

26<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

It's been another busy week at Kingfisher and the sunshine, on some days, shows us that Spring has definitely sprung. Don't forget the clocks go forward an hour on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March.

Many of the classes have used this week to focus on Easter, with lots of cooking experiences, mostly involving chocolate. The Easter focus has also been evident in stories, literacy and numeracy.

With the easing of lockdown, I wanted to reassure you that Lateral Flow Tests are available to all our staff and we are testing ourselves at home twice a week. Most of our staff have also received our first COVID Vaccinations and are awaiting the second shortly. It will be lovely on Monday to be able to widen our social groups to be able to meet with 5 other people. The guidance is that ***Outdoor gatherings of either 6 people or 2 households will be allowed, providing greater flexibility for families to see each other. This includes in private gardens.***

We also look forward to the rest of our pupils returning to school after the Easter Break, as they will no longer need to shield as per Government Guidelines.

Carol Bousahla and Ashley Stokes, our Parent Governors, along with Samantha Shepherd, our Chair of Governors, have designed a survey to get feedback from the parents and carers of our pupils. We will be sending that out shortly, can I ask for you to respond to this to support our Governing Body.

#### Dates for your diary

**Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March**

End of Term Easter Holiday - 2pm finish (as usual)

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April**

Start of Summer Term

This is our last Newsletter for this term, as next week is just 3 days.

Have a great Easter Holiday, I hope we have some good weather in order to meet with friends and family outside.

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 lots of fun this week with lots of different activities. We started the week with some work on the eye gaze, some of us are getting really good at making choices during games and making funny things happen.

Our sensory story this week has been the Giant turnip. We began the story by being introduced to the man and lady on the farm, we loved the ladies' floppy hat. We then planted some seeds that grew and grew, we all took it in turns to pull and the giant turnip out.



In PE we have been exploring lots of different equipment, we love bouncing on the giant ball with some adult help and we have been having lots and lots of fun with the parachute. Some of us like to help hold on and lift it up and down and others love lying underneath it.



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



## Yellow Class

# News from Spring Cluster

This week Yellow class has had an incredible week. We started the week drawing some beautiful portraits of ourselves and we used different utensils. Everybody made great choices at choosing the right colours for their features. Yellow class has also been enjoying this term's sensory story and using purposeful choices and the participation has increased as they have got to know the story better.



Swimming is always a highlight of the week and Yellow class children are getting better and better at it each week. We have keep exploring round and circular movements and included that in our PE lessons by using balls. Everybody has enjoyed playing catch the ball and they have all been practicing grasping and releasing.



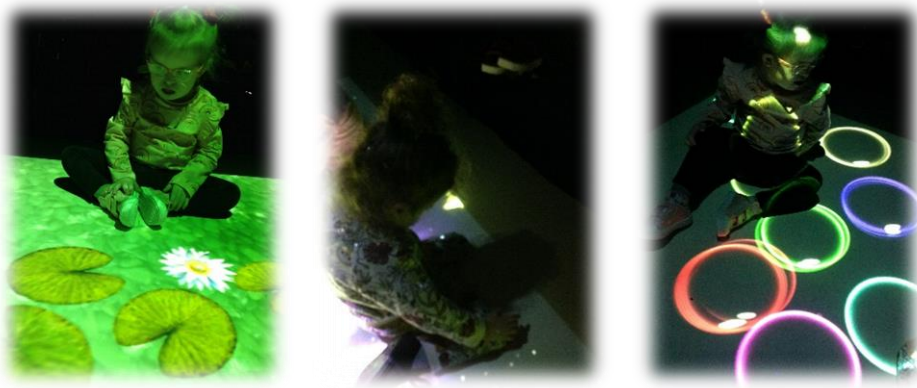
Light room and VI are also popular in Yellow class especially our interactive screen. The children have been using the interactive screen to pick their favourite songs and replicated them by singing and using lights. We have also incorporated the screen into the resonance board, and this has been a big success regarding their interaction.

