

12th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

It's been a cold wintery week in Oxfordshire but our pupils have still been out and about making sure they make the most of the bright sunshine we have also had.

We have said our farewells today to Jane-Ann who has been our School Nurse here at Kingfisher for the last 14 years. We have had a great day saying 'goodbye' via Teams today. She also had some beautiful gifts from staff, pupils and parents too. The beautiful 'scrap book' that you can see her holding is a wonderful gift that was collated by Carol, Holly's mum. She even painted the Kingfisher on the front of the book. Apparently, this was the first time she has done a water colour, all I can say is WOW!!! Where can we order art work from you?

We will be inviting Jane-Ann back into school as soon as we can so that you are able to say a personal farewell.



As a result of the Teams meeting for Jane-Ann, the pupils were very excited to see the whole school community. Gabe seemed to enjoy seeing his friends from Red Class. Although he joins in with live@school sessions, we don't have a live@schoolbreak session where he would usually meet friends from other classes. It was also a chance for our pupils to catch up with other staff who are remote learning at present. We will look at doing a live@schoolassembly next term, if Teams is able to handle so many users at one time.

Henry from Red Class has just delivered me a wonderful chocolate covered caramel flapjack, I will eat it with my coffee later..... ok I may have had a bite already.

Dates for your diary

Monday 22nd February New Term Starts

Wednesday 24th March Parent Consultation Day (Virtual at the moment)

Have a great half term

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

In Sensology we have been exploring all of our senses through different objects. We have been touching the soft petals of flowers, smelling lavender and tracking some colour changing lights.



We have been working hard in Rebound Therapy this week strengthening our core by practicing sitting up and of course doing lots of bouncing. It has been lovely to see some of our friends on Teams during our live @ school session. This week in hand function we had lots of fun with cornflour and water, we moved our fingers and our hands to pull and push the mixture around the tray. Corn flour is a strange texture and some of us discovered that if you touch it quickly it doesn't get stuck to your fingers



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



News from Spring Cluster

Virtual Home Learning Class

What an incredible week we've had to finish the term on our online learning lessons. We started the week with a wonderful resonance board lesson, our lovely pupils showed incredible communication skills. This week we also experienced something new, the children from the communication pathway joined a sensory cooking lesson with the sensory pathway pupils. It was fantastic! Not only because of the experience of making new and exciting friends but also being able to learn from each other. We created faces using our favourite fruit and vegetables, during the lesson the pupils made great choices and showed really good communication skills, even if the faces didn't make it to the end of the lesson due to some hungry children it was amazing to see them eat such a variety of fruits and vegetables.



We continued the week with another amazing sensory cooking lesson where we learned to make a healthy pizza by only using yoghurt and flour for our base. This was a brilliant activity where we developed our senses and communication skills as well as a fun excuse to get messy and eat pizza. This week I would like to give a big "Hurray!" to the lovely Rhys from Silver class as he has impressed all of us with his communication and sensory skills - well done Rhys! He also joined every extra lesson created this week, what an appetite he has and not only for learning!





News from Spring Cluster



We finished off the week with some enjoyable lessons. We had the lovely Clare and her guitar with some sensory singing lessons where we explored the different colours and animals. We also had a wonderful sensory activity where we developed our hand coordination skills and created some wonderful rocky road cakes. They were delicious!

And we can't forget to give a big thank you to the wonderful Steve and Gina for their music and dance lessons. What a wonderful experience to conclude the week.

What some great week's we have had! Thank you to everybody that joined us on this virtual sessions. It really has been a different experience for all of us but has allowed us to gather together in a different way and make us explore new skills. The entire virtual team will like to pass on their appreciation for the incredible job that parents, carers and helpers have done on the side to our wonderful students.

Have a wonderful week,

The entire virtual team

News from Summer Cluster



Pink Class

The end of a very strange term indeed but we are so proud of how well Pink Class have coped with all the changes. Well done to the students and thank you to everyone at home for your support over this term.

It has been a lovely end to the term with everyone having their own highlights which we would like to share. Well done to Sienna for really improving in her eye gaze work, using more programs and for longer periods. Yujan has worked really hard on his communication with symbols this term and we are really proud of him. Toby has been so accurate on his E-Trans. Chloe has made lovely progress with choice making and Katie is working so hard on her topic boards.



We could go on so please have a look at Evisense and see what we have been doing. It is wonderful to see the pictures and videos you upload from home too.

