

**5<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Spring has definitely sprung at Kingfisher. Even though we don't have crocuses, the daffodils at the front of school are making an appearance ready to welcome back more of our pupils from next Monday. If you transport your child to school yourself, please be aware that the 9:15 drop off and 3:15 pick up will be continuing at present to support social distancing of adults.

As you are aware from previous correspondence and possibly by hearing on the media, all secondary aged pupils are eligible for lateral flow testing at home. We have received the tests in school and will be distributing these next week. As a Special School, pupils do not have to complete the testing on site before they can test at home. Therefore, if your child is in Year 7 or above (i.e. will be aged 12 years or older by the end of this academic year), we will be sending home tests that have been allocated to us for you to test your child at home, if you so wish. Once you test your child there is a requirement to upload the results to a central database. All instructions will be sent home with the test. If you do not wish to test your child, please keep the tests at home in case you change your mind at a later date. Please be aware, these tests must not be used on anyone other than the pupil it is sent home for.

World Book Day was a success yesterday, I think the Orange Class idea of wearing pyjamas and having a bedtime story was genius, although I do hope the pupils didn't spend all day asleep. We are also looking to support Comic Relief this year, which is on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March, more information in next week's newsletter.

Remote Learning will be coming to an end today for most pupils. It has been great dropping in on some of the sessions and seeing the pupils engaged in their learning. I would like to say a big thank you to all parents in supporting the pupils who have been working from home and contributing to this. Also, a massive thank you to all the staff involved in the Remote Learning package. We will continue to offer live@school sessions to those pupils who are Clinically Extremely Vulnerable to keep them in touch with school and their friends.

**Dates for your diary****Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March** Parent Consultation Day**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March** Comic Relief

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

On Friday we had a lovely virtual session with Music Steve, we all played our instruments along to the music and had lots of fun clapping our hands and stamping our feet.



In our story this week 'Kitchen Disco' we have been exploring oranges. We rolled the oranges around in our hands, when they were cut, they smelt amazing especially when we squeezed them. We also explored some Orange scented rice with orange food colouring in to make it extra bright. We moved our hands and fingers around in the mixture making patterns and shapes, the adults helped us to sprinkle it listening to it as it hit our trays.



In hand function this term we have been working hard on threading objects with holes in. We have some chunky shapes that we have been threading onto a pole, some of us are getting really good at taking them off and are now practicing putting them back on.

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



# News from Spring Cluster

## Yellow Class

What a wonderful last week we've had on our virtual learning experience. This week we had some beautiful stories and singing lessons. On Tuesday we celebrated Saint Davids Day where we listened to Welsh music while creating some amazing sheep art work using glue and cotton.

On Wednesday we had our Japanese day and created sushi. Sensory cooking has been wonderful every week and all of you have shown incredible skills at becoming master chefs. Last week we created a cheesecake together, this week we started with our new topic "healthy eating" and cooked sushi.

We used our ears to listen to some Japanese music, our eyes to look through the cucumber, we smelt everything with our nose and learned how to use some chop-sticks. The result was amazing and it was really difficult to resist to the temptation of using our mouths to eat it all while we were cooking.



On Thursday we had a lovely music lesson with Clare and her guitar, it was great to see how much you have all learnt and remembered the rhythm of the songs week after week.

It has been a different, but wonderful experience for all of us. We would love to say a big thank you to all our virtual learners for the incredible job they have done and the great adaptability they have shown every week. Let's also not forget all the mums, dads, helpers, carers... that week after week have supported us and helped our pupils with the sessions.

Have a wonderful deserved weekend and we can't wait to see you next week,

*Virtual team*



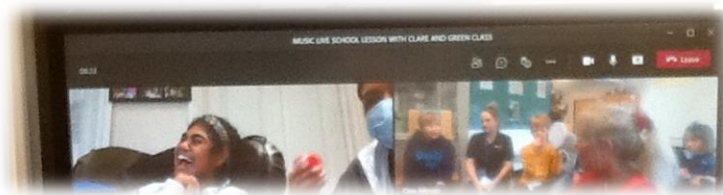


# News from Summer Cluster

## Pink Class

We have had another busy week in Pink Class. All of the pupils thoroughly enjoyed their Hand Function session this week. Yujan did super mark-making and Katie showed excellent focus throughout. We were so pleased by the concentration and efforts of all of the pupils.