For sensology this week we learned how to make hummus and used the blender operated by the switch. To our surprise everybody reacted well to the different noises and enjoyed operating the blender. We have been working a lot as a big group and learning how to wait patiently for our turn and how to engage with others especially in our song picking and bucket.



## News from Spring Cluster

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Have a wonderful weekend and Easter holidays,

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





# News from Summer Cluster

## Pink Class



It has been another very busy week in Pink Class. The students all enjoyed their swimming session enormously. Toby in particular, enjoyed doing his physio work in the water and he still had time to shoot some hoops.

The students were very engaged in their Sensology/Hand Function session. Chloe was particularly focused, and she made a clear choice, when presented with two different hand creams. Ryan was able to isolate his index finger and he then pushed it into the jelly several times.

Our communication session sparked lots of fantastic vocalising this week. Louisa vocalised animatedly and she participated in the session with great enthusiasm. Sienna and Chloe also did lots of vocalising, which was very pleasing.



The students always work so hard with their targets and this week was no exception. Yujan had great fun preparing some toast. He was able to make a clear choice, when asked what he would like to put on his toast. Katie and Sienna did great tracking work in their eye gaze sessions this week.

Everyone had lots of fun in our Sensory Cooking session. Ryan was so focused, and he initiated moving the adult's hand, to grate the lemon. Well done Ryan. Chloe loved tasting the Rice Krispies and Katie loved the sticky marmalade.



Have a good weekend and we hope that you all have a great Easter break.

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



Blue Class

# News from Summer Cluster



Good afternoon everyone, I hope you've had a good week. Whilst the skies have held for us, we've been dodging the rain over the past couple of days – some pupils literally!

We've really enjoyed our story "Pete the Cat's Easter Adventure" in literacy this week. Pupils have as ever, used it to inspire some writing and sentence creation and have also enjoyed a host of linked arts and crafts activities. Pupils particularly enjoyed making easter bunny ears just like Pete the Cat – as the story puts it – "A cat with ears like a bunny? Now that's funny!" We also decorated eggs and prepared a little something for home (no spoilers).



In numeracy as discussed with many of you at parents evening, we have been working on place value. Pupils have used numicon to represent tens and ones, creating two digit numbers.

Half the class went swimming on Tuesday and whilst unfortunately swimming was again cancelled for some pupils on Thursday, there will be another opportunity next week when we will swap groups for the Tuesday session

ICT was especially fun this week. As a class we investigated the different tools that we could use on our online art software and thought about how they changed the painting before having a go ourselves.

Dare I mention Easter nests? We made Easter nests. It was messy... and tasty! Whilst we will see you again on Monday, this is our last newsletter for the term, so have a fantastic Easter break!

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

*~ The Blue Class Team*



# News from Summer Cluster

## Purple Class

The penultimate week of term 4 has been a great week and students *and staff* are getting very excited about our last week being only 3 days with some rather exciting things happening! On Tuesday we will be watching the Baz Luhrmann version of *Romeo & Juliet*. Thank you to all parents for returning permission slips. We will also be having a long-awaited end of term special treat – students voted for a Domino's pizza delivery (funded by all the hard work of the Enterprise group).

Swimming on Monday was a great session as students took part in a virtual Panathlon. Students participated in various activities; swimming and gliding varying lengths and partaking in a variety of games. Angela will be entering the results online against other schools.



This week the Enterprise Group tried their hands at making some Irish Soda bread as it was recently St Patrick's Day. Students tried the bread and we thought it looked delicious but was a little sweet. *What did parents think?* Students have copied out the recipe if you would like to try at home.

The Communication Group focussed on the meaning of various signs and labels in the environment and then joined an online signing session. Students are really beginning to know all their letter signs and can even spell short words. Jakob has been learning about the time and he is a very quick learner indeed!



This week for 'Healthy Lifestyles – *Looking after ourselves*, we focussed more on things that are unhealthy such as smoking and too much alcohol. We have found out a little about what smoking does to our lungs and other parts of our body such as staining our teeth and nails. It is important to find out the facts about smoking so we can make informed choices. We will be finding out some more about both legal and illegal drugs and medicines and non-medicines. We are also continuing our work on Shakespeare and this week we watched a video of *Romeo & Juliet* put together by a group of students. It was quite an easy version to follow which made it a little easier to understand the story. Gill has continued to read a little of the story each day.