We have talked a lot about swimming in newsletters this term but have yet to share any pictures. Here are a few from this week's swim. All the students work incredibly hard in the pool and have a fantastic time doing so. It is an opportunity for physical development, but everyone is so motivated by the activity that we get some lovely communication outcomes too.



As it is a special date on Sunday, we have been making some cards for people at home. We really hope that you like them and that this serves as a reminder for anyone at home who has forgotten that it is Valentine's Day.

Finally, we would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy half term. Hopefully the weather will warm up to at least allow a few walks. When we return our topic will be Healthy Eating, we will be looking at an adaptation of 'The Enormous Turnip' story and of course will be making the most of all the lovely sensory opportunities the topic brings.

Take care all,

Tor, Siobhan, Maria, Sue, Liza, Norah, Claire, Katia and Daniel.



News from Summer Cluster

Blue Class

Good Afternoon everyone. I hope you're well and not too chilly. We've been enjoying the brisk weather here in Blue Class - especially on those sunny days - and have been enjoying a warm classroom to return to in equal measure!

This week, our class book has been 'Stanley's Shop'. On Monday we had fun setting up our own shop in class just like Stanley's and pupils enjoyed exchanging money for food at snack time. Just like 'Hattie' in the story, Arthur enjoyed the cheese selection – particularly the 'Double Gloucester with Onion and Chive'! Sohail on the other hand, chose chocolate biscuits, just like 'Little Woo' in the story.



In numeracy we practiced using 'directions' in context using toy cars. Pupils used communication boards and signed to communicate 'up, down, forwards, backwards, stop and go'.

Swimming with Angela was fantastic this week and pupils each individually achieved excellently as they worked on their kicking and got used to putting their heads under the water. In cooking we made ham and tomato pasta although I think more was eaten than was

put into the bowl – Garfield eat your heart out!

As if the week wasn't cold enough already, in science/messy play we thought about how matter 'changes states' and experimented with melting ice-cubes.

Last but not least - when not joining in with the 'Welsh choir' for music or enjoying scooters in the sun - we made playdough fruit and veg for our shop in art and worked on the phoneme /s/ and /ss/ in phonics.

Have a truly fantastic half term and we look forward to seeing you again in a week's time.



*From Richard, Sarah, Ellie (and Lorraine and Jasmine!),
~ The Blue Class Team*



News from Summer Cluster

Purple Class

The last week of term 3 has been slightly more relaxed in Purple but we have still managed to pack in coverage of all the upcoming events such as Chinese New Year, Valentine's Day and Shrove Tuesday (which occur over the break). All the students (and staff) have continued to work hard even though they are all feeling the end of term/winter days 'tiredness'. A huge well done all!

This Tuesday we gathered in the Cookery Room to prepare and make pancakes in light of the upcoming Shrove Tuesday. All students had a go at attempting to toss a pancake.

Students have continued at various times throughout the week to work on their individual targets and Jakob and Iqra have both joined their online sessions with Maria and cracked on with their follow-up work.

For our topic '*People we know (not family)*', we focussed on 'Careers' and we were delighted to have a visit from our very own Michael John (Site Manager) who came into class to be hot seated and talk about all the different jobs he does within school. His list was never ending and some of the students have identified an area that they might like to try in future terms for some work experience with Michael. Jakob is interested in IT and learning to operate the school sound system for music and presentations, Harry and Sam will help with cleaning the minibuses, Matthew and Roberto will help out with clearing the grounds and recycling etc. We then looked at some of the famous people we know and thought about, identified and matched their careers.

We found out a little about the Chinese New Year celebrations and listened to a story of how the animals took part in a swimming race to have the years named after them. This year will be the year of the Ox. Students produced some great dragon puppets and we found out what each student's Chinese zodiac animal is (*we have quite a few monkeys!*). Each new year Chinese children are given red envelopes containing money as a sign of Good Luck so each of the students have been given a red envelope to take home. We also listened to the story of St Valentine and thought about why we have Valentine's Day. The students have made some beautiful cards based on the work of Kadinsky.

As it is Mya's birthday during the break, Mya chose the Friday lunch this week – Macaroni Cheese with salad and garlic bread.

Sam, Harry and Iqra prepared and cooked the Friday lunch this week – Macaroni Cheese with salad. Mya decorated the cakes for her birthday celebration to share. All students then joined a Teams Meeting online to say a fond farewell to our Jane-Anne. What a fabulous last day of term we have had! We would all like to wish you a very happy and safe half term and a Happy Valentine's for this Sunday.