Clare led an exciting music session, that all of the pupils loved participating in. Chloe loved dancing to the music, and she showed so much enthusiasm, which was lovely to see. Louisa beamed from ear to ear throughout- it was so lovely to see her smiling face.



All of the pupils had lots of fun getting involved with our Sensory story. They enjoyed “The Very Hungry Caterpillar” and everyone was very engaged with all of the props. The pupils loved tasting all of the healthy foods that the Very Hungry Caterpillar ate. The apple, orange and lettuce were particular



favourites. Sienna did lots of vocalising and she was particularly exuberant when the beautiful butterfly emerged at the end of the story.

The pupils all worked very hard in their Switch work session. Katie showed great concentration and motivation. Chloe was adept at using the switch to move the cars around the racing track. Toby was super at using the switch to operate the light.



Have a great weekend.

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



# News from Summer Cluster

## Blue Class

Good afternoon all and happy Friday. I hope you've all had a good week and are ready for the weekend!

This week Blue Class have been keeping busy as we have continued working on our topic 'Healthy Eating'. Continuing our class story 'Oliver's Vegetables' we have had great fun this week digging out and weeding our own vegetable planter ready for some fresh seeds next week. Pupils really 'dug in' with the task and the planter was looking spotless in no time at all! As ever, pupils have been working on their mark making/writing tool grip/handwriting and have also constructed 'subject, verb, object' sentences based around the story.



Our phoneme for the week in phonics lessons was /j/ for phase 2 and 3 pupils and /wh/ for phase 5 pupils and we have been working extra hard on our blending, segmenting and comprehension.

In maths we have continued to work on length, ordering objects and we had our first ever classroom-based P.E. and music lessons live on 'Teams' working with the P.E. instructors and music steve respectively.

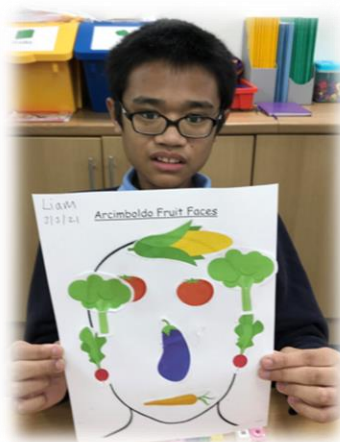
As you can see from the pictures, we have been finding out about the artist Arcimboldo in art, creating vegetable faces in the style of his work (very healthy indeed), and we prepared potato salad in cooking.

As ever, we had swimming on Thursday and have been enjoying our wake and shake and sensory circuit sessions in the ball pool and outside first thing in the mornings.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT FROM NEXT WEEK SWIMMING DAYS WILL BE CHANGING.** Please send your child in with their kit on Monday morning and we will be sure to let you know the exact details/day as we familiarise ourselves with the new timetable.

Have a fantastic weekend,

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





# News from Summer Cluster

## Purple Class

We started week 2 by happily welcoming the month of March (*named after Mars the Roman god of war*). The 1<sup>st</sup> of March is also St David's Day and so we found out a little about who St David (Patron Saint of Wales) was. We wondered why Michael John was wearing a daffodil and after finding out that he is Welsh, we decided to learn how to pronounce 'Happy St David's Day' in Welsh so we could send him a class video! We think he liked it!

This week the Enterprise Group practised making biscuits and we are hoping to develop our recipe in order to make a tasty gift in time for a *very* special day. We are focussing on daffodils and spring flowers for decoration.

The Communication Group continued their work on signs and labels in the environment and practised their fine motor. Students focussed on creating shapes and basic shape formation.

We continued our topic work for 'Healthy Lifestyles – *looking after ourselves*', thinking more carefully this week about healthy foods and foods that we should try to limit as they are not so healthy. Most students identified that fruits and vegetables are a healthy option which we should try to include in our diet regularly.

We looked at the art of famous artist Georgia O'Keefe who painted beautiful flower sections and each student chose a template to try and replicate a similar piece using pastels, which we will develop into a *very* special card. Roberto has really shown his developing skills this week by focussing, colouring slowly and trying to remain within the lines. We are very proud of him and I think he was proud of his piece also! Great job Rob!

Students have started to practice some dance routines that they are likely to experience at social events and perhaps whilst on holiday and this proved to be great fun! We also continued to practise our skills at Curling in preparation for hopefully joining a Panathlon in the near future when things start to return to normal and we can once again compete against other schools.

