

23rd October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As this first half term of 2020 comes to an end it is good to reflect on how well this term has gone for the children of Kingfisher School.

Our pupils have been fully immersed back into school life and taken on new challenges, in particular around their personal development and independent living skills. It is great to see Yujan helping with the washing up in school, I hope that his parents see the same level of engagement at home with this!

Our classes have been using pumpkins as a theme this week and some staff and pupils dressed up in some seriously spooky costumes. Purple Class really enjoy this sort of activity and that is the staff as well as the pupils.

I would like to take this opportunity in thanking every single member of our staff, without whom it wouldn't have been possible to open every day of this term. Whilst going about our daily duty to educate your children and also taking into account the 'new normal' that this unique situation brings. It has been hard at times to ensure that there are enough staff to open the school safely, but it is down to the commitment and flexibility of our staff, some of whom have had to work at home whilst their own children have been sent home due to situations in their schools. Every member of staff is valued and appreciated and I am sure you feel the same about our dedicated staff. They certainly deserve a break next week.



Please check out our community pages this week, there is a lot of news and opportunities that we are sharing.

Dates for your diary

Monday 2nd November**First day of term**

I hope you have a good half term with your children and look forward to seeing them all back in school on Monday 2nd November.

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

This term has flown by and it has been lovely seeing everyone back with so many smiles. Everyone has worked really hard this first term back especially after such a long time off.

This week we have been getting ready for Halloween next week by painting our very own pumpkins, we have used puffy paint which is super easy to make by mixing: paint, PVA glue and shaving foam. We explored this lots with our hands, making shapes with our fingers and mixing the different colours together. Some of us discovered that we can make some great marks and patterns when we smack our hands into the paint watching it splatter everywhere.



We have all been doing lots of exercises this week, lots of walking and some of us have been doing some fantastic box sitting building up our stomach muscles.

Finally, we have been doing lots of cause and effect work by pushing a button to make a bubble machine blow out lots and lots of bubbles. We have also been using a website called Help Kidz Learn which has lots of fun games that we are learning to control including tapping the screen to make the songs start again. Our favourite song was definitely 5 in a bed, some of us were great at repeating the numbers along with the song.



Hope you all have a restful half term

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



News from Spring Cluster

Yellow Class

Yellow class has had an extraordinary week full of fantastic activities and plenty of exercise/physiotherapy to conclude this fantastic term. VI session has been the highlight of this week. Yellow Class children are loving having our own light room inside the class and we have been using it on a daily basis. At the beginning of the term we started with some simple VI sessions by using high motivation light toys and songs. We have now successfully introduced bucket and sensory story to the VI sessions as it really is making a difference to our children. Eye Gaze has also been used daily and we have seen the benefit of having worked so hard on children visual impairment with our VI sessions. We have also been working really hard on our physiotherapy. Some of our children have managed to use their walkers for long periods of time and have wonderful walks and practices around the school. Swimming was also wonderful; our swimming teacher Angela is constantly surprised with the progress of Yellow Class in the pool.

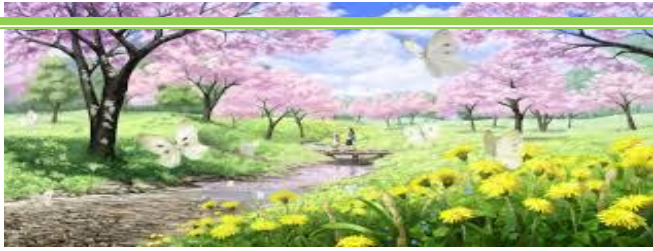


Fridays are an absolute joy with Julie, our Yellow Class children are reacting fantastically to atmospherics and massage stories by creating a wonderful and magical environment where they can relax from the hard work they have been doing during the week.



Yellow Class has concluded this week by celebrating Halloween and creating some really nice artwork. For our first piece, we painted a pumpkin and sprinkled some glitter on it. Our next piece of artwork was designing our own pumpkin and letting the children decide by choosing the eyes, mouth, stickers...that they wanted to add.





News from Spring Cluster

Yellow Class would like to wish you all a really nice week and a deserved break, although the current situation is still complicated our children have worked very hard and we have had a fantastic term thanks to them and the energy and willingness they brought.

