

16<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Pupils have been working incredibly hard in all areas of their education. Our senior pupils have created boxes of cupcakes this week for our version of the Macmillan Big Coffee morning, we are all eagerly awaiting the draw this afternoon at 2pm, where someone will win the cupcakes that were so excellently prepared and made by the AoPE group from Gold and Purple Class.



Developing independence is important for all at Kingfisher, it is part of our key values. All of our pupils have 'independence' as a key aspect of their learning and it is great to see this incorporated in learning experiences throughout the week. Matthew from Silver Class is making huge 'steps' forward using his new walker and Raihan and Eleonora have great pleasure in supporting Black Class by collecting lunches. Many pupils are now swimming independently too, take a look at William from Green Class and many pupils from Orange Class, their smiles show how much of a bonus it is to have our own on-site pool. We are investigating and purchasing new sensory equipment for the pool with the aid of our wonderful PFSA.

To thank Waitrose for their kind donation of £333, Purple Class made a thankyou card. You will see the picture where we presented it to the Manager later on in the newsletter.

### Dates for your diary

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October**

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November**

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November**

**Last Day of Term**

**First day of term**

**School Photos**

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



# News from Spring Cluster

## Green Class

We have had a busy week in Green Class, with lots of things to do and people to see.

This week we have done some fantastic swimming, we have all been doing lots of splashing with our arms and legs and some great movements in the water. We are also learning to be more independent when getting dressed after swimming by helping to pull up our trousers and put our arms into our sleeves.



We have also had lots of fun in the ball pool together, we have been doing lots of climbing but our favourite is definitely lying in the balls kicking our legs to make all the balls jump.

Our sensory story with Clare was about 2 hamsters that make lots of noise, it has been really exciting exploring all of the different toys that they play with. Our favourite was definitely the wheel, we were all great at spinning it round and round.



Hope you all have a great weekend

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



# News from Spring Cluster

## Yellow Class

What a really fun week we have had in Yellow Class, we have been exploring further our term story the bear hunt and we even adventure ourselves into one. Everybody in Yellow Class are responding really well to this term's sensory story. As everybody had a favourite part of the story, we brought them out on a sensory experience to the class. It was an amazing adventure where children got to experience lots of sensory sensations like, mud, sand, water, grass, forest, dark cave...



As sand was the favourite, we created a mini trip inside the class to a beach on one of our last sunny days. We created amazing sandcastles and we saw the difference between wet and dry sand.





# News from Spring Cluster

We have also continued creating our Halloween and Autumn art activities, we created amazing spider webs by using a tray and some small marbles. Yellow class are getting amazing at holding, grabbing and moving around on paper using every kind of art utensil.



Finally, we have also been working really hard on our exercise programs where children have shown incredible improvements. This week's mention is to Oliver who has done incredible walking by himself for up to an hour.



Have a wonderful weekend,

Yellow Class

*Gal, Sally, Kerry Ann, Emma and Carrie*



# News from Summer Cluster

## Pink Class

Pink Class have really enjoyed some little changes that have been made to the classroom this week. We have a new rug, as well as new wall and ceiling hangings up in one corner that is becoming affectionately known as 'The Den'. All the students have clearly enjoyed the space as somewhere to engage in independent exploration or simply have a bit of a chill during break times. Watch this space for further additions to 'the den'.



Another popular addition to our classroom room over the last few weeks has been the piano and music stand. Both have been a lovely addition to our music and communication sessions but probably everyone's favourite moments have been when the students are playing on the piano together unprompted by the adults in the room, just playing with their friends.



We have had a lot of fun during our learning this week. It has been a pretty messy but happy week. We have using water and sand play to explore our communication as well as different maths concepts such as colours and capacity. Water play was definitely the more popular option.





# News from Summer Cluster



Thank you for all your comments around ILP targets last week during the parents' evening calls. It was obviously strange not seeing everyone in person, but we really value the comments from home regarding targets.

Have a lovely weekend,

*Tor, Siobhan, Maria, Sue, Liza, Norah, and Daniel.*



# News from Summer Cluster

## Blue Class

Good afternoon all and welcome to the weekend!

Well it's certainly been a busy week and quite possibly one of our wettest so far.

In literacy this week we have continued reading and finding out about 'Pete the Cat' and his white shoes. Pupils enjoyed jamming along with percussion instruments and making colourful footprints walking through paint. As we often do, we used the story to promote writing and mark making activities with pupils describing their favourite kinds of shoes.



In numeracy we continued to work on sequences but twinned our work with fine motor skills, threading beads and string as well as creating sequences using peg boards. In tennis we practiced a host of balancing (beanbags on racquets) and throwing activities and we continued focused 1:1 work in swimming.

