choose the toppings.



We have also continued with all our normal activities. We really enjoyed exploring throwing and aiming at targets in PE as well as our weekly dance lesson. We had a good swim on Tuesday and lots of us are getting braver and trying to kick our legs and move our arms by ourselves. We also enjoyed our weekly walk to Radley lake.

Thank you to everyone who I spoke to at parents evening or will speak to in EHCP meetings. It was great to catch up about how the children are settling in and talk about their progress.

We hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Charlotte, Tina, Leann and Zoe



News from Winter Cluster

White Class

Happy Friday everyone!

Within Literacy this week, White class have been reading a new book, Pete the Cat- I love my white shoes. The children have been exploring the story props, especially the song Pete the Cat sings, exploring shoe prints in the mud, choosing which colour they want to colour in drawings of shoes and using symbols to describe the colour of different types of shoes.

The children have really enjoyed cooking this week, we decorated biscuits, choosing what colour icing we wanted, what decorations we wanted, making a piece of art and then we ate them, and they were very delicious! The children also enjoyed singing songs with Clare, we have noticed that their favourite song is 'Twinkle twinkle little star' with flashing toys in the dark. Within Topic this week, we have been working on routines, the children have been working on zipping up/buttoning their coats, ready for winter! The children had messy play with jelly this week, choosing which colour jelly they wanted, adding it to the bowl and exploring the textures. The students really liked this activity, especially when we sang 'jelly on a plate'. The children have also carried on with other weekly activities such as Tennis on Monday and games on Wednesday. The children have also enjoyed trips to the light room and ball pool. The swimming pool was closed this week for white class, so unfortunately there was no swimming, however the children enjoyed extra time on the trampoline!



We hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Jemma, Katie, Ali, Caitlin and Elli



News from Winter Cluster

Black Class

Happy Friday everyone! Thank you for your contributions to ILP targets over parent consultations this week. The children have already made an excellent start on working towards their targets!

This week we have been continuing to use communication boards to form sentences. We have been using them across all subject areas to build vocabulary and interactions. I would like to make a special mention to Joe who used the communication board very well during our mark making session this week!

In our Topic session this week we have continued to work on our independence skills. We focused on dressing this week and had lots of fun dressing dollies and teddies in different clothes. The children were very good at making choices, untangling the clothes and pulling them the right way round.

We have also continued to practice our independence skills in the sensory garden. The children watered the plants, swept up the leaves and played with the wind chimes. This session is thoroughly enjoyed by all pupils, particularly Connor who got a little wet during this week's session!

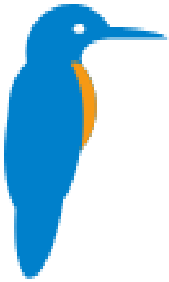
We started our new story 'Pete the Cat, I love my white shoes' this week and the children really enjoyed exploring the sensory props. There is an animation of the story on YouTube if you would like to show it to at home for pupils to become familiar with.



We had a party this week for a member of staff that is leaving. The children really enjoyed dancing to the music with ribbons and everyone ate lots of cake and treats at the party!

Have a lovely weekend everyone

Katie, Amelia, Olivia and Pauline



Cake Raffle at Kingfisher School on Friday 16th October 2020

Raffle Tickets cost 50 p each and winning tickets will take home a box of delicious cup-cakes!



From Holly, Jakob, Iqra, Ben and Kayah

This year we couldn't do a coffee morning to raise money for this charity and so a cake raffle was our idea.

Please bring raffle ticket money in by Friday 16th October