# News from Summer Cluster

Of course, the big focus this week has been Easter and although the students mostly mentioned Easter Eggs and holiday, we have thought more about the true *meaning* of Easter and have looked more closely at the Easter Story and the final days of Jesus.

This week Alicia chose the Friday lunch – Burger in a bun with chips and salad, muffin and ice cream and Alicia, Harry and Sam prepared and cooked the Friday lunch. Students continued with Easter activities and we had a good sing along during Friday Social Club. This week our Julie took to the floor!

Wishing you all a fabulous safe and restful Easter!

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







# News from Autumn Cluster

## Orange Class

We have enjoyed lots of lovely practical measuring activities this week in Orange Class. Firstly, we made caterpillars out of play dough and used multilink blocks to measure how long each one was. The children were encouraged to use comparative language (longer than/shorter than) when comparing their caterpillars. We also measured ourselves by lying down on the floor and marking our height with non-standard units, such as Lego bricks. It was a good way to find out who are the tallest and shortest in the class.



We are looking forward to some fun with Easter-themed activities at the beginning of next week. This week, the children have been using their communication skills, as well as their artistic ones, to create some beautiful Easter cards to take home. Here is a sneak preview ...



Happy Easter from us all in Orange Class,  
*Rachael, Tracy, Caitlin and Beccie.*



# News from Autumn Cluster

## Red Class

There are some budding paramedics in Red Class! Lots of injections have been given, temperatures taken, bandages applied and some very impressive chest compressions delivered. We have noticed this week how well the children are playing together and sharing all the toys. Once or twice we have just stopped and watched them all as they play happily, taking turns, helping each other and really enjoying being back at school, together again.



As always, the class love opportunities to see other friends, teachers and coaches online. A particular favourite this week was singing with Corrine. We are learning the Queen song 'We will rock you' at the moment. Leythan was one of our strongest singers and did well to keep up, as it is quite tricky singing together online.



As part of our keeping healthy topic, we used vegetables and fruits to print patterns on Easter Eggs, which the children loved as you can see in the pictures.

Thank you to those families that sent in food wrappers to help us with our lessons on where our food comes from. We were very surprised by all the different places in the world that our fruit and vegetables travel from.

We have another request for your help – after Easter our topic is going to be all about local places and features of a town. We are going to build a model of Abingdon and so need lots of empty boxes and containers for this. So please save all your recycling to send into school after the holidays to help us with our building project.



Have a great weekend.

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



# News from Autumn Cluster

## Gold Class

This week has been a great week in Gold Class. We have been giving directions and learning about left/right and clockwise and anti-clockwise turns. In maths we have been rotating shapes. Some pupils wrote directions to find treasure on a pirate map and others wrote directions to go from Gold Class to somewhere else within the school. We have also enjoyed using Google Maps to locate where we live and explored the local area. We have been finding out where some of our food is grown within the UK and located these places on a map.



Gold Class have also worked hard at written work this week. Jack, Holly, Ryan L and Hayden have all written a myth and have been learning how to edit and improve their work by checking that it makes sense, checking punctuation and adding extra detail to make it more exciting for the reader.

We have been talking about our feelings and emotions this week and thinking of strategies that help us calm down when we are annoyed or too excited so that we can focus on our work. If we have low energy or are feeling a little tired, we have come up with things that might wake us up a bit in order to concentrate such as moving around, fresh air, a drink of water.

Unfortunately, we were unable to swim this week again, which is a shame but hopefully we can start that again after Easter.

Have a lovely weekend,

*From Maria, Tess, Julie, Esther and Liza*





# News from Winter Cluster

## Silver Class

Last week with Spring and Easter in mind we enjoyed a lovely walk to the school Sensory garden. On the way we passed the beautiful blossom tree next to our classroom garden and were inspired to create a picture of it in Art this week.