On top of this, we've also had great fun dressing up as different story characters in messy play and have worked towards our ILP targets in communication sessions.

Wishing you a fantastic weekend, we'll see you all next week.

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

*~ The Blue Class Team*





# News from Summer Cluster

## **Purple Class**

Chan chose Friday lunch this week – Cheeseburger, chips and salad yum. The students enjoyed their swim and are continuing to make good progress in the pool. In the afternoon as well as our Read, Write Inc sessions and phonics groups, we spent time working on individual targets. Brandon and Sam are both doing really well with learning to spell new words independently and Matthew and Robbie have both engaged and remained focussed in their phonics and signing work. The RWI group have been trying hard with their letter formation.

This week, the Enterprise Group joined forces with the ASDAN AoPE Group (Award of Personal Effectiveness) to prepare, cook, decorate and box the cup-cakes for the Macmillan raffle. The students worked in pairs at workstations and followed their instructions well, including wearing all the appropriate food hygiene attire. They all did a great job and the cakes looked amazing! The students also took turns to sell raffle tickets around school and organise the tickets for sending home. The raffle has been a great success and the AoPE group who have taken responsibility for organising the raffle have managed to raise over £120 for the Macmillan charity!

This week for our topic on 'Ourselves' we focussed on the different kinds of relationships we have and how it is important to do the right things to keep our relationships good. We thought about things that we should and shouldn't do to maintain a healthy relationship.

Chan, Mya, Ben and Josh shopped at Tesco for Friday lunch ingredients and after break some of the class visited Waitrose in order to deliver a large THANKYOU card to a Waitrose manager for their kind donation of £333 to Kingfisher school. It was great to meet Anthony and hopefully in the future, some students will be able to take part in work experience at the supermarket.

At Oxrad, our Mary had a go at spinning this week with the students and they were very proud that she did 6000 steps! The Red and Blue teams drew at Boccia which goes to show they are honing their skills and rising to the challenge. After our Literacy work, we had another listen to the Christmas track we have decided to focus on and it is amazing how many words and signs the students are already picking up!

Chan, Ben, Mya and Josh helped prepare and cook the Friday lunch – Cheeseburger, home-made chips and salad whilst the other students went cycling. This was Ceri's first visit to the track and she really enjoyed her trip out and new experience. Students helped to complete all the weekly jobs including leaving the Cooking Room spotless, doing the washing, emptying the compost and recycling etc before finally settling down for Friday afternoon Social Club!

Happy weekend everyone!

*Purple Class - Leah, Mary, Dawn, Sean, Sian, & Julie*



# News from Summer Cluster





# News from Autumn Cluster

## Orange Class

This week, we are sharing some pictures of our swimming sessions with you. Orange Class love their time in the pool, whatever their level of confidence, and swimming is an important part of our week. Today the children were practising swimming on their front or back using a float. Later, some children were able to jump in from the side of the pool. It was a pleasure to see everyone listening carefully to Angela's instructions and working hard to develop their skills. I love these pictures – they show just how much everyone likes being in the water.



Swimming sessions give each child the opportunity to develop their independence when changing and dressing too. Well done, Orange Class – you had a great swim today!

*Have a lovely weekend,  
Rachael, Tracy, Niki, Gill, Leann and Vikki.*



# News from Autumn Cluster

## Red Class

We have been learning all about our teeth in Science. The different names of the teeth and how to look after them. We wrote some instructions on how to clean your teeth for the younger children in Orange class. It was quite difficult and when we followed our instructions, we found that we had forgotten things like taking the lid off of the toothpaste. But we practised with a big brush and set of teeth and were soon able to put the instructions right.

We have also been learning about 2D shapes in maths; what they are called, how many sides and corners they have and whether their sides are curved or straight. Lewis found a semi-circle in our shape box and Holly was very clever and knew that 2 of these made a circle; like 2 halves of a pizza. We were very impressed with her knowledge.

The children are still running the 'Snack Shack' before break each day and are becoming great shopkeepers. They are so polite and friendly to all their customers and beginning to understand different ways to make amounts and how to give change. I heard Richard telling Charlie today that if he didn't have 5p he could use  $1p + 1p + 1p + 1p + 1p$  instead as this made 5p too. It will be lovely when we can go out into the community to practise these skills in some local shops.



Have a good weekend.