It was Harry's birthday on the 4<sup>th</sup> and so rightfully Harry chose this week's Friday lunch – obviously he chose his favourite Macaroni Cheese with garlic bread and salad! It was also World Book Day on Thursday, so we found out why we celebrate World Book Day and thought about some of our favourite books. We listened to some stories in class and also attempted a WBD quiz all about famous books. There was a very '*odd*' looking character out on the field at lunch time – see below! We think it was an Oompa Loompa! Harry, Sam and Brandon prepared and cooked the Friday lunch this week which was truly delicious! Happy Birthday Harry!







# News from Summer Cluster



Happy weekend everyone!

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



# News from Autumn Cluster

## Orange Class

We have continued to find out about fruit and veg and the seeds inside them that can be planted to grow more food. The pupils looked at an information text about collecting seeds and then got stuck in! They were very curious and enjoyed exploring different textures, smells and, occasionally, tastes. We have planted some of the seeds that we found, so could possibly have a harvest of lemons, apples and avocados to look forward to! We also replanted our runner beans into proper pots - the children like to water them and check how well they are growing. Next week we will be talking about what makes a healthy diet and the importance of eating our 5 portions of fruit and vegetables each day.



We celebrated World Book Day today. Thank you for joining in with our 'pyjama' dressing up. We were comfy and cosy all day – just right for sharing our favourite bedtime stories!

Enjoy the weekend!

*Rachael, Tracy, Caitlin and Beccie*





# News from Autumn Cluster

## Rose Gold Class

Our week has been filled with lots of exciting activities. We have been learning about weighing this week and after last week the children have really improved at estimating and guessing whether things are heavier or lighter than each other. They have also spent lots of time exploring all the weighing equipment at every opportunity. Most mornings they have been finding things to weigh in the classroom and having competitions to see who can find the heaviest object.

On Tuesday we wrote our story 'Oliver's vegetables' using the story maps that we had created together to help us remember the story. The children are really good at this and sit down to get writing with enthusiasm. Alex and Charlie were particularly brilliant and had a page written with lots of detail, spelling and full stops within half an hour.

The biggest event of the week was our farewell meal to Rose Gold class. The children planned, prepared and cooked a meal of their choice. What a feast. Everybody worked hard in the kitchen, we were there most of the day. Ryan T and Richard made some pancake batter and Lewis cooked all of the pancakes at pudding time. He was so good at it, even managing to toss the pancakes on his own.

Camron, Charlie and Henry were very patient peeling a whole bag of potatoes to cut into chips which were very tasty.

Alex, Holly and Ryan L prepared all of our salad vegetables and were so careful with the sharp knives. Ryan L also made a macaroni cheese from scratch to go with our meal.

All of the children were very good at helping with the cleaning and tidying too. So many of them offering to help each other and the grown ups, even asking what to do next.

The meal itself was spectacular, so tasty! It was lovely to see the children enjoying their food, being really polite and passing things to each other across the table. I think it would be fair to say that the puddings were everybody's favourite. Pancakes, ice cream, jelly, chocolate mousse and lots of sprinkles, marshmallows, sauce and squirty cream.

Such a lovely way to celebrate all the hard work and effort that the children have put in over the term. The whole team are so proud of everything that they have achieved.

We wish all the children a very happy transition back to their own classes and hope to see them at play times and continue the lovely new friendships that we have made

Have a great weekend.

*Lorna, Nicola, Laura and Tess*



# News from Autumn Cluster





# News from Autumn Cluster

## Home learning 4th March 2021

Home learners have enjoyed the week with a mixture of formal lessons and fun activities. Group 1 were great at counting out the coins to pay for items in our shopping game. Isabel and Freya make a good team and worked together well. Ben worked hard at working out 10 more than a given number using a 100 square and did great addition to work out the total price of the shopping. Groups 3 and 4 have been growing in confidence at times tables and using different strategies to answer multiplication and division questions.

Zenun, Ben and Isabel had fun playing 'Name that sound, with Esther and Jo. Vegetable bingo sounded like a lot of fun and a number of pupils joined in with this online (see photos). I think that Gabe and Freya had a good catch up in one of the quieter online sessions.

Personally, I have enjoyed the phonics groups online and it has been lovely to work with each the group. Well done to all pupils for engaging enthusiastically. On Friday, we are having a 'Back to school' assembly to celebrate what has been achieved and help prepare for a smooth return.