In literacy this week we have continued to enjoy our sensory story 'Pete the cat's big Easter Adventure' and had lots of fun going on our own Easter Egg hunt. We also made some delicious Easter egg nests during our cooking session and enjoyed watching the chocolate melt. Plus tasting it as well!

We are really enjoying our class book sharing sessions and have been looking at books about Spring and Easter. In phonics some of us have been practicing reading different sounds and adding them to our 'Silly soup' recipe song which is lots of fun.

In Numeracy we have been practicing our counting with number songs, problem solving with activities such as puzzles and sorting objects into groups. Some of us have been adding different amounts of objects together to make 10.

We really enjoyed our virtual Dance session with Gina this week, pretending to be different animals, such as elephants, zebras and lions. We had lots of inventive dance moves. Rhys enjoyed moving like an animal whilst lying on the floor waving his arms and legs around which was very creative.



We hope you all have a lovely weekend and a wonderful Easter holiday as well.

*Julie, Leann, Tina, Zoe and Melissa*



# News from Winter Cluster

## White Class

Happy Easter everyone!

Within Literacy this week, we started a new book, 'Pete the Cats, Easter Adventure'. The children have been tasting, smelling, touching, listening and looking at different story props that Pete experiences in the story, for example, painting easter eggs, tasting jellybeans, wearing bunny ears, nose and a tail (pictures below). The children have been matching pictures from the story and describing what is happening in some pictures. In mark making lessons, the children have continued to use their tripod grip to make a trail for Pete the Cat for his Easter Hunt. During cooking, we made Easter nests, following step by step instructions, mixing shredded wheat with melted chocolate, transferring it into their bowl and topping it up with mini eggs and then describing how it smells, looks, feels and tastes! The children thought it looked good and tasted yummy! In topic we have been using our senses and tasting and smelling the three different types of chocolate and commenting on it, the children were big fans of all the chocolate and was using the symbol 'more' a lot.

Within Phonics we have been working on the letter m, ensuring we know the difference between m and n, and we have also been identifying instruments and environmental sounds. In art, we have been making our easter cards, the children have decided whether they want to make a lamb, chick or a bunny, all the cards look great. Within PE, we have been doing a sensory circuit every morning, swimming lessons we have been completing competitions with Angela, moving floats with objects on them, swimming for a certain distance and collecting balls and throwing them through hoops, and in dance we have been dancing with Tigers!

We hope you have a great weekend and a restful Easter break!

*Jemma, Katie, Ali, Niki, Ellie and Christina*





# News from Winter Cluster







# News from Winter Cluster

## Black Class

, Happy Friday everyone! It was great to have your parent consultations and share so many wonderful things with one another. This week we have started having some Easter fun. Our story for this week is 'Pete the Cats Big Easter Adventure.' The children loved trying on the bunny ears, exploring the sensory props and finding the eggs hidden around the classroom. As always, this followed with our comprehension work using symbols and some mark making/ writing practice.

In Numeracy this week we explored number. Some of us practiced counting to 5, 10 or 20, some of us practiced taking away from a group of objects and some of us practiced our division. Everyone worked really hard to complete their activities which was brilliant. I would like to make a special mention for Malachi who created his own maths game during outdoor learning time, using a dice, number mats and magnetic numbers.

Cooking this week was lots and lots of fun! We followed visual instructions to make Easter nests using melted chocolate, shredded wheat and chocolate mini eggs. These were a big hit and we have enjoyed eating them at snack time for the rest of the week.

During Topic this week, we used communication boards to comment on different chocolates and sweets including chocolate buttons, dark chocolate, jelly beans etc. We practiced commenting on what the items look and taste like. The milk chocolate buttons certainly got a 'yummy' from almost all of the children! To introduce this session we watched a clip from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory which Miley was very excited about!

We have also completed various other Easter activities including decorating eggs and Easter themed sensory play. We are all looking forward to our chocolate Easter egg hunt next week!





# News from Winter Cluster



Have a brilliant weekend everyone

*Katie, Amelia, Olívia, Teresa*