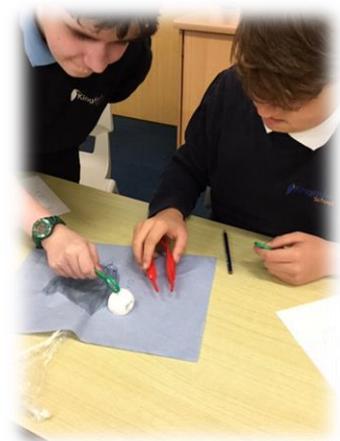
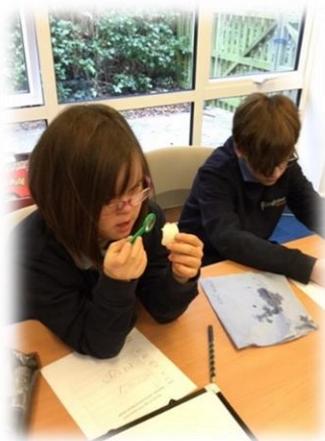
*Lorna, Nicola, Laura, Pauline, Jo and Esther*



# News from Autumn Cluster

## Gold Class

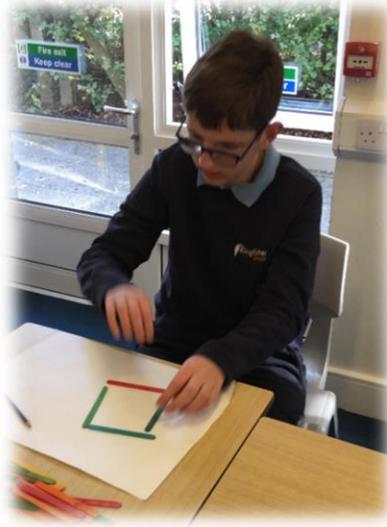
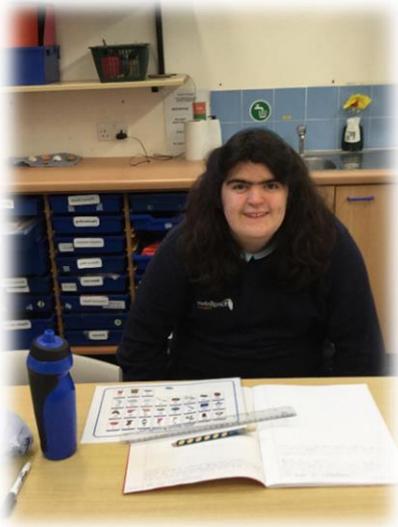
As promised, we have the results of our science investigation! Gold Class pupils are learning new scientific skills such as: Making a prediction; making close observations; recording results and coming to a conclusion. This investigation was perfect to begin to practise these skills and enjoy science. This week, pupils carefully removed the eggshells from the different liquids and looked at them closely with a magnifying glass to see if there were any changes. They were able to compare them to our control, which had been in water. Pupils looked at all of the shells and recorded the results carefully in a table. Some of their predictions were correct, which was great. I think that the biggest surprise for them was that the eggshell in vinegar had completely changed. The hard shell had disappeared almost completely and there was just a brown, soft membrane. Their comments included, "Where has the white shell gone?"; "It has disappeared"; "It is now soft and brown"; "It has decayed"; and "It has disintegrated." After sharing and discussing the results we decided that the vinegar harmed it the most and we must remember to brush our teeth.



We are doing Geometry this week in maths and naming and talking about the properties of 2D shapes. Pupils had fun making 2D shapes using lollypop sticks and found it quite challenging to make hexagons. In literacy, we are using connectives in our sentences and we watched some video clips of Tim Peake on the International Space Station and then had to write an explanation on how astronauts eat and use the toilet in space! You can imagine this caused a bit of a giggle. How often do you get to talk about 'poo' in school?



# News from Autumn Cluster



Holly, Jakob and Iqra are working towards AOPE and have been working hard this week baking cupcakes and selling raffle tickets to raise money for MacMillan Cancer. I would like to thank them for their contribution to this good cause. They have sold lots of raffle tickets and hopefully you may be one of the lucky winners.

**Homework:** Over this week, please do some reading and practise times tables and counting in 5s, 10s or 3s. Have a look both outside and around the home for examples of 2D shapes.

Have a lovely weekend.

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



# News from Winter Cluster

## Silver Class

We have had another good week in Silver Class, despite the children getting a bit tired towards the end of term. We have continued to work hard in all our lessons but especially on our communication.

We have continued with our story 'Pete the cats, I love my white shoes'. We really enjoyed washing the shoes to clean off all the mess that Pete had made. We also did really well finding the different messy items in the story and matching symbols or making symbol sentences. One of the highlights at the end of last week was thinking about the different outfits in the story and dressing up in different fancy dress.