We would also like to say a special 'happy birthday' to Mya.

Happy weekend everyone!

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



News from Summer Cluster



for Christina x



News from Autumn Cluster

Orange Class



This week we have been very excited to get to grips with some online PE coaching and, although a bit of a trial run, we have found it to be very successful! The children were thrilled to see Gina for a dance lesson this afternoon. She remembered our favourite songs and the children responded well to the familiar structure of the session, even though it was a bit different.

In anticipation of Shrove Tuesday next week, we have been finding out why we have pancakes and tasting a few as well. We have used the kitchen corner for role-play with play dough pancakes – some of us were very good at flipping them! We didn't cook the real pancakes ourselves, but had great fun choosing the toppings that we wanted and trying out some new combinations of flavours. Of course, eating them was the best bit!



*Have a great weekend,
Rachael, Tracy, Caitlin, Pauline and Beccie*



News from Autumn Cluster

Rose Gold Class

I cannot believe we are at the end of term already! Let's hope the weather is kind to us all and we can get out for a breath of fresh air without it being so very cold.

The children have had a very busy week with lots of exciting events to enjoy.

I am sure that they would tell you that their favourite activity was having an online party with all their friends that are learning at home. There were some great outfits, costumes and wigs. There were also some very impressive dance moves too. We do all miss being together so it was great to have a catch up with everybody on the computer. We look forward to doing it again soon.

Another computer first this week has been an online PE lesson with the PE coach. My goodness he made us work hard; we had to do star-jumps, sit-ups, high-knee jogging and press-ups for nearly a minute each. We were exhausted and very hungry by the time we had finished all our challenges.

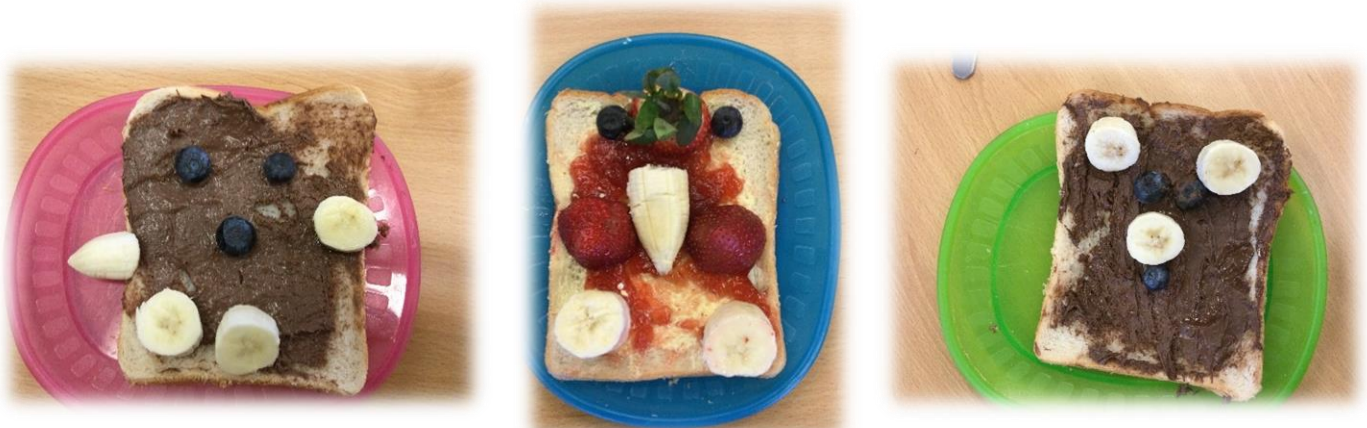
We have cooked twice this week. The first time we made animal sandwiches – sounds a little crazy but it was great fun. Have a look at the photographs and see what you think. Do they look tasty? Which is your favourite animal?

Today we have made store cupboard flapjack with caramel and chocolate topping. It smells delicious – we are very much looking forward to eating it tomorrow.

To all our friends that are not at school at the moment – we miss you very much, we hope you are enjoying your learning as much as we are and stay safe.

Have a great weekend.

Lorna, Nicola, Laura and Lynette.





News from Autumn Cluster

Home learning 12th February 2021

Home learners have had a lot of fun this week with a great variety of sessions and activities. Esther and Jo have been getting students active this week with exercise and fun dance sessions, which I hear was fantastic. They also held a treasure hunt for the younger pupils at home in our pathway. A fancy dress party with games was also held on Thursday! They played musical freeze, had an air guitar competition and played games. Lots of pupils dressed up in Red Class, Camron dressed as a werewolf, there was a giraffe and Oliver was Peppa Pig.