Have a wonderful half term,

Yellow Class

Gal, Sally, Kerry Ann, Emma and Carrie



News from Summer Cluster

Pink Class

Unbelievably we are already at the end of our first term. As always, we are incredible proud of the achievements that have been made in Pink Class not least of which is how they have managed returning after the long break.



Luckily at the beginning of the week we decided to make the most of the sunshine and enjoy some of the equipment we have for the garden and field. Our newly serviced bike went around the field quite a few times, so the staff are slightly fitter this week. Some of us also went on the big trampoline on the field as requested through the use of signs and symbols.



Other big news this week is that we have had a birthday in the class, and one during half term. Happy Birthday to Sienna and Louisa for over half term. We used the excuse for a little birthday celebration. We had a birthday themed attention bucket which was very popular with all the students, particularly the splatting of the birthday 'cakes' (although this may not have been quite so popular with the staff who had to clean up afterwards).





News from Summer Cluster



We did promise some weeks ago to keep you updated regarding the progress on helping with chores such as dishwashing. We are pleased to report that dishwashing is coming along well so make sure you get some help over the half term holidays.

We hope that you and your families have a well-earned rest over the holidays and enjoy the time together. We would love to hear your news through the home schoolbooks about what the students have been up to when they return next term.

When we do come back to school next term our topic will be 'Lights and Sounds'. It's a great topic to explore all the seasonal activities obviously but we will also be using it to explore environmental sounds and things like

animal noises too.

Take care,

Tor, Siobhan, María, Sue, Liza, Norah, and Daniel.



News from Summer Cluster

Blue Class



handwriting practice and mark making.

In numeracy we did some work on addition with some pupils considering 'one more' than a given amount to 20 and other pupils adding two digit and one digit numbers together.

Pupils had a great time, preparing and eating muffins in cooking and loved getting sloppy with jelly and spaghetti in messy play! In P.E. we worked on throwing skills, improving our aim and keeping track of our scores.

Happy Friday everyone, well done for making it through to half-term. It has been a very positive start to the academic year.

In literacy this week we have sequenced the story 'Rocking in my school shoes'. Pupils ordered and wrote about the different stages of the story as well as using it as a starting point for



It has been our pleasure to get to know Blue Class pupils this past half term and we look forward to knuckling down for the run-up to Christmas. Have a fantastic half term and we will see you soon.

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

~ The Blue Class Team



News from Summer Cluster

Purple Class

As our first '*rather long*' term finally draws to a close, I would firstly like to say just how well all the students in Purple Class have coped and settled this term. We are all extremely proud of all the young people and what they have achieved over the term. We are especially proud of how well they have managed in these strange times and just how well they have followed new rules and applied themselves to all the different measures both in school and during off site activities. A huge well done to all students!

We have introduced a new initiative of Read, Write Inc this term and those students taking part have all engaged extremely well with these phonic sessions lead by our Dawn. A more personalised approach has been taken with other students and Brandon and Sam have worked particularly hard on their individualised spellings. Matthew and Roberto have engaged particularly well with their phonic work and have both surprised staff on numerous occasions with their recognition of words.

As it is last week of term, the Enterprise Group treated the staff to another Bacon Roll Day with Kayah and Sam cooking the bacon whilst Ben, Harry and Brandon sorted and lightly buttered rolls. Harry overcame his nerves and put the bacon rolls together to be wrapped in foil. Harry voiced that he was proud of himself!

We completed our topic for this term on '*Ourselves*' with thinking about all the many different relationships that people have including when we are older and might have romantic connections. We thought about appropriate touch and safe touch in our relationships and the importance of kindness.

This week Josh chose the Friday lunch – sausages, mash and gravy. The shoppers also shopped for pumpkins so the whole class could engage a little with the Halloween 'spirit' and take their carved pumpkins home.

At OXSRAD, we tried out a new warm up game called 'Beans' of which the students had to quickly replicate a certain bean i.e. runner, jumping, baked etc when the music stopped. We will see how this develops! Some students completed their final spinning session for the term with Kieren and once again the Red and Blue teams drew at Boccia. Josh particularly has developed his throw and aim although Mya remains the Boccia Queen! We have carved pumpkins and decorated the Common Room to celebrate our achievements and remember the Halloween tradition.