We are looking forward to welcoming most pupils back on Monday and hopefully it won't be too long before everyone can return again.



Have a lovely weekend,

*From Maria, Julie, Esther and Jo*





# News from Winter Cluster

## Silver Class

Silver Class have had a lovely week, with lots of lovely focus in all activities.

Our Sensory art session using paint and pasta was especially fun and very messy. The painted pasta shapes then came in useful for threading during our fine motor skills session. Yesterday was World book day and we enjoyed dressing up as favourite book characters and sharing a variety of books in the classroom together. As a whole class we read a heart warming story called 'Giraffes can't dance' by Giles Andreae. Matthew especially enjoyed his favourite story in the classroom 'Room on the Broom' by Julia Donaldson.



As part of our 'Healthy Eating' topic this term we all enjoyed a role play shopping activity buying fruit and vegetables from our classroom shop. Leo liked using the play money to buy fruit and vegetables from Arya our shopkeeper.

We hope you all have a lovely weekend.

*Julie, Leann, Tina, Zoe and Melissa*





# News from Winter Cluster

## White Class

Happy Friday everyone!

This week our topic has been healthy eating, within most of our lessons we have been exploring healthy eating, the children have really enjoyed this.

Within Literacy this week, we have continued to read 'Oliver's vegetables'. The children have been tasting the different types of vegetables, some vegetables went down really well, and others didn't so much. Within mark making, we have been choosing vegetables to dip in paint and make different types of patterns with them. The children have been communicating whether they want more, finished or commenting on the picture, such as looks good. During symbol lessons, we have been matching symbols, the students were really good at this, I was pleased to see some students were able to separate and match similar vegetables. Within Phonics we have been focusing on the letter N and identifying instruments and sounds.

In cooking, we have been following instructions on how to make a potato salad, chopping onions, mixing in mayonnaise and sprinkling chives on top. In art, we have continued looking at the artist Arcimboldi, copying his work of making faces out of vegetables, choosing and sticking images onto a portrait! In messy play, we have been looking, listening and mark making with mixed seeds. The children loved the feeling of the seeds sprinkled onto their hands, they also loved the sound of it falling onto the tough tray. Within PE, we have been balancing and working on coordination over online learning with the PE coaches, in swimming lessons we have been working on our confidence and arm movements, and in dance we have been choosing songs to dance with, with Gina.

The children had a very special visit from the red dragon and mickey mouse on world book day. They loved meeting them!

We hope you have a great weekend!

*Jemma, Katie, Ali, Niki and Sarah*





# News from Winter Cluster

## Black Class

Black Class have been hard at work this week developing and practicing new skills. We continued with our story of 'Oliver's Vegetables' and practiced making sentences and tracing/ drawing different vegetables. This week we added some new ingredients to our sensory version of the story. Rhubarb was not a great success and most children commented 'yuck' after smelling it.

In cooking this week we made a potato salad by following visual or written instructions. We have seen huge progress in following visuals allowing everyone to be much more independent with their cooking. We added potatoes, onions, mayonnaise and chives to our potato salad. The onions did cause us to have teary eyes, but the mayonnaise definitely caused a big smile across Joe's face!



In Art this week, we continued to take inspiration from Arcimboldo and created fruit faces on paper plates. We used strawberries, bananas, blueberries, raspberries and cotton wool to create our own masterpiece. We had fun wearing them as masks afterwards.

In Maths this week we continued to work on weight. Within the short time of focusing on this, we have seen lots of progress. This week we weighed different items including wool, jam, marmite and feathers. Some of us did have a little taste as we went along!

In Science and Topic this week we have continued to focus on planting and growth. We have been watching our cress seeds grow and are very excited to taste the cress in our next Topic session. We also followed visual instructions to plant tomato seeds this week which we will be observing as they grow. We had lots of fun in our Topic this week which had a messy play focus. We used mixed seeds, soil and different tools to pour, explore and dig.

I would like to make a special mention for everyone in Black Class for their continuing work in Phonics. Everyone has been practicing their signs for different letters of the alphabet and have been completing their individual phonics packs. Well done everyone 😊

I would just like to remind you that there are lots of photos and videos on Evisense of our hard work if you would like to see more.

Have a wonderful weekend,

*Katie, Amelia, Olivia, Teresa*