We have also squeezed in plenty of home learning this week. Pupils have worked hard at the activities sent home. My first Maths Group is getting to grips with subtraction using concrete objects and a number line. They are now able to answer questions using different vocabulary including 'how many are left?', 'take away' and 'how many are gone?' Group 2 are also working on subtraction, but in more of a practical context with money and word problems. The other Maths groups have been using multiplication and division facts to answer problems.

Read Write Inc. works well on line and each pupil is making progress even though we are not together in the classroom. They have all worked hard, revising sounds, reading words and spelling and have all learnt a new sound or spelling pattern this week. Well done everyone! A couple of the groups are ready to begin a new Module after Half Term.

On Friday, there is going to be an art lesson which will be a nice way to end the term. We are looking at some art by an artist that is famous for being unknown. Then we are designing our own Graffiti tag using our name or a nickname.





News from Winter Cluster

Silver Class

There have been lots of lovely activities this week. We have enjoyed a lovely cooking session, where we made some delicious and wonderful looking pizzas, using ingredients such as oregano and garlic. Our topic next term is all about Healthy Eating so we look forward to some more delicious cooking then.

We have also made some healthy fruity orange birdfeeders. Hopefully we will see some birds enjoying our snacks. It would be lovely to see any photos of birds if you spot any over half term.



It's been wonderful to see such good focus during our numeracy activities, particularly when problem solving.



Exploring the PE resources this week, such as stepping up and climbing over the larger equipment to improve our co-ordination has been a lot of fun as you can see by our smiles.

Added to this we have enjoyed a lovely book sharing session all about 'Paddington Bear'. We would love to hear about any books you share together over half term.

We hope you all have a wonderful week and look forward to seeing you again soon.

Julie, Leann, Tina, Zoe and Melissa



News from Winter Cluster

White Class

Happy Friday everyone!

We can tell the children are very excited to spend the week going for lockdown walks and playing with their favourite toys all day during half term.

Within Literacy this week, we have continued to read 'Maisy goes shopping'. Whilst reading this story, the children have been learning about shopping trips, and what you go to the shops to buy. Within mark making, we've been focusing on our tripod grip, tracing and colouring in shopping lists. During symbol lessons, we have been completing sentences about different types of food, e.g. boy eats apple. We have also been working on exchanging symbols for objects.

Within Maths, we have continued focused on direction, stop and go. We have made sensory circuits full of equipment that are easy to stop and start, holding signs up for the children to stop and go. Some of the children have moved onto fast and slow. In cooking, we have been following instructions on how to make a pasta. The children have been adding tomato sauce, cutting tomatoes and ham and putting it into the pasta, ready to eat. In art, we have been making Valentine's Day cards, choosing colours and painting our cards and turtle doves!

Here's a few photos of white class enjoying the snow!

We hope you have a lovely half term.

Jemma, Katie, Ali, Niki and Sarah





News from Winter Cluster

Black Class

We have made it to the end of half term and what a half term it has been! We have seen lots of progress, had so much fun, learnt lots and practiced our skills. As always, Black Class have been superstars!

This week we started our new story, 'Maisy Goes Shopping' which we may return to next half term as there is still lots more that we can explore. With that, we did lots of shop role play and practiced finding coins on request with some visual support. We even made a role play 'Greggs' and turned Black Class into a bakery. The children enjoyed trying on hair nets, using the till and the best bit, choosing and eating lots of yummy baked goods.

In Numeracy this week we practiced directional language including 'stop, go, forwards, backwards, left and right.' We used cars on a road mat and communication boards to put our directional language into practice. We had lots of fun doing this!

In Cooking this week we made pasta by chopping vegetables and adding them to the pasta sauce. Everybody really enjoyed this session! Our main target was to follow visual or written instructions to complete the steps with less support and more independence. I would like to make a special mention for Michael this week who read his instructions independently.

In Topic this week we continued to learn about people in our community. Although we had a big focus on shopkeepers and bakers this week we also explored others. I would like to make a special mention for Miley this week who independently used the scissors to cut and label community workers. Well done 😊

Have a fantastic half term and we can't wait to welcome you back next half term.

Katie, Amelia, Olivia, Teresa and Marie