Josh, Kayah, Sam and Ceri helped prepare and cook the Friday lunch whilst the other students went cycling (some in costumes!). We all enjoyed a relaxed afternoon contemplating the upcoming Halloween over half term.



News from Summer Cluster

We are all a little sad to be saying goodbye to our *fabulous* Sean who is relocating to Devon, but we all want to wish him the very best in his next adventure. We will really miss him.

Happy half term everyone!

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





News from Autumn Cluster

Orange Class



We have been talking about going to the dentist this week in Orange Class and the children knew quite a lot already. We watched a video and talked about who you might see and what happens in the dentist's surgery. Some children dressed up like a dentist and we had a close look at some dirty teeth and then cleaned them carefully with a toothbrush. Some of our toys had to become patients so that we could count their teeth.



We have been reading a story called 'Tusk Trouble' about Wilbur, a walrus, who has toothache but keeps saying "I don't want to go to the dentist!" The children have become good at joining in with this part of the story and some of them have drawn pictures to show their understanding.

In Maths, we have been working on our knowledge of 2D shapes – naming them and thinking about some of their properties. We played a good game of guessing the shape from seeing only a small part of it at a time. We traced shapes and made pictures of fireworks by putting different shapes together.

Have a great half term everyone!

Rachael, Tracy, Niki, Gill and Vikki





News from Autumn Cluster

Red Class

This week has been very busy finishing all our topics and themes for the end of term 1. We have made some great posters all about 'Ourselves' and learnt how to keep our teeth clean and healthy. We even know what some of our teeth are called and what jobs they do. We have finished learning about shapes and money in maths. Our letter writing skills have really improved in English and we hope that Katherine, Michael and Leythan enjoyed getting and reading our letters.

On Thursday this week we had a Zoom call with our friend Leythan – we loved chatting to him. He had been working very hard at home and had made all the planets from the Solar System. He had learnt the names of all the planets too. He also told us that they were going to have a special sweet hunt in the garden at home for Halloween which we thought was a great idea. So we will be having one in the sensory garden at school today as well.

As you will see from the photographs Seb and Lewis have been learning to play the Ukulele with Corrine and are really enjoying and getting better at playing one string or note at a time.

Next term we will be learning about 'Light and Sound' for our topic and concentrating on poetry for English. If the children have anything linked to these themes, please encourage them to bring them to school to share.



Have a good weekend.

Lorna, Nicola, Laura, Pauline, Jo and Esther

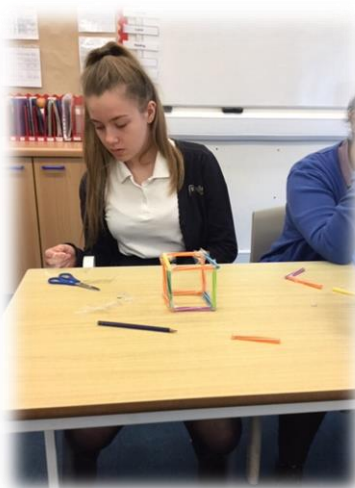


News from Autumn Cluster

Gold Class

Congratulations to Holly, Iqra and Jakob, who completed their first AOPE challenge last Friday by working with Ben and Kayah from Purple Class. They managed to raise over £149.00 for MacMillan Cancer with their cake raffle. There were six lucky winners, who each won a box of lovely cupcakes. Thank you to everyone who supported them in raising money for such a good cause.

It has been a great week in Gold Class and pupils have continued to work with enthusiasm. We have been exploring 3D shapes and can name common 3D shapes and discuss the properties, which include the corners (vertices), edges and faces. Some pupils have gone on a 3D shape hunt around school looking for real objects to represent common 3D shapes. Others have investigated which 3D shapes roll the furthest and which stack or balance well. They have all made 3D shape skeletons using straws.





News from Autumn Cluster

In literacy this week, some pupils have continued to describe characters from a picture book using adjectives in their sentences. Most pupils have learnt about including adverbs or adverbial phrases at the beginning of a sentence and have tried using these in their own writing.

Pupils have enjoyed swimming this week and are improving techniques and stamina with a particular focus on front crawl and back stroke. Angela has been very pleased with progress and effort in swimming lessons this term.