In maths we have continued working on patterns, sorting and using different toys. Some of us have made patterns using 2 colours and some have even made patterns with 3 different colours. We are getting really good at sorting different items by colour and others of us have done really well using different pushing and pulling actions to operate different toys



# News from Winter Cluster

We have also continued to work really hard on our communication throughout the curriculum. In communication group some of us did painting outside and tried hard using the communication boards to ask for different coloured paint. In art this week we made kites using different coloured paints to decorate these. Cooking was definitely our favourite where we decorated cupcakes choosing icing and different sprinkles and toppings.



We have continued to enjoy all the usual physical activities. We enjoyed our walk around Farmoor reservoir where all the children are getting much better at being safe while we are out and about. We also had 2 great swimming sessions as well as PE and dance.

Other highlights of the week have included Matthew, who has been trying really hard to move himself around in his walker and is now moving sideways and backwards. We have also been impressed with how confident Rhys has become with matching his letters.



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 continued reading Pete the Cat- I love my white shoes. The children have been choosing colours to colour in white shoes in mark making. Matching colour symbols to the correct coloured shoes. The children have been exploring the story props; the strawberries, the mud, the rain and the blueberries. The children have also gone outside to explore the mud in their wellies, then scrubbed their wellies whilst we all sing 'I love my brown shoes, I love my brown shoes'.

White class are preparing for Halloween this week, we have started to make Halloween decorations in Art for our display board. The children choose a colour to paint their spider and a colour for the spider's legs, then stuck on eyes and a nose. Their work looks brilliant and will be on display for the whole school to see.

Within PE this week, we have been swimming with Angela, half of the class becoming more confident in the water, and half of the class working on using raising their arms outside of the water when doing the front crawl. During the tennis lesson this week, we have been working on hand-eye coordination, aiming and throwing the small blue ball to the big blue ball, throwing bean bags into hoops and increasing the distance from the target. As you can see from the photos, White class are doing really well! Within the game's session, we have been training for the triathlon, balancing bean bags on tennis racquets, bowling, throwing and catching.

Another busy week but successful from white class, we hope you all have a lovely weekend.

*Jemma, Katie, Ali, Caitlin and Ellie*



# News from Winter Cluster





# News from Winter Cluster

## Black Class

Black Class have had another fantastic week this week! We have welcomed a new member of staff, Ellie into our class and the children have been building new relationships with her this week.

We have continued with our story, Pete the Cat: I Love my White Shoes. All of the children have been very engaged with this story and it has definitely been the most popular of the term. The children have loved exploring the sensory props, particularly smelling the strawberry jelly, playing the guitar and feeling the water drip on to them.

In Cooking this week we continued with making choices using communication boards. We iced biscuits and chose different toppings including chocolate sprinkles, cherries and hundreds and thousands. The children were really good at making choices and really enjoyed eating their biscuits afterwards!



In Maths this week we have been working on patterns. We have been exploring patterns through lego, magnet toys and chain links in our outdoor learning. Within our focused work, some of us have been practicing copying patterns underneath whilst some of us have been continuing repeating patterns and making up our own.

We have continued working hard in our Phonics groups and I have seen lots of progress! We have been practicing our letter sounds, reading words or sentences and practicing our letter formation.

I would like to make a special mention to Raihan this week who has been very helpful in the classroom! He has been helping not only the adults, but also his peers. Well done Raihan!

Have a lovely weekend everyone

*Katie, Amelia, Olivia and Ellie*

# Autism - Power to Parent

Our new course Autism - Power to Parent has been launched!

See below some of the feedback we have received from the course.

NEW course dates available starting Thursday 22nd October!

Please find attached our brochure and a short video from the course leaders Dee and Helen.

Book NOW to secure your place on our next course!

*"It's made me realise that we've been communicating in different languages in a sense for most of the time before this".*

*"This course is led by an outstanding team of experts who bring candor, compassion and insight to every meeting, and offer a fresh perspective on how to best support a child with autism. Because of the small-group environment, you get a chance to get to know the other parents in the course while also having time to talk through your own challenges at home and school. We're only in the second week, and already I feel like I've received some practical advice on how to be a better mum and better advocate for my child. Every class leaves you feeling a little more optimistic and a little bit lighter than when you started."*

*"Anything we're struggling with is met with a confident and caring "We get it, we've got you". It feels like such a relief to meet people who truly understand, and who can handle it when you tell them things are not going great."*

*"Inspiring me to experiment with being more flexible and creative in thinking about what works for us as a family"*

*"I am already seeing positive changes in my son's behaviour and in just a matter of days I am feeling the closeness returning. I can't wait for next week. I feel heard. I feel hopeful. I feel empowered."*

**!!!!BOOK NOW!!!!**

**[www.powertoparent.co.uk](http://www.powertoparent.co.uk)**