Homework: Over Half Term, it would be lovely if pupils can do plenty of reading, either of their own reading books or comics, magazines, cereal packets, newspapers etc. They can also be looking for 2D and 3D shapes in their surroundings and show off their knowledge by describing and naming them.

Have a lovely week.

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



News from Winter Cluster

Silver Class

We have all done really well during the last week of term and continued to work hard.

We have continued to work on our story 'Pete the cat, I love my white shoes'. We are all trying hard to join in with the story and are enjoying exploring the props linked to the story. This week we explored the sticky mud that turned Pete's shoes brown. We all enjoyed scooping this up and watching the gloop drip down. We also made symbol sentences about our favourite shoes and did some mark making and writing about our favourite colour shoes.

In art we followed this up by decorating our own Pete the cat with different coloured paint spots. We used our communication boards to choose the colours we wanted to use to decorate the shoes. We also made glittery shoes by choosing different coloured glitters.



In maths we continued to work on colours and patterns. This week we really enjoyed using golf tees and foam. Some of us made alternating patterns and some sorted the pegs by colour.





News from Winter Cluster

We have been working really hard on our play skills and have made lots of progress using the toys purposefully. This week we focussed on building the train set. After lots of modelling some of us helped build the track, some attached trains together and all of us were able to push the trains around the track.



Despite the rain, we have continued to enjoy our ongoing play in the garden. Lots of us liked exploring the shaving foam whereas others enjoyed watching the parachute go up and down.



We hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Charlotte, Tina, Leann and Zoe



News from Winter Cluster

White Class

Happy Friday everyone!

After getting to know the children throughout the first term, we have put white classes favourite things into a story. After reading the story, we have been exploring the props (toy cars/footballs/water/cakes etc.), matching symbols of their favourite things to a picture of the child holding that item, describing toys and colouring in pictures of our favourite things within mark making.

Within cooking this week, the children have been choosing what spread they would like on their muffin. Within numeracy we have been focusing on our targets, we are seeing progress already which is very promising! Within our topic lesson, we have been experimenting with different foods. Choosing what food we would like to mix together, from jelly, whipped cream, oats to spaghetti hoops. The children really enjoyed the textures and sounds whilst mixing the foods together. Within art this week, we finished our Halloween display board, by adding apple printing 'pumpkins' and adding eyes and a mouth on each 'pumpkin'.

For PE this week, we have been swimming with Angela, half of the class becoming more confident in the water, and half of the class are working on 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. White class have been scored for the pentathlon; we will find out their scores when we get back after half term!

White class have been very lucky, we have had two parties this week. One on Monday for a child's birthday, celebrating with Disney songs, dancing and birthday cake at the end of the day. On Friday we are going to have a Halloween class party before we send the children home.

We hope you all have a lovely weekend and a restful half term.

Jemma, Katie, Ali, Caitlin and Ellie





News from Winter Cluster

Black Class

Happy Friday everyone! We have made it to the end of the first half term, and what a great half term it has been! Everyone has settled in well to Black Class and have already shown lots of progress! Well done to everyone.



We have continued to work on patterns in Maths this week. We have been using toys, magnets and building blocks to create our patterns. A special mention to Malachi this week who we found making patterns with magnets during playtime!

We enjoyed our Music session this week with Clare and explored the different sensory props to go with the songs. Everyone seemed to join in and sing along 😊

As a special treat this week, and after a very rainy Wednesday, we went to the sensory gardens to explore. The children used communication boards to request different objects. Some of us found it very funny to pour the watering can over ourselves rather than the plants!

We have continued to work on our story, Pete the Cat: I love my White shoes, this week. I would like to say a big well done to Joe who answered questions about the story as we went through the pages. All of Black Class loved Pete the Cat! There are lots of animated versions of his stories on Youtube if it something you would like to play at home with your child.

Have a wonderful half term everyone and I am very much looking forward to seeing even more progress and fun in the next!

Katie, Amelia, Olivia and Ellie

Community Links

A warm hello from the community support team at the District Council.

Supermarket Vouchers are available for residents struggling to afford food and essential provisions.

Thanks to some funding from central government we've been able to purchase supermarket vouchers to give to those who are struggling financially as a result of COVID-19.

If you come across someone or a family that is struggling to afford food or other essential supplies, please put them in touch with Citizens Advice or Wantage Independent Advice Centre.

- Citizens Advice – 0300 3309042 (South and Vale)
- Wantage Independent Advice Centre – 01235 765348 (Vale)

In addition to providing them with a package of advice and support to help them in the longer term, for those who meet the eligibility criteria they may be able to give them a supermarket voucher to provide immediate relief.

This is just one of a range of help that is an offer for anyone struggling as a result of COVID-19.

The community hub at South Oxfordshire and Vale of the White Horse District Councils can also signpost people to a variety of organisations that can help with any ongoing support that might be needed.

There's also Oxfordshire Food Services Map and Oxfordshire All In websites which have great interactive maps of community support groups, foodbanks, community kitchens and food surplus cafes.

These maps will give you their contact details and all the information you need to support someone in need of food. If you require any further information or have any queries, please contact the Community Connector Team at communityconnectors@southandvale.gov.uk

Community Links

Our latest programme KEEN Community Buddies falls within our wider project of Inclusive Oxfordshire and the scheme is principally about promoting inclusion in the community whereby people with additional needs are paired with a volunteer 'Buddy'. The pair form a one to one connection based on their shared interests and meet up regularly to engage in fun activities of their choice. The programme is designed for young people and their parents/carers, allowing those with additional needs to engage with their local community and create lasting friendships

New buddy programme!



Introducing KEEN's brand new programme: KEEN Community Buddies!

Want to make a new friend? Get out and have fun in the community? KEEN Community Buddies is for you. We match people 1-1 based on shared interests, and particularly welcome disabled young people to apply.



Find out more and sign up here: <https://www.keenoxford.org/find-a-buddy>



KEEN buddies

All of our buddy pairings will start off online and move to in person meetups when both buddies feel ready and COVID-19 guidelines still allow. Buddies can do anything from a walk in the park or a trip to the cinema, to joining a sports club together.

Have some time on your hands and want to help out? We always need new buddies looking to help a young person! Find out more and sign up here: <https://www.keenoxford.org/be-a-buddy>

All of our volunteer buddies are DBS checked and undergo suitable training.

Follow us!

@KEENOxford



keen@keenoxford.org | www.keenoxford.org
07806 743 595



Power to Parent

ONLINE AUTISM SUPPORT
WORKSHOP

2 hour online workshop including
downloadable workbook,
video tutorials and access to our
private community group.

£39.99

Book through our website

www.powertoparent.co.uk



Photo Credit: Annie Spratt

20% off all Children's Books

from Monday 26th to Thursday 29th October



Terms and conditions apply. Instore offer only.

20% discount applies to full priced items and cannot be used in conjunction with other discounts.



VENUE TO VIRTUAL FREE Online Event

9th November - 13th November 2020, 9am - 4.30pm BST



The Kidz to Adultz Team at Disabled Living are delighted to be launching Venue to Virtual, a **FREE** online platform dedicated to children and young adults with disabilities and additional needs, their parents, carers, and the professionals who support them right across the UK and much further afield. This online platform offers visitors virtual access to the many exhibitors, companies, voluntary and support organisations who will be showcasing their products, equipment and outlining details of their services at various times during the week-long event.

A glance at some of the really hot topics that will be covered!

Throughout the week you will be able to select and watch the videos and presentation slots which are most relevant to you.

Topics covered include:

- Postural care equipment and seating
- Sleeping issues and support
- Power adjusted and bespoke beds and cots
- All terrain wheelchairs and trikes
- Assistive technology for eating and drinking activities
- Communication aids
- Movement therapy
- Continence issues, solutions and products
- Education including residential programmes for young people with physical, ASD and behaviour concerns
- Motability Scheme plus information on driving assessment centres
- Multi-sensory rooms and environments
- Special needs technology to stimulate responses
- Legal advice
- Funding – including information on grants if you're raising a disabled or seriously ill child,
- Free magazine rack – you will also have access to a large number of disability magazines and journals many of whom normally charge a subscription!
- Something for the children – storytelling sessions and book options ideal Christmas presents!
- Competitions, prizes and more...

Already registered to participate? We will be sending you on your password and more information very soon. An e-Showguide will also be sent to you in advance of the event and can really help you plan and get the most out of this week-long event.

If you haven't already registered, don't worry you can do so [HERE](#)

Interested in exhibiting? There are now very few slots available! For more information and to book now click [HERE